
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Met at eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Collins), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024 and Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 8, 2025);

A&F,-- EA
Housing bi-weekly
report.
SD3178

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly report on Temporary Respite Centers (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 8, 2025);

A&F,-- temporary
respite centers
report.
SD3179

Report of the Cape & Islands District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W of Chapter 90 of the General Laws and Section 47 of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 Motor Vehicle Forfeiture Funds report and its Fiscal Year 2025 Neighborhood Crime Watch Trust Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 9, 2025);

Cape & Islands
DA,-- Motor
Vehicle Funds &
Crime Watch Trust
Fund.
SD3180

Report of the Berkshire District Attorney (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting annual reports on wiretap interceptions for calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024 (received September 9, 2025);

Berkshire DA,--
wiretap reports.
SD3181

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 57 of Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its annual report on the Cranberry Bog Renovation Tax Credit (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received September 9, 2025);

EOEEA,--
Cranberry Bog Tax
Credit annual
report.
SD3183

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008) submitting the Children's Behavioral Health Knowledge Center 2024 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received September 10, 2025);

DMH,-- Children's
Behavioral Health
2024 report.
SD3184

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 18 3/4 of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting its CY24 Firearm-Related Activity in Massachusetts 2022-2023 biennial report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on

EOPSS,-- Firearms
Activity 2022-
2023 report.
SD3185

Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received September 10, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 1599-0026 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-0601 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Commonwealth Project Safe Neighborhood FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-0605 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training (HEAT) FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-1127 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-0655 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025); and

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8100-0111 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 10, 2025).

EOPPS,-- Staffing
Grant Program
FY25 report.
SD3187

EOPSS,-- Project
Safe Neighborhood
FY25 report.
SD3188

EOPSS,-- HEAT
FY25 report.
SD3189

EOPSS,--
Nonprofit Security
Grant FY25 report.
SD3190

EOPSS,--
Emerging Adult
Reentry FY25
report.
SD3191

EOPSS,-- Shannon
CSI FY25 report.
SD3192

Petition.

Mr. O'Connor presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to require local approval for battery storage facility permitting,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

BSF,-- municipal
permitting.
SD3182

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on Senate, No.1392, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to behavioral health services for children and families (Senate, No. 2601) [Senator Creem dissenting];

Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Mental Health,
Substance Use and
Recovery,-- study.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill establishing a commission on the status of children and youth (Senate, No. 157); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 164), a Resolve establishing the Harmony commission to study and make recommendations related to the welfare and best interests of children in care and protection cases (Senate No. 2602);

Severally read and, under Joint Rule 29, referred to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Children and
youth,--
commission.

Harmony
commission.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill establishing guardians as providers of medical care to support the rights of incapacitated persons (Senate, No. 154);

Incapacitated persons,-- guardians.

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on petition, a Bill building resilience and increasing access to mental health services (Senate, No. 1388);

Mental health,-- communities resiliency.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing a pilot for the use of psychedelics in licensed treatment facilities (Senate, No. 1400); and

Psychedelics,-- treatment facilities.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish a perinatal behavioral health care workforce trust fund (Senate, No. 1411);

Perinatal HC,-- trust fund.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill to assure quality foster care (Senate, No. 131);

Foster care.

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on petition, a Bill relative to student mental health (Senate, No. 1384);

Student mental health.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to increase substance use prevention and awareness and reduce overdose abandonment (Senate, No. 1416);

Public schools,-- overdose education.
High schools,-- Narcan.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Narcan availability in schools (Senate, No. 1422);

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, on petition, a Bill providing for timely reimbursement of cities and towns for veterans' benefits (Senate, No. 2456);

Veterans' benefits,-- reimbursement.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to waiving education requirements for skilled veterans to be LPNs (Senate, No. 2477); and

Veterans,-- LPNs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to enhance access, inclusion, support and equity for military connected families (Senate, No. 2503);

Military Families,-- equity.

Severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, on petition, a Bill relative to courtesy retail parking spaces designed for non-handicapped veterans (Senate, No. 2483); and

Non-handicapped veterans,-- parking spaces.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to appropriate notice for changes to Veterans' district agreements (Senate, No. 2492);

Veterans,-- district agreements.

Read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

Committee Discharged.

Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 602) of Dylan A. Fernandes, Michael D. Brady and Julian Cyr for legislation relative to a cranberry water use transfer program,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cranberry water use.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill dissolving the Whately Water District (House, No. 2250, changed,-- on

Whately Water

petition),-- was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

District.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Feeney, Collins, DiDomenico and Rush, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Cronin and Cyr, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Eldridge, Fernandes, Finegold and Gómez, Ms. Jehlen, Messrs. Keenan and Kennedy, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Lovely, Mr. Mark, Ms. Miranda, Messrs. Montigny, Moore, O'Connor and Payano, Ms. Rausch and Messrs. Driscoll, Crighton, Velis and Barrett) "congratulating the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103 on its one hundred and twenty-fifth year anniversary"; and

International
Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local 103.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) "congratulating the town of Topsfield on the three hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of its incorporation."

Town of Topsfield.

Matters Taken out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill establishing a charter for the city of Somerville (House, No. 4445),-- was read a third time.

Somerville,--
charter.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Jehlen moved that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2604.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Ankita Gajendra Patel, an employee of the department of correction (House, No. 4427) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Ankita Gajendra
Patel,-- sick leave.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Paul W. Mark for legislation to promote energy conservation in residential buildings through the installation of energy-conserving windows.

Condominiums,--
window
installation.
SD3175

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Housing.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Paul W. Mark for legislation to create a special commission to examine school bus safety.

School bus safety,-
- commission.
SD3174

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to prohibit exorbitant energy delivery charges.

Energy supply,--
delivery charges.
SD3173

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the report was

considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Petitions were severally referred, in concurrence, as follows, to wit:

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4511) of Mindy Domb relative to charter school funding;

Charter schools,--
funding reform.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Education.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4512) of Adrian C. Madaro relative to modernizing the governance of port authority parks in the East Boston section of the city of Boston; and

East Boston,-- Port
Authority parks.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4513) of Adam J. Scanlon relative to fishing licenses for seniors;

Fishing licenses,--
seniors.

Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4514) of John J. Marsi, Ryan C. Fattman and Paul K. Frost for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Candy J. Pike, an employee of the Department of Developmental Services;

Candy J. Pike,--
sick leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill to update Nicky's Law to protect individuals with disabilities in MassHealth day habilitation programs (Senate, No. 165),-- ought to pass.

MassHealth,-- day
habilitation.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to fentanyl test strips (Senate, No. 1057),-- ought to pass.

Fentanyl test strips.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to affordable car rentals (Senate, No. 2367),-- ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2603).

Car rentals,-- miles
traveled.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

The bill (Senate, No. 2603) was then ordered to a third reading.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Collins) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and at twenty-five minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Collins in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill establishing a charter for the city of Cambridge (House, No. 4156, amended),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the

Cambridge,--
charter.

text of Senate document numbered 2598, *with further amendments* in section 1, in lines 149 and 150, by striking out the words “under this subsection”,

In line 325, by striking out the words “a temporary or” and inserting in place thereof the word “an”;

In line 510 by striking out the words “subsection (b)” and inserting in place thereof the words “the second paragraph of this section”;

In line 529 by striking out the following: “7-7(b)” and inserting in place thereof the following: “7-7”; and

By striking out sections 3 to 7, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following 5 sections:

“SECTION 3. All persons appointed or elected to offices, boards, commissions and agencies in the city of Cambridge at the time the charter established under section 1 takes effect shall continue to perform the duties thereof until they are reappointed or re-elected or until successors to their respective positions are appointed or elected or until their duties have been transferred and assumed by another city office, board, commission or agency.

SECTION 4. Any person holding an office or a position in the administrative service of the city of Cambridge or any person holding permanent employment under the city at the time the charter established under section 1 takes effect shall retain their office, position or employment and shall continue to perform the duties of their respective office, position or employment until provision has been made for the performance of those duties by another person or agency; provided, however, that a person in the permanent service of the city shall not forfeit their pay grade or time in the service of the town as a result of the adoption of the city charter under section 1. Nothing in this section shall provide a person holding an administrative office or position or a person serving in the employment of the city on the effective date of this act with any greater rights or privileges with regard to that person’s continued service or employment with the city than that person had before the effective date of this act. Nothing in this section shall impair the rights of any person under an individual employment contract or collective bargaining agreement.

SECTION 5. All records, property and equipment of an office, board, commission, committee or agency or part thereof of the city of Cambridge, the powers and duties of which are assigned in whole or in part to another city office, board, commission or agency pursuant to section 1 of this act shall be transferred to the office, board, commission or agency as so assigned.

SECTION 6. All official bonds, recognizances, obligations, contracts and other instruments entered into or executed by, on behalf of or to the city of Cambridge before the charter established under section 1 takes effect and all taxes, assessments, fines, penalties and forfeitures incurred or imposed or due or owing to the city of Cambridge shall be enforced and collected and all writs, prosecutions, actions and causes of action, except as herein otherwise provided, shall continue without abatement and remain unaffected by the adoption of the charter in section 1 and no legal act done by or in favor of the city shall be rendered invalid by reason of the passage of this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall be submitted to the voters of the city of Cambridge for acceptance at the next biennial city election occurring not less than 35 days after the effective date of this section in the form of the following question: “Shall An Act establishing a charter for the city of Cambridge be accepted?” Below the question shall appear a summary of the composition and mode of selection of the legislative and executive branches and school committee or, if a change of none of these is involved, the most significant proposed change or changes. If a majority of votes are cast in the affirmative, sections 1 to 6, inclusive, shall take effect on January 1 of the year immediately following the date of the vote for adoption, but not otherwise.”

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the further House

amendments were considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

The House Bill establishing a charter for the city of Medford (House, No. 4263, amended),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2597, *with a further amendment* by striking out sections 5 and 6 and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sections:

Medford,-- charter.

“SECTION 5. Sections 1, 2 and 3 shall take effect upon acceptance of the question in section 4 by a majority of the voters participating in the November 4, 2025 election voting in the affirmative, but not otherwise.

SECTION 6. Sections 4 and 5 shall take effect upon passage.”

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the further House amendment was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

Emergency Preambles Adopted.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's office (see Senate, No. 2560), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 2 to 0.

Gregory Baker,--
sick leave.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and sent to the House for enactment.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Ankita Gajendra Patel, an employee of the department of correction (see House, No. 4427), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 2 to 0.

Ankita Gajendra
Patel,-- sick leave.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and sent to the House for enactment.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's office (see Senate, No. 2560);

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Establishing a charter for the city of Cambridge (see House, No. 4156, amended);

Establishing a charter for the city of Medford (see House, No. 4263, amended);

Establishing a sick leave bank for Ankita Gajendra Patel, an employee of the department of correction (see House, No. 4427); and

Establishing a charter for the city of Somerville (see House, No. 4445, amended).

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of
the Victims of the September 11th Terrorist Attack.*

The Senator from Middlesex and Norfolk, Ms. Spilka, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attack.

Today marks the twenty-fourth anniversary of the worst terrorist attack in our nation's history. The Senate remembers the 3,000 victims and those that succumbed to related illnesses in the years that followed.

The Senate reaffirms its commitment to never forget the lives lost in this senseless act of terror and to continue to support the surviving family and loved ones of the victims.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of the victims of the September 11th terrorist attack, at twenty minutes before two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.