
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

[80]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Met at seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger 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. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Ms. Miranda for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Miranda then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Legacy Lewis and Trinity Franklin, members of the Boston Lions Track and Field Club. Legacy, at age 7, was named an All-American and placed 5th in the 800-meter run and 7th in the 400-meter at the USATF Junior Olympic Games in the 8-and-under category. Trinity, at age 10, was also named an All-American and earned 6th place in the 800-meters in her age group and then went on to finish 2nd in the Junior Olympic Games, shortly after competing in Savannah, Georgia. Legacy and Trinity were accompanied by their coach, Tomorrow Peoples, and various family members. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Legacy Lewis and
Trinity Franklin.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment (pursuant to Executive Order 644) of Senator Barry R. Finegold to the Advisory Commission on Advancing Research and Discovery in Massachusetts (received September 11, 2025),-- **was placed on file.**

Advancing
Research and
Discovery,--
commission.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2024 through August 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received September 15, 2025);

EOTC,-- rental
protections August
2025 report.
SD3196

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Data September 2025 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 Labor and Workforce Development) (received September 15, 2025);

DER,-- UI trust
fund report.
SD3197

Report of the Bristol County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure from the County Registers Technological Fund (copies having been forwarded to the Chairs of the Senate

Bristol ROD,--
tech fund report.
SD3199

Committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight) (received September 16, 2025);

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Chapter 321 of the Acts of 2008) submitting its Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Council 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 17, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to line-item 4590-0915 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children September 2025 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 Public Health) (received September 17, 2025);

Report of the Berkshire District Attorney (pursuant to Section 47 of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 report on Law Enforcement Trust Funds for Drug Rehabilitation, Drug Education and Neighborhood Crime Watch (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 17, 2025);

Report of the Massachusetts Capital Resource Company (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 816 of the Acts of 1977) submitting its 2025 annual report on the current status of said corporation (received September 17, 2025); and

Report of the Berkshire District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 OUI Deterrent Trust Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 17, 2025).

DMH,-- CBHAC
2024 annual report.
SD3201

DPH,-- Pappas
Hospital for
Children report.
SD3202

Berkshire DA,--
Law Enforcement
Trust Funds FY25
report.
SD3203

MCRC,-- annual
report.
SD3204

Berkshire DA,--
OUI Trust Fund
FY25 report.
SD3205

Petition.

Mr. Cyr presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Julian Cyr for legislation to provide for mobile driver's licenses in the commonwealth,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Mobile driver's
licenses.
SD3200

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on petition, a Bill relative to assisted living and the frail elder waiver (Senate, No. 474);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 495), a Bill establishing the hospital to home partnership program (Senate No. 2607); and

Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on petition, a Bill protecting public health and reducing health care costs (Senate, No. 622);

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

Assisted living,--
waiver.

H2H Program.

Health care cost,--
assessment.

Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on petition, a Bill establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change (Senate, No. 558);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 570 and 612, a Bill establishing a waste reduction needs assessment in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 570);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to reduce waste and recycling costs in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 571);

Climate change,--
nature-based
approaches.

Recycling
Advisory
Committee.
Recycling costs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing sustainable and equitable funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation (Senate, No. 572);

Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill establishing a board of hoisting machinery regulations (Senate, No. 1736);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to police interactions with persons on the autism spectrum (Senate, No. 1741); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to construction zone speed control systems (Senate, No. 1784);

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

Committee Discharged.

Mr. Velis, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1413) of Mark C. Montigny for legislation to promote the victim service fund with revenues received by the commonwealth from public and private sources as gifts, grants and donations,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.
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. 4522) of Simon Cataldo (by vote of the town) relative to remote participation at town meetings and special town meetings in the town of Concord;

To the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4523) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Nantucket to convey a certain parcel of land in said town to the Nantucket Islands Land Bank and to the Sconset Trust, Inc.; and

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4524) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) that the town of Williamsburg be authorized to change the name of the board of selectmen to select board;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4525) of Natalie M. Blais and Paul W. Mark (by vote of the town) that the town of Conway be authorized to continue the employment of police department member Michael W. Habel;

To the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4526) of Adam J. Scanlon and Paul R. Feeney (with the approval of the town council) that the town of North Attleborough be authorized to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption in said town;

To the committee on Revenue.

A Bill designating September as PCOS awareness month (House, No. 3392, amended,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Bills

Relative to the organization and governance structure of the town of Rochester (House, No. 4030,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Climate change,--
equitable funding.

Hoisting
machinery,--
board.

Police training,--
persons with
autism.

Construction
zones,-- speed
control systems.

Victim service
fund.

Concord,-- town
meeting
participation.

Nantucket,-- land
conveyance.

Williamsburg,--
select board.

Conway,-- Michael
Habel.

North
Attleborough,-- tax
exemption.

PCOS awareness
month.

Rochester,--
governance
structure.

Relative to stabilization funds in the town of Leicester (House, No. 4136,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Leicester,--
stabilization funds.

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "congratulating Sophie Ames on her elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout"; and

Sophie Ames.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "congratulating Cameron G. D. Culbert on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout."

Cameron G. D.
Culbert.

Reports of Committees.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

The House Bill relative to Machado-Joseph Disease Awareness Day (House, No. 3298).

Machado-Joseph
Disease Awareness
Day.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act designating July 2 as Machado-Joseph Disease Awareness Day".

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 fair tax treatment for zero-emission vehicles.

Tax incentive,--
ZEV purchases.
SD3193

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Ms. Miranda, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Revenue.

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 to increase the income limit for the Senior Tax Deferral Program in the town of Ipswich (House, No. 3156),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act to increase the income limit for the senior tax deferral program in the town of Ipswich".**

Ipswich,-- senior
tax deferral
program.

The Senate Bill authorizing the appointment of alternate members to the conservation commission of the town of Swampscott (Senate, No. 23) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Swampscott,--
Conservation
Commission.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill protecting individuals with disabilities in day habilitation programs (Senate, No. 165) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

MassHealth,-- day
habilitation.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Brookfield to continue the employment of Herbert A. Chaffee, II (Senate, No. 1830) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Brookfield,-- Herb Chaffee employment.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Marblehead to establish fines related to parking violations (Senate, No. 2528) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Marblehead,-- town charter.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill to amend the town of Natick home rule charter (House, No. 3898,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Natick,-- charter.

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

A Bill relative to certain affordable housing and branch library space in the Dorchester section of the city of Boston (House, No. 4532,-- on House, No. 3932) [Local approval received on House, No. 3932],-- was read.

Dorchester,-- library space.

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

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4543) of Marcus S. Vaughn and David T. Vieira for legislation to further regulate pipefitting exemptions;

Pipefitting,-- exemptions.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4544) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to Hispanic-serving institutions in higher education;

Higher education,-- Hispanic-serving.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4545) of Richard M. Haggerty for legislation to include bone marrow and organ donation in the paid family and medical leave program;

PFML,-- coverage.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (both 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 (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the town of Lexington to grant 10 additional licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 3893); and

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the city of Melrose to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 3979).

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 Senate Bill relative to affordable car rentals (Senate, No. 2603),-- was read a third time.

Car rentals,--
affordability.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Rodrigues moved to amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 1A. Section 34M of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 2, the words ‘thirty-four A’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 34A or as required under section 32E.

SECTION 1B. Said section 34M of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 32, the words ‘section thirty-four A’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- sections 34A or 32E.”

The amendment was adopted.

After remarks, the question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-six minutes before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mr. Cyr, as follows, to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 69]:**

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **39.**

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at fourteen minutes before twelve o’clock noon, the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2616].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill further regulating fentanyl test strips (Senate, No. 1057) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and, after remarks, was passed to be engrossed.**

Fentanyl test strips.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Report of a Committee.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill establishing the Massachusetts data privacy act (Senate, No. 2516),-- ought to pass, with an amendment

Data privacy act.

substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2608).

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill establishing the Massachusetts data privacy act (Senate, No. 2516) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft with the same title Senate, No. 2608) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, September 25, 2025, for immediate consideration.

Procedural order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Comerford, and the order was adopted.

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, September 25, 2025, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4530,--on House, No. 4003, in part),-- was read.

Supplemental appropriations.

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

After remarks, the question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at nineteen minutes before one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Rodrigues, as follows, to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 70]:**

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **39.**

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twelve minutes before one o' clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

A Bill relative to the 2026 state primary election date (House, No. 4531,-- on House, No. 4429),-- was read.

State primary
election date.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fernandes, and the bill was read a second time.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Rausch presented an amendment by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION X. Chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 28 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 28. (a) (1) State primaries shall be held on the second Tuesday in June in even-numbered years and on the fourth Tuesday preceding special state elections, except that primaries before special elections for senator or representative in congress shall be held on the sixth Tuesday preceding said elections.

(2) If a religious holiday falls on or immediately before the second Tuesday in June in an even-numbered year, the state primary shall be held on a date set by the state secretary within 7 days of the second Tuesday in June.

(b) The state secretary shall publish the date of the state primary not later than February 1 of each even-numbered year by: (1) providing notice of the date to the state parties; (2) filing notice with the state publications and regulations division; (3) posting the information on the website of the state secretary; and (4) any other means necessary to ensure proper notification.

(c) (1) Presidential primaries shall be held on the first Tuesday in March in any year in which presidential electors are to be elected.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any town may hold its preliminary or regular town elections on the same date designated as the date to hold a presidential primary, in any year in which presidential electors are to be elected, provided that such election is by a ballot independent of the ballot used at a presidential primary. City and town primaries before all city and town elections shall be held on the twenty-eighth day preceding such elections.

(d) Except in Boston, primaries shall be held wholly or partly by wards, precincts or towns, as the city or town executive body may designate.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law, town charter or by-law to the contrary, if the date for holding a preliminary, primary, or town election or annual town meeting falls within thirty days before or after the presidential primary, the town executive body, after consulting the town clerk may, by majority vote, establish a date between February first and May thirty-first for holding such preliminary, primary or town election or annual town meeting. Any preliminary, primary or town election or annual meeting shall be held on the date or dates established and shall be called as provided by sections 9A and 10 of chapter 39.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, if the date for holding a district election falls within 30 days before or after the presidential primary, the prudential committee, if any, otherwise the commissioners, of the district may, by majority vote, establish a date between February 1 and May 31 for holding such district election. Any district election shall be held on the date established and shall be called as provided by section 119 of chapter 41. For the purposes of this section, district shall mean a district created by special law or established under the provisions of a general law.”

The amendment was rejected.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act establishing the 2026 state primary election date”.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of Ricardo Barbosa.

Moment of silence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preambles Adopted.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4530), 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.

Supplemental appropriations.

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

An engrossed Bill establishing the 2026 state primary election date (see House, No. 4531), 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.

State primary election date.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) 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 (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Designating July 2 as Machado-Joseph Disease Awareness Day (see House, No. 3298);

Making appropriations for fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4530); and

Bill establishing the 2026 state primary election date (see House, No. 4531).

Bills laid before the Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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 Ricardo Miguel Zeferino Barbosa.

The Senator from Suffolk, Ms. Miranda, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Ricardo Barbosa.

I rise today to honor the life and memory of my dear brother, Ricardo Miguel Zeferino Barbosa, a man whose presence lit up every room he walked into. Ricardo had a warm,

uplifting spirit that drew people to him. He was brilliant, quick-witted, and deeply loving and loved back as a father of 6, a brother, a son, and a friend. He took great pride in being a present and supportive father, working two and sometimes three jobs to provide for his children. He was dedicated, resilient, and determined to change the narrative of his life. As a teen he was a dancer and entertainer and quite popular.

Born and raised in Dorchester and Randolph, Ricardo's journey was not without hardship.

After a joyride in Dorchester when he was 17, he didn't receive a second chance.

For decades, he cycled in and out of incarceration, facing an unjust system that took years of his life. Yet he never stopped fighting. He wrote his own legal motions, earned the respect of judges, and eventually won his freedom in September of 2021. When he came home, he poured his energy into rebuilding. He became a full-time dad, reconnected with his family, and gave back to his community. He worked two jobs, seven days a week. His dedication was recognized when Fathers' UpLift named him Father of the Year 2025, a reflection not only of his actions, but of his heart.

Even with all he accomplished, Ricardo carried pain that was often invisible to others. Despite our love, our support, and our resources, the weight became too heavy, and on August 8th, he passed away after a long and difficult struggle with mental health. Three days after he harmed himself.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and Ricardo's passing is a heartbreaking reminder that mental health challenges are real — and that reaching out to our loved ones can make a difference, sometimes even save a life. It also reminds us the Mental Health services should be improved in carceral settings, at local community health centers and the system of Reentry that we invest millions into must be improved to meet the complex needs.

If you or someone you love is struggling, please know that help is available. In Massachusetts, you can dial 2-1-1 for local resources or 988 — the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — to speak with trained counselors 24 hours a day.

Ricardo's story is one of resilience, love, and possibility — and while my heart is broken, I will forever be proud to call him my brother. I miss his laughs, hugs and daily text messages.

I respectfully ask that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Ricardo Barbosa, and that we honor his life by being gentler with one another, by checking in on the people we love, and by remembering that none of us are the sum of our worst days and mistakes. We all should feel seen, heard, supported and given the grace we desire to redeem ourselves. I love you and wish we had more time.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Ricardo Miguel Zeferino Barbosa, at twenty-four minutes past one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.