

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025**

[74]

## JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 28, 2025.

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

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

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Pledge of  
allegiance.

### *Distinguished Guests.*

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Comerford) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, John and Michael McGuire of South Boston. Michael serves as a Marine in the Armed Forces. They were guests of Chief Court Officer, Paul Dooley. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

John and Michael  
McGuire.

### *Communication.*

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Paul R. Feeney (pursuant to Section 35QQ of Chapter 10 of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund (received August 26, 2025),-- **was placed on file.**

Economic  
Empowerment  
Trust Fund,--  
appointment.

### *Reports.*

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

Report of the Division of Administrative Law Appeals (pursuant to Section 4H of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 25, 2025);

DALA,-- 2024  
annual report.  
SD3157

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 and Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) 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 August 26, 2025);

A&F,-- EA  
Housing bi-weekly  
report.  
SD3158

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Middlesex County Jail and House of Corrections, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received August 26, 2025);

DPH,--Middlesex  
County  
Correctional  
Facility Inspection  
report.  
SD3159

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received August 26, 2025);

DPH,-- SBCC  
Inspection report.  
SD3160

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues July 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate

MassGaming,--  
Gaming Revenues  
July 2025 report.  
SD3162

Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received August 27, 2025); and

Report of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (pursuant to Section 63 of Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its Job Order Contracting FY2024 and FY2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight) (received August 27, 2025).

*Reports of a Committee.*

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill improving access to breast pumps (Senate, No. 682);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to transparency of consumer health insurance rights (Senate, No. 685);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving access to infertility treatment (Senate, No. 689);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to increase access to nurse-midwifery services (Senate, No. 697);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to modern family building (Senate, No. 715);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to telehealth parity for nutrition counseling (Senate, No. 716);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to insurance coverage of mobile integrated health (Senate, No. 726);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing living organ donor protections (Senate, No. 727);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring access to full spectrum pregnancy care (Senate, No. 761);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill requiring mental health parity for disability policies (Senate, No. 780);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to improve sickle cell care (Senate, No. 788);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to insurance coverage for doula services (Senate, No. 789);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 811 and 836, a Bill to improve outcomes for those with limb loss and limb difference (Senate, No. 811);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing health insurance coverage for scalp and facial hair prostheses (Senate, No. 832); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the practice of acupuncture (Senate, No. 834);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4438) of Jennifer Balinsky Armini and Brendan P. Crighton (by vote of the town) that the town of Swampscott be authorized to establish an annual fall town meeting;

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

DCAMM,-- Job  
Order Contracting  
FY24 FY25 report.  
SD3163

Breast pumps,--  
access.

Health insurance,--  
transparency.

Infertility  
treatment.

Nurse-midwifery  
services.

LGBTQ,--  
pregnancy related  
coverage.

Nutrition  
counseling,--  
telehealth.  
MIH program.

Organ donor,--  
protections.

Pregnancy,-- health  
coverage.

Disability  
policies,-- mental  
health.  
Sickle cell care.

Doula services,--  
coverage.

Limb loss,--  
prosthetic devices.

Health insurance,--  
hair prosthesis.

Acupuncture,--  
insurance  
coverage.

Swampscott,-- fall  
town meeting.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4444) of Jennifer Balinsky Armini and Brendan P. Crighton (by vote of the town) relative to a real property exemption for disabled persons in the town of Swampscott;

Swampscott,--  
property  
exemptions.

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

A Bill authorizing Dartmouth Fire District No. 1 to appoint the position of Treasurer (House, No. 3952,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Dartmouth Fire  
District No. 1,--  
treasurer.

Report of the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2222) of William F. MacGregor for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the quality and accessibility of telehealth,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Health,-- **was considered forthwith, under Senate Rule 36, and accepted, in concurrence.**

Telehealth,--  
accessibility.

*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 Mark C. Montigny for legislation to protect assisted living residents from unfair and deceptive billing practices.

Assisted living  
residents,-- unfair  
billing.  
SD3137

**Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, 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 Peter J. Durant for legislation relative to creditable service for Vincent Provencher.

Provencher,--  
creditable service.  
SD3155

**Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service.**

**Severally sent to the House for concurrence.**

*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 authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to grant certain easements to the town of Bourne (House, No. 4364),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Bourne,-- land.

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk county sheriff's office (Senate, No. 2560) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Gregory Baker,--  
sick leave bank.

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

*Emergency Preambles Adopted.*

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for James Caruso, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4230), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an

James Caruso,--  
sick leave.

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.

**The bill was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Comerford) and sent to the House for enactment.**

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4322, amended), 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.

Carlos Borges,--  
sick leave.

**The bill was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Comerford) and sent to the House for enactment.**

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (all of which originated in the House), 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 (Ms. Comerford) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Dissolving the Wellesley Housing Development Corporation (see House, No. 4139);

Establishing a sick leave bank for James Caruso, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (see House, No. 4230); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Carlos Borges, an employee of the Department of Correction (see House, No. 4322, amended).

Bills laid before  
the Governor.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mrs. Dooner,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.