
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

[90]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, October 20, 2025.

Met at twenty-two minutes before twelve 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 Department of Public Health (pursuant to line item 4590-0915 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children 2025 October monthly status 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 October 17, 2025); and

DPH,-- Pappas Oct
2025 monthly
report.
SD3298

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to line Item 4510-0108 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its State Office of Pharmacy Services 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 17, 2025).

DPH,-- Pharmacy
Services 2025
report.
SD3299

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Bills

Relative to the modernization of state agency information technology system (Senate, No. 31);

Relative to membership updates for the Massachusetts Food Policy Council (Senate, No. 52);

Establishing a commission on the status of children and youth (Senate, No. 157);

Relative to air quality in public schools (Senate, No. 351);

To ensure adequate and equitable funding for public education (Senate, No. 400);

Establishing a special commission to review the adequacy and equity of the Massachusetts school building program (Senate, No. 403);

Promoting housing stability for older adults across the commonwealth (Senate, No. 475);

To require producer responsibility for collection, reuse and recycling of discarded electronic products (Senate, No. 653);

Relative to drug induced homicide (Senate, No. 1225);

To promote social-emotional learning (Senate, No. 2609); and

State agencies,-- IT
systems.

MA Food Policy
Council,--
membership.
Children and youth,--
commission.
Public schools,--
air quality.
Public education,--
funding.
School Building
Authority,--
commission.
Housing stability,--
older adults.

Discarded
electronics,--
recycle.
Homicide,-- drug
induced.
Social-emotional
learning.

Establishing a special commission on a statewide long-term services and supports benefit program (Senate, No. 2645); and

The Senate Resolves

Establishing a special commission on blockchain and cryptocurrency technology (Senate, No. 38);

Promoting equity in agriculture (Senate, No. 53);

To establish a commission to review Department of Developmental Services regulations and practices (Senate, No 128);

Establishing a special commission of the treatment of intellectually and developmentally disabled offenders in the criminal justice system (Senate, No. 156);

Establishing a coastal waters wastewater financing commission (Senate, No. 638);

Severally ought to pass;

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

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on the Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill to ensure parity in social work licensure (Senate, No. 135);

Read and, under Joint Rule 29, referred to the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on the Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill requiring universal changing stations in public buildings (Senate, No. 102);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program (Senate, No. 104);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to bring child support home (Senate, No. 110);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing basic needs assistance for Massachusetts immigrant residents (Senate, No. 117);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill lifting kids out of deep poverty (Senate, No. 118);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Resolve providing for an investigation by a special commission relative to the feasibility of a diaper allowance (Senate, No. 120);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to a livable wage for human services workers (Senate, No. 130);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to replace stolen benefits (Senate, No. 147);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a diaper benefits pilot program (Senate, No. 151);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill protecting safety net access for Massachusetts residents (Senate, No. 163); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to maximize participation in federal nutrition programs and improve customer service (Senate, No. 167);

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

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight,

Long-term services,-- special commission.

Cryptocurrency,-- special commission.
Agriculture,-- equity.
DDS,-- regulations and practices.

Disabled offenders,-- commission.
Coastal wastewater,-- commission.

Social work,-- licensure.

Changing stations,-- public buildings.

Healthy incentives program.

Child support,-- family.

Immigrants,-- assistance.

Poverty,-- kids.

TAFDC,-- diaper allowance.

Human service workers,-- compensation.
EBT fraud,-- replacement of benefits.
Diaper benefits,-- pilot program.

Safety net,-- access.

Federal nutrition programs.

Diwali Day,-- holiday.

on petition, a Bill designating Diwali Day as a state holiday (Senate, No. 2184);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4621) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne and Robyn K. Kennedy (by vote of the town) relative to changing the board of selectmen in the town of Boylston to select board,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Boylston,-- select board.

Bills

Exempting Stephen Justice from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2985,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Stephen Justice.

Exempting Javier Vargas from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2986,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Haverhill,-- Javier Vargas.

Exempting Brittany Sproule from the maximum age requirement for firefighters in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2987,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Brittany Sproule.

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

Order Adopted.

Ms. Spilka offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That by the authority of article IV of section II of chapter I of the Constitution, the Senate declares that, by reason of the death of Edward J. Kennedy as senator from the First Middlesex district, the office of senator from the First Middlesex district is vacant. By the authority of article XXIV of the Amendments to the Constitution, the Senate directs the president of the Senate to issue a precept setting forth March 3, 2026, as the day for holding an election to fill the vacancy in the First Middlesex district, consisting of the city of Lowell and the towns of Dracut, Dunstable, Pepperell and Tyngsborough in the county of Middlesex.

Precepts,-- First Middlesex District.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the order (Senate, No. 2656) was considered forthwith and adopted.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Wellesley to increase the residency limits for members of the police and fire departments (see House, No. 4140) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Fattman), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Mary (O'Connor) Blanchard.

Moment of silence.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Rausch, Messrs. Brady and Gómez, Ms. Comerford, Messrs.

Department of

Lewis and Oliveira, Ms. Jelen, Ms. Lovely, Ms. Kennedy, Messrs. Cronin, Rush, Keenan, Barrett and Crighton, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Cyr, Feeney, Tarr and Collins) “congratulating the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.”

Environmental Protection.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The Senate Bill directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officer for Antonio Pires (Senate, No. 27),-- **was read second and ordered to a third reading.**

Boston,-- Antonio Pires.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Palmer to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages (House, No. 4282),-- **was read second and ordered to a third reading.**

Palmer,-- liquor license.

The House Bill relative to a cemetery in the town of Norton (House, No. 4348),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read third 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 authorizing the treasurer of the town of Norton to make certain payments”.**

Norton,-- cemetery.

The House Bill increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Lanesborough (House, No. 4056) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **read third and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.**

Lanesborough,-- select board.

The House providing for the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (printed in House, No. 4413),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Terms of bonds.

The Senate Bill relative to the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction and reconstruction of telecommunications facilities by the city of Quincy (Senate, No. 1450),-- was read a third time.

Quincy,-- revenue bond.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Keenan presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled “An Act providing for the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction and reconstruction of telecommunications facilities by the city of Quincy” (Senate, No. 2625).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2625) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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 with an amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon (House, No. 1024) (the committee on Rules recommending that the bill be amended by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:-

Sharon,-- MWRA sewer services.

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is

to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply sewer services to certain parcels of land in the town of Sharon, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Rules.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

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

The House Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Sharon (House, No. 4009, amended) (the committee on Rules recommending that the bill be amended by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:-

“*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply sewer services to certain parcels of land in the town of Sharon, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Rules.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

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 the Regional Commissions on the Status of Women (House, No. 2313) (also based on Senate, No. 1464).

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, 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 removing the town of Hull from the eastern regional commission on the status of women.”

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 Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to firefighting water supplies and a state cistern program.

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

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 Adam Gómez for legislation relative to Medicare coverage of end-stage renal disease.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Id.

Hull,-- Regional
Commission on the
Status of Women.

F.S. Water
Resource Fund.
SD3287

Medicare,-- renal
disease.
SD3096

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4615) to be reported by the committee on Ways and Means with a recommended new text Senate document numbered 2655 on Monday, October 20, 2025, and read into the Senate Journal on Monday, October 20, 2025, shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, October 23, 2025, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new text pending.

Procedural Order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 2655), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill, as amended, is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, October 23, 2025, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4615),-- ought to pass, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2655 [Direct Appropriations: \$2,302,196,732.00 -- This legislation makes \$2,302,196,732 in direct fiscal year 2025 appropriations, with a net cost to the Commonwealth of \$795,714,639 after federal financial participation.]

Supplemental appropriations.

In accordance with the order previously adopted, the bill was placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, October 23rd, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

Today across the world is Diwali Day, which is the Festival of Lights, a multi-day holiday celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists that symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Celebrations include lighting of lamps, candles, feasting, exchanging gifts, wearing new clothes, performing religious ceremonies, and we just want to take a moment to wish everybody who celebrates, a Happy Diwali Day. As this begins the new year in the coming days of the Hindu calendar. Again, want to wish everybody a Happy Diwali Day. And particularly our good friend in the Minority Leader's Office, Hiram, whose family is celebrating as well. And with that, Happy Diwali Day to all.

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

On motion of Mr. Fattman, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Mary (O'Connor) Blanchard.

The Senator from Worcester and Hampden, Mr. Fattman, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mary (O'Connor) Blanchard, who passed away on Saturday, September 14, 2025, at the age of 80.

Mary was a devoted public servant, educator, and beloved member of the Sturbridge community.

Born and raised in Worcester, Mary graduated from Notre Dame Academy and Worcester State College. After raising her four children, she returned to teaching and became a cherished member of the Burgess Elementary School staff. Her enthusiasm and warmth left a lasting impression on students and colleagues alike.

She served six terms on the Sturbridge Board of Selectmen over 17 years, many of those as Chair, where her leadership was marked by energy, integrity, and a signature sense of humor. Her commitment to public service also included time on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Open Space Committee.

Mary's life was centered around her family and friends. She cherished time spent with her husband of 57 years, Charles, her children Brian, Michael, Kerry, and James, and her grandchildren Emily and Liam. She found joy in summers by the pool, vacations on Cape Cod, and trips to Ireland. Her courage during a nineteen-year battle with a rare autoimmune disease was a testament to her strength and spirit.

She was predeceased by her son James and her brothers Charles, Matthew, and Richard O'Connor. Her legacy of love, service, and laughter will live on in all who knew her.

Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and the entire Sturbridge community during this time of loss.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mary (O'Connor) Blanchard, at fourteen minutes past twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.