
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, November 24, 2025.

Met at two 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.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator James Eldridge (under Executive Order 645) to the PILOT for State-Owned Land (received November 20, 2025),-- **was placed on file.**

PILOT for State-
Owned Land,--
appointment.
SD3403

Reports.

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

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues October 2025 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 Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received November 20, 2025); and

MassGaming,--
Gaming Revenues
October 2025
report.
SD3400

Report of the Department of Public Utilities (pursuant to Section 121(c) of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its advanced transmissions solutions report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received September 26, 2025).

DPU,-- advanced
transmission
solutions report.
SD3401

Petition.

Mr. Cronin and Ms. Scarsdale of Pepperell presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John J. Cronin and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Greg Pinkerton, an employee of the department of corrections,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Greg Pinkerton,--
sick leave.
SD3402

Reports of Committees.

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

To ensure parity in social work licensure (Senate, No. 135);

Strengthening the post-election audit process (Senate, No. 517);

Establishing an advisory committee on the accessibility of fresh food retail in communities throughout the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 1616, changed);

To study single-stair residential buildings (Senate, No. 2647); and

Social work,--
licensure.
Elections,-- audits.
Fresh food
accessibility.
Residential
buildings,-- study.

Enhancing child welfare protections (Senate, No. 2659);

Severally ought to pass;

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

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on Senate, No. 591, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to greywater recycling (Senate, No. 2747); and

By Mr. Mark, for the committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development, on Senate, No. 2338, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to the renaming of the Roslindale Branch of the Boston Public Library to honor Mary McGrory (Senate, No. 2748);

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

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill to ensure a complete, accurate, and equitable census count (Senate, No. 533);

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2134);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a Massachusetts Baby Bonds program (Senate, No. 2146);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish a November holiday honoring President John F. Kennedy, to promote increased voter participation and civic engagement (Senate, No. 2147);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission (Senate, No. 2196); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2155), a Bill establishing a commission on the status of transgender people (Senate, No. 2725);

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

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill relative to early voting and dates for voter registration (Senate, No. 499);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill decoupling the municipal census from voter registration (Senate, No. 503);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities (Senate, No. 504);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing same day voter registration (Senate, No. 505);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to dark money in local government (Senate, No. 506);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees (Senate, No. 507);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to limit political spending by foreign-influenced corporations (Senate, No. 525);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill requiring tax return disclosure to appear on a presidential primary ballot (Senate, No. 530);

Child protections.

Environment,
Natural Resource,-
- study.

Tourism, Arts and
Cultural
Development,--
study.

Census Equity
Commission.

American
Muslims,-- civil
rights.

Racial wealth gap.

John F. Kennedy,--
holiday.

Poland Trade
Commission.

Transgender
People
Commission.

Elections,-- early
voting.

Municipal census,-
- voter registration.

Disabled voters,--
accessibility.

Voter registration,-
- same day.

Local
government,--
contributions.
Ballot question
committees.

Foreign
corporations,--
political spending.
Tax return,--
presidential

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on petition, a Bill accelerating wetlands restoration projects (Senate No. 557);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill preserving public trust rights in land affected by ocean erosion (Senate, No. 565);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 566 and 599, a Bill to overcome coastal and environmental acidification and nutrient pollution (Senate, No. 566);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 600, 603 and 605, a Bill relative to a future blue economy (Senate, No. 2730);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 660, a Bill to protect coastal resources (Senate, No. 2731);

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill to close travel loophole in the state conflict of interest law, and to provide for greater transparency and accountability regarding travel gifts (Senate, No. 2109);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill discouraging employers from closing call centers and customer service operations in the Commonwealth and relocating overseas, and for other purposes (Senate, No. 2142);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the definition of fraud in public construction bid laws (Senate, No. 2180);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections (Senate, No. 2181);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to timely public payments for work not included in original construction contracts (Senate, No. 2186);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to modernize municipal meetings, town meetings, and local elections (Senate, No. 2197); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill enhancing the effectiveness of nonprofits' core mission work through full cost funding (Senate, No. 2203);

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

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 598), a Bill permitting free passage across private tidelands (Senate, No. 2729);

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill designating bar pizza as the official pizza of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2548); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing Lobular Breast Cancer Awareness Day (Senate, No. 2666);

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

Committees Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to municipalities and regional government (Senate, No. 2717);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Election Laws to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to election

primary ballot.

Wetlands

restoration,--

permits.

Ocean erosion,--

trust rights.

Ocean

acidification.

Blue economy.

Coastal resources

protections.

State employees,--

travel gifts.

Call centers,--

location

retainment.

Public

construction,--

fraud.

Transportation

projects,--

inspection.

Construction

contracts.

Municipal

meetings,-- remote

participation.

Nonprofits,--

funding.

Private tidelands.

Commonwealth,--

official pizza.

Breast Cancer

Awareness Day.

Municipalities and

Regional

Government,--

study.

Election Laws,--

study.

matters (Senate, No. 2727); and

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Environment and Natural Resources, to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to environment and natural resources matters (Senate, No. 2728);

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules.

Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were severally considered forthwith and accepted.

Environment and
Natural
Resources,-- study.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence (House, No. 4767, amended-- on House, No. 2655), -- **was read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

Workplace
violence,--
prevention.

Bills

Relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4234, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Establishing the city of Cambridge employment and job training trust (House, No. 4774,-- on House, No. 4134) [Local approval received on House, No. 4134];

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

Fairhaven,--
special police
officers.
Cambridge,-- job
training trust.

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 extending residency requirements for members of the regular police and fire departments and fire alarm and wires division of the city of Newton (House, No. 2335) (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.**

Newton,-- police
and fire residency
requirements.

The House Bill authorizing certain investments for the town of Richmond Free Public Library (House, No. 4154) (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.**

Richmond Free
Public Library.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Acton to increase the residency limit for members of its police and fire departments (House, No. 4168),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Acton,-- residency
requirement.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jeanne McCarron, an employee of the Registry of Motor Vehicles (House, No. 4624),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Jeanne McCarron,-
- 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 Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to authorize the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to grant easements to NSTAR electric company d/b/a Eversource Energy in return for NSTAR releasing or modifying easements for the benefit of the Commonwealth.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by

NSTAR
easements.
SD3228

bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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 Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to designate the Hyannis Transportation Center in the town of Hyannis as the Thomas S. Cahir Cape Cod Transportation Center.

Cahir Cape Cod
Transportation
Center.
SD3341

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

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to any vacancy among town meeting members in Milford (House, No. 4171,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Milford,-- town
meeting members.

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

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4783) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa relative to the rights of individuals experiencing homelessness,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on The Judiciary.**

Homelessness,--
rights.

The House Bill relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker (House, No. 4645, 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 2697, *with a further amendment* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

Transit worker,--
assault and battery.

Section 13D of chapter 265 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

Whoever commits an assault and battery, including assault and battery by means of a bodily substance, upon an public employee, public transit worker or any transit worker contracted or employed to operate public transit services, when such person is engaged in the performance of their duties at the time of such assault and battery, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 90 days nor more than 2 ½ years in a house of correction or by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both. For the purposes of this section, “bodily substance” shall mean any human secretion, discharge or emission including, but not limited to, blood, saliva, mucous, semen, urine or feces (as corrected BTR).

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

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker (see House, No. 4645, amended) (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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the
Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday

Time of meeting.

next at eleven o'clock A.M.

On motion of the same Senator, at eleven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.