

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

[99]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

Met at four 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, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Rush for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Rush then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Mr. Thomas Beatty of West Roxbury. Mr. Beatty was visiting the State House in celebration of his aunt, Mary McGrory, on the 50th anniversary of her winning the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for her articles about the Watergate scandal. The Senate recognized her work as a famed columnist, welcomed Mr. Beatty with applause and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Thomas Beatty.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Ms. Creem for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Creem then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, her Chief of Staff, Richard Powell. Richard was recognized for his 32 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for his extensive knowledge of policy matters that have formed many major legislative measures. The Senate wished him well on his retirement, he was presented with a Senate Resolutions on the Rostrum and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Richard Powell.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Pavel M. Payano (under Section 3A, Chapter 15D of the Massachusetts General Laws) to the State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care (received November 18, 2025),-- **was placed on file.**

State Advisory
Council on Early
Education and
Care.
SD3398

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 88 of the Acts of 2024 and Chapter 1 Section 10 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 November 17, 2025);

A&F,-- EA
Housing bi-weekly
report.
SD3392

Report of the Cannabis Control Commission (pursuant to Section 4(h) of Chapter 94G of the General Laws) submitting an update on the status of its eighth annual activities 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 Cannabis Policy) (received November 17, 2025); and

CCC,-- annual
report.
SD3393

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 November 2025 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 November 18, 2025).

DPH,-- Pappas
November 2025
monthly report.
SD3399

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Edwards, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Lydia Edwards for legislation relative to trafficking and abuse survivors; and

Trafficking,--
survivors.
SD3394
Families,--
stillborn births.
SD3397

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to support families who experience the birth of a stillborn child;

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Orders.

Ms. Rausch presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Environment and Natural Resources until June 30, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 547, 549, 551, 560, 606, 608, and 669, relative to environment and natural resources (Senate, No. 2733); and

Environment and
Natural
Resources,--
extension order.

Ms. Rausch presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government until June 30, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1430, 1433, 1447, and 1456, relative to municipalities and regional government (Senate, No. 2734);

Municipalities and
Regional
Government,--
extension order.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1461), a Resolve establishing a special commission on the Dover amendment (Senate, No. 2715);

Educational
zoning.

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

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition, a Bill to mandate domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education (Senate, No. 200);

Cosmetology,--
domestic violence
education.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the sale of alcoholic beverages (Senate, No. 213);

Liquor licenses,--
off premises.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Resolve relative to disclosure of radio frequency notifications (Senate, No. 216);

Cell phones,-- RF
radiation.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill protecting black girls from targeted toxicity (Senate, No. 226);

Cosmetic products,--
harmful ingredients.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill requiring consumer notification for chatbot systems (Senate, No. 243);

Disclosure,--
computerized
communications.
Social work,--
licensure compact.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the social work licensure compact (Senate, No. 252);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill updating the unit pricing exemption threshold (Senate, No. 267);

Unit pricing,--
exemption

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the licensure of appraisers (Senate, No. 285);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting safety in bars and restaurants (Senate, No. 293);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 188), a Bill allowing the board of state examiners of plumbers and gas fitters to vary regulations to advance reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (Senate, No. 2705);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 283), a Bill expanding licensure opportunity for school counselors (Senate, No. 2706);

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on Senate, Nos. 618, 650 and 651, a Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops (Senate, No. 2720);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 644), a Bill restricting the use of rodenticides in the environment (Senate, No. 2721);

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill enhancing the issuance of citations for cruel conditions for animals (Senate, No. 1190);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to updating animal health inspections (Senate, No. 1458); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to improving enforcement for tethering violations (Senate, No. 1460);

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

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill relative to dangerous dogs (Senate, No. 1459);

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 Higher Education to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to higher education policy matters (Senate, No. 2698);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Community Development and Small Businesses to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to relative to community development (Senate, No. 2699);

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to consumer protection and professional licensure matters (Senate, No. 2707); 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. 2718);

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.

threshold.
Appraisers,--
licensure.

Bars and
restaurants,--
safety.
Greenhouse gas
emissions,--
reductions.

School
counselors,--
licensure.
Pet shops,-- animal
sales.

Rodenticides,--
restrictions.

Animal cruelty,--
citations.

Animal health,--
inspections.

Dogs,-- tethering.

Dangerous dogs,--
impound.

Higher Education,-
- study.

Community
Development and
Small Businesses,-
- study.
Consumer
Protection and
Professional
Licensure,-- study.

Environment and
Natural
Resources,-- study.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Bourne on May 20, 2025 (House, No. 4763),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.**

Bourne,-- election results.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4751) of Kate Donaghue, Hannah Kane and Michael O. Moore (by vote of the town) relative to the charter of the town of Westborough;

Westborough,-- charter.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4752) of Jessica Ann Giannino (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Revere be authorized to establish penalties and liens for rooming house and certificates of fitness ordinance violations; and

Revere,-- ordinance violations.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4753) of Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush (by vote of the town) relative to the charter of the town of Westwood;

Westwood,-- charter.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4754) of Paul K. Frost and Michael O. Moore (by vote of the town) relative to expanded small property tax abatements in the town of Auburn; and

Auburn,-- property tax abatements.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4755) of Carmine Lawrence Gentile (by vote of the town) for legislation to further regulate the means tested senior citizen property tax exemption in the town of Sudbury;

Sudbury,-- senior property tax.

Severally to the committee on Revenue.

Bills

Relative to successor supplier laws and the termination of sales to wholesalers of alcoholic beverages (House, No. 4764,-- on House, Nos. 435 and 445);

Wholesaler alcohol sales.

Authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey certain parcels of land in the city of Brockton (House, No. 4768,-- on House, No. 3324); and

Brockton,-- land.

To build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation (House, No. 4769,-- on House, No. 54);

Higher education,-- infrastructure.

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

A Bill relative to certain special revolving funds in the town of Athol (House, No. 4401,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Athol,-- special funds.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Barrett) “commending the National Alliance for Children’s Grief for its recognition of November 20, 2025 as Children’s Grief Awareness Day”; and

National Alliance for Children’s Grief.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Creem) “congratulating Richard Powell on 32 years of dedicated service to the commonwealth.”

Richard Powell.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jonathan Cadigan, an employee of the Bristol County Sheriff’s department (Senate, No. 2695);

Jonathan Cadigan,-- sick leave bank.

The bill was read. 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.

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 William N. Brownsberger and Andrea Joy Campbell, Attorney General for legislation to prohibit anticompetitive conduct and agreement and strengthening the Massachusetts Antitrust Act.

Antitrust Act,--
strengthening.
SD3375

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 the Judiciary.

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 create a behavioral health emergency response pilot program.

Behavioral health,-
- pilot program.
SD3352

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 Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Matters Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill dissolving the North Carver water district (Senate, No. 2517),-- was read a third time.

North Carver,--
water district.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mrs. Dooner presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2735).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2735) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill amending the charter of the town of Rockland (Senate, No. 2716),-- was read a second time.

Rockland,--
charter.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Keenan presented an amendment striking out in lines 488 and 489, the words "a square in which the voter by making a cross mark (X) may vote".

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2716, amended), was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4770) of Adam J. Scanlon that the Center for Health Information and Analysis be authorized to conduct an analysis of eliminating or capping co-pays for mental and behavioral health services,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Health Care Financing.**

CHIA,-- copay
analysis.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

Bills

Authorizing the town of Brookline to prohibit or restrict the application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (Senate, No. 26);

Second reading
bills.

Authorizing the city of Newton to prohibit the application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides within its borders (Senate, No. 552);

Authorizing the appointment of retired police officers to perform police details in the town of Plainville (Senate, No. 1898); and

To allow the town of Hingham to use municipal property as the location for a center for active living (House, No. 4314).

Were severally read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

The House Bill authorizing the continued employment of Steven A. Hilliger as a firefighter in the town of Lancaster (House, No. 2879) (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.**

Lancaster,-- Steven A. Hilliger.

Recess.

There being no objection, at thirteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair, and, at eighteen minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Committee of Conference Report.

A report of the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments to 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) (*amended by the Senate* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2670),-- reported, in part, a "Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects" (House, No. 4761) [Total Appropriations: \$2,438,885,469.00],-- came from the House, and was read.

Supplemental appropriations.

The report was accepted, in concurrence.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill amending the charter of the town of Ipswich to eliminate the residency requirement for Town Manager (see House, No. 4243, 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.

The Senate Bill relative to amending certain use restrictions for the Foxborough State Hospital (Senate, No. 2141),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with amendments*, striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4765;

Foxborough State Hospital.

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 forthwith the release or amendment of certain use restrictions of land in the town of Foxborough, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience."; and

By striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: "An Act relative to the release or amendment of certain use restrictions for the Foxborough State

Hospital.”.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Feeney, and the House amendments were considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

The Senate Bill authorizing the commonwealth to dispose of certain parcels of land in the town of Upton acquired for conservation and recreation purposes (Senate, No. 2576),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment*, striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4766.

Upton,-- land.

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

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Amy Tanguay, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (House, No. 4647,-- on petition),-- was read.

Amy Tanguay,--
sick leave.

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

Order of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

Senate Resolutions rescinding previous Article V convention applications (Senate, No. 2684),-- the main question on adoption of the Resolutions,-- was considered, the main question being on adoption

Article V
applications,--
rescind.

Pending the question on adoption of the Resolutions, on motion of Ms. Creem, the matter was referred to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Mark K. Carron.

Moment of silence.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

Resolutions rescinding previous Article V Convention applications (House, No. 4692,-- on petition),-- was read.

Article V
applications,--
rescind.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Creem, and the matter was further considered; and, on motion of the same Senator, the matter was referred to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Subsequently, Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, that the Resolutions rescinding previous Article V Convention applications (House, No. 4692) (also based on Senate, No. 2684),-- ought to be adopted.

Article V
applications,--
rescind.

Pending the question on adoption of the Resolutions, Mr. Tarr moved to amend the Resolutions by inserting in line 18 after the word, “supersedes” the following:- “into perpetuity”.

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-four minutes past two o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 5 – nays 33) **[Yeas and Nays No. 105]:**

YEAS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.

O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **5.**

NAYS.

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.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Spilka, Karen E. – **33.**

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at a half past two o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

The question on adoption of the Resolutions was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-nine minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Creem, as follows, to wit (yeas 34 – nays 4) [**Yeas and Nays No. 106**]:

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.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam

Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
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.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **34.**

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.

Eldridge, James B.

Durant, Peter J.

Fattman, Ryan C. – 4.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-four minutes before three o'clock P.M., the Resolutions were adopted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preambles Adopted.

An engrossed Bill relative to the release or amendment of certain use restrictions for the Foxborough State Hospital (see Senate, No. 2141, 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 9 to 0.

Foxborough State Hospital.

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

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commonwealth to dispose of certain parcels of land in the town of Upton acquired for conservation and recreation purposes (see Senate, No. 2576, 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 5 to 0.

Upton,-- land.

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

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4761), 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 9 to 0.

Supplemental appropriations.

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

Recess.

There being no objection, at fourteen minutes past three o'clock P.M, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair, and, at twenty-four minutes before four o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill relative to the release or amendment of certain use restrictions for the Foxborough State Hospital (see House, No. 2141, amended) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for**

Bill laid before the Governor.

final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Engrossed Bills— Land Takings for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 4761) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing the bill to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-three minutes before three o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 38 - nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 107]:**

Supplemental
appropriations.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.	Friedman, Cindy F.
Brady, Michael D.	Gómez, Adam
Brownsberger, William N.	Jehlen, Patricia D.
Collins, Nick	Keenan, John F.
Comerford, Joanne M.	Kennedy, Robyn K.
Creem, Cynthia Stone	Lewis, Jason M.
Crichton, Brendan P.	Lovely, Joan B.
Cronin, John J.	Mark, Paul W.
Cyr, Julian	Miranda, Liz
DiDomenico, Sal N.	Montigny, Mark C.
Dooner, Kelly A.	Moore, Michael O.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.	O'Connor, Patrick M.
Durant, Peter J.	Oliveira, Jacob R.
Edwards, Lydia	Payano, Pavel
Eldridge, James B.	Rausch, Rebecca L.
Fattman, Ryan C.	Rodrigues, Michael J.
Feeney, Paul R.	Rush, Michael F.
Fernandes, Dylan A.	Spilka, Karen E.
Finegold, Barry R.	Tarr, Bruce E. – 38.

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at sixteen minutes before four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commonwealth to dispose of certain parcels of land in the town of Upton acquired for conservation and recreation purposes (see Senate Bill, printed in Senate, No. 2576, amended) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing the bill to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at thirteen minutes before four o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 37 - nays

Upton,-- land.

0) [Yeas and Nays No. 108]:

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, 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. – 37.

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at seven minutes before four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Matter Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matter was taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The House Bill authorizing the town of Westford to release agricultural preservation restrictions over land owned by Westford Gateway, LLC (House, No. 4362),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Westford,-- land.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),-- was read a second time.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2696), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Messrs. Moore, Montigny and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section __ the following section:-

“SECTION 25. (a) Notwithstanding section 4(a)(x) and section 5 of this chapter, or any other general or special law, rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, from the effective date of this section until 180 days after the publication of the report to the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy of the General Court pursuant to subsection (b), the commission shall not

2

issue any marijuana retailer, marijuana cultivator or marijuana product manufacturer licenses to any person or entity unless such person or entity has submitted a marijuana establishment license application that has been deemed complete by the commission prior to the effective date of this section or unless such person is a participant in the social equity or economic empowerment program established by section 22 of this chapter. The moratorium established under this subsection shall not prohibit the issuance of any social consumption license.

(b) The Cannabis Control Commission shall conduct or retain an outside expert in economic analysis to conduct and publish a study analyzing the businesses licensed under this chapter. The study shall analyze the appropriate number of licenses to be licensed under this chapter, the adequacy of cannabis supply for patients and consumers, or whether an oversupply harms market participants, and the adequacy of the commission's enforcement of its regulations with respect to cultivation tiers. The Commission shall publish the results of the study on its official website and submit a copy to the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy.

(c) The Commission shall commence the study required under subsection (b) not later than 30 days after the effective date of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the moratorium established by this section shall not exceed one year from the effective date of this section.

(e) This section shall be effective upon passage."

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Lewis and Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

"SECTION X. Subsection (a1/2) of section 4 of chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking clause (xxv) and inserting in place thereof the following:-

(xxv) requirements for reasonable potency limits for each type of marijuana product sold by licensees and reasonable potency or dosing limits for edible marijuana products;"

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Miranda, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Payano and Collins, Ms. Kennedy and Messrs. Montigny and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 51 the following section:-

"SECTION 52. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Massachusetts cannabis control commission shall establish procedures and policies necessary to ensure that any application for the acquisition or issuance of a fourth or subsequent marijuana retailer license, whether adult-use or medical, may not be approved unless the commission makes written findings that such acquisition or issuance will not materially diminish competition or significantly contribute to market consolidation; is consistent with the Commission's statutory mandate under chapter 94G, section 4(a½)(iv) to promote and encourage full participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition and enforcement, and to positively impact such communities; and will not materially and adversely affect the operations, revenues, or viability of any Social Equity Business, as defined in 935 CMR 500.002, located within a five-mile radius of the proposed license or acquisition. For the purposes of this section, "acquisition" shall include but not be limited to any direct or indirect change in ownership, control, or financial interest as defined by Commission regulations. The applicant shall bear the burden of demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence, that the proposed acquisition or issuance satisfies the requirements of this section."

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Miranda, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Payano, Collins and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended

"SECTION __. Section 31 of S.2722 is hereby amended by:-

(a) in subsection (b), by striking out the words '60 days' and inserting in place thereof:-

‘90 days’;

(b) in subsection (b), by inserting after the sentence ending in the words ‘such licensee shall be delinquent with respect to such indebtedness.’ the following sentence:- ‘A licensee shall not be deemed delinquent, and shall not be reported to or posted by the commission, on any indebtedness that is the subject of a good faith dispute or is being paid under a commission-approved payment plan, and no delinquency may be reported under this subsection unless the total undisputed indebtedness owed to the reporting licensee exceeds \$25,000.’;

(c) in subsection (b), by striking out the words ‘shall notify’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘may notify’;

(d) in subsection (b), by inserting after the words ‘upon finding it valid,’ the following words:- ‘after providing the alleged delinquent licensee 14 days to cure or dispute the posting,’;

(e) in subsection (g), by adding the following sentence after the first sentence:- ‘Each incorrect posting of a licensee on the delinquent list shall constitute a separate violation.’;

(f) by striking out subsection (h) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:- ‘(h) The delinquent list shall be confidential supervisory information, shall not be a public record under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 or section 10 of chapter 66, and may be inspected only by a licensee or a duly authorized agent of a licensee, and by the commission and its licensing software provider for purposes of administering this section.’;

(g) in subsection (e), by adding the following sentence:- ‘For purposes of this subsection, execution of a commission-approved payment plan covering the indebtedness shall be treated as full discharge.’; and

(h) by adding the following subsection:- ‘This section shall apply only to credit for marijuana or marijuana products evidenced by invoices first issued on or after the later of (1) the date that is 365 days after the effective date of this act and (2) the effective date of regulations of the commission implementing this section. The commission shall promulgate such regulations, in accordance with chapter 30A, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.’

(i). by adding the following subsection:- ‘Section B and D shall only apply to social equity businesses three years after the effective date of regulations of the commission implementing this section.’”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Miranda, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Payano, Collins and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 51 the following section:-

13

“SECTION 52. Section 14 (b) of chapter 94G of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the number ‘15’ and replacing it with the number ‘18’ and inserting after the term ‘14A’ the following:-

(a) ‘an amount equal to 10 per cent of the revenue deposited in the fund in the prior fiscal year shall be transferred to the executive office of economic development to administer a community empowerment and reinvestment grant program. The community empowerment and reinvestment grant program will strengthen and invest in communities: (i) that are disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system; (ii) where a high percentage of individuals’ incomes fall below 250 per cent of the federal poverty level; and (iii) with a large population of socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups; provided, that the board established in this item in section 2 of chapter 227 of the acts of 2020 shall make recommendations to the executive office on the criteria for making grants available to communities and organizations; provided further, that said board shall consist of individuals from and with experience advocating on behalf of said communities; provided further, that said board shall be comprised entirely of individuals

who belong to a demographic of socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups; provided further, that eligible uses of grant funding shall include, but not be limited to, for socially and economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented groups: (a) job training, job creation and job placement for those who face high barriers to employment in said communities; (b) transitional employment programs, social enterprise, pre-apprenticeship or other training programs; (c) school-based or community-based high school dropout prevention and re-engagement programs; (d) cooperative, microbusiness, and small business development programs and community-based workforce development programs; (e) programs focused on housing stabilization services, addiction treatment and trauma-informed mental health care; (f) Social Equity Business technical assistance programs and support for socially or economically disadvantaged cannabis industry ancillary businesses, which may include, but shall not be limited to, businesses owned by people who have been arrested for a marijuana-related offense or their immediate family members, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, worker-owned, or immigrant-owned microbusinesses and small businesses that have historically faced obstacles to accessing capital; (g) businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide technical assistance to Social Equity Businesses and general operating support to socially or economically disadvantaged ancillary businesses, which may include, but shall not be limited to, minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and immigrant-owned microbusinesses and small businesses, that have historically faced obstacles to accessing capital, and that have a demonstrated experience supporting cannabis businesses, including annual grants of not less than \$250,000 to The EON Foundation, not less than \$500,000 to the Coalition for an Equitable Economy, and not less than \$250,000 to Mass CultivatED; and provided further, that not later than April 1, 2026, the executive office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing: (1) criteria established for creating grants; (2) grants approved under this item, delineated by municipality and organization; (3) grants expected to be approved under this item, delineated by municipality and organization; and (4) the status of funds distributed for approved grants.’

SECTION 2. Section 14A(b) of chapter 94G of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the phrase “in the cannabis industry” the following:- ‘; and the executive director of the eon foundation or their designee’”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. O'Connor, Keenan and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end thereof the following section:-

“SECTION XXXX. Subsection (a1/2) of section 4 [The Cannabis Control Commission] of chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking clause (xxv) and inserting in place thereof the following:

(xxv) requirements for reasonable THC potency limits for each type of marijuana product sold by a licensee and reasonable potency or dosing limits for marijuana concentrates and edible products, that shall, at a minimum, include: (1) a prohibition on marijuana flower with potency in excess of 10% THC; (2) a prohibition on marijuana concentrates intended for inhalation following vaporization or combustion that exceed 5mg THC per metered serving, or with potency exceeding 10%; (3) a prohibition on concentrated forms of marijuana products which fail to clearly provide metered, or otherwise measured, standard delivered servings of 5 mg THC; (4) a prohibition on packages of marijuana concentrate that exceed 20 metered or measured servings of 5 mg; (5) a prohibition on any marijuana product with added sweeteners; (6) a prohibition on any marijuana product with a characterizing flavor for which the primary use is human inhalation of the gases, particles, vapors or byproducts released as a result of the combustion, electrical ignition, or vaporization of the flavored marijuana product; (7) a prohibition on any inhalable cannabinoid product

15

containing non-cannabis-derived substances, including flavors, non-cannabis terpenes, and/or chemicals that alter a legal THC product's consistency, texture, or viscosity; (8) a prohibition on any liquid marijuana products intended for consumption by mouth, exceeding 5mg THC per container or per measured dose; (9) a prohibition on components to strengthen the intoxicating effects of any marijuana product."

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking section 30 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:-

16

"SECTION 30. Said chapter 94G is hereby further amended by striking out section 16, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 16. (a) No licensee shall be granted more than 6 marijuana retailer licenses, 3 medical marijuana establishment licenses, 3 marijuana product manufacturer licenses or 3 marijuana cultivator licenses; provided, however, that a licensee may hold 6 marijuana retailer licenses, 3 medical marijuana establishment licenses, 3 marijuana product manufacturer licenses and 3 marijuana cultivator licenses; and provided further, that priority consideration shall be given to applications pertaining to social equity businesses, minority business enterprises, women business enterprises or veteran business enterprises."

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-three minutes past four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 2 – nays 35) **[Yeas and Nays No. 109]:**

YEAS.

O'Connor, Patrick M.

Tarr, Bruce E. – **2.**

NAYS.

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, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F. – **35.**

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-nine minutes before five o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Payano, Ms. Miranda, Ms. Edwards and Ms. Kennedy moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

19

"SECTION 52. The cannabis control commission shall conduct, or retain an outside expert in economic analysis to conduct, and publish a study on supply and demand in the

cannabis market, including both the current legal and illegal markets. The study shall review: (i) current cannabis supplier trends; (ii) data on projected future trends of cannabis consumption; (iii) price sensitivity of marijuana consumers; (iv) access to capital for the creation and maintenance of legal cannabis business ventures in the commonwealth; and (v) current regulations on existing cannabis cultivation tiers. The study shall include recommendations for the appropriate number of licenses to enter the legal market each year based on current consumer demand. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commission shall submit a report of its study along with recommendations and any draft legislation to effectuate its recommendations to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on cannabis policy.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting, in line 22, after the word “reappointment”, the following words:- “for no more than 1 additional term”.

20

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Keenan, Montigny and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 50, by striking the first three sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- “The Massachusetts cannabis control commission shall study and report on mental health outcomes of cannabis use in the commonwealth. The commission shall study: (i) incidents of hospitalization and the use of other health care services related to marijuana use for both individuals younger than 21 and those 21 and older; and (ii) long term mental health impacts of marijuana consumption, including incidents of cannabis-induced psychosis and cannabis-induced psychotic disorders. Based on findings of the study, the commission shall report on the: (i) scientific evidence regarding marijuana use and adverse mental health outcomes; (ii) prevalence of cannabis use disorder in the commonwealth among individuals younger than 21 and those 21 and older; and (iii) impacts of public health interventions, including, but not limited to, warning labels, design modifications to make products with cannabis less appealing to individuals younger than 21, child-resistant packaging and educational campaigns.”.

22

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Palmer to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages (see House, No. 4282, 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.

Recess.

At twenty-one minutes before six o’clock P.M, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair, and, at a quarter past six o’clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to grant easements in certain parcels of land to the city of Lowell (House, No. 4772,-- on House, No. 4183),-- was read.

Lowell,-- land.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Keenan 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 authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to grant easements in certain parcels of land to the city of Lowell.”

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth’s cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Cannabis laws,--
modernizing.

Messrs. Keenan and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding after section __ the following section:-

23

“SECTION __. (a) The commission shall establish a list of self-excluded persons from cannabis establishments. A person may request such person's name to be placed on the list of self-excluded persons by filing a statement with the commission acknowledging that the person is a problem cannabis user and by agreeing that, during any period of voluntary exclusion, the person shall not purchase any products from any cannabis establishment. The commission shall adopt further regulations for the self-excluded persons list including procedures for placement, removal and transmittal of such list to cannabis establishments. The commission may revoke, limit, condition, suspend or fine a cannabis establishment if the establishment knowingly or recklessly fails to exclude or eject from its premises any person placed on the list of self-excluded persons.

(b) Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, the self-excluded persons list shall not be open to public inspection. Nothing in this section, however, shall prohibit a cannabis establishment from disclosing the identity of persons on the self-excluded persons list under this section to affiliated cannabis establishments in this commonwealth or other jurisdictions for the limited purpose of assisting in the proper administration of responsible cannabis sales operated by affiliated cannabis establishments.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Keenan and Montigny, Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 444 by inserting after the word “commission” the following words:- “, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health,”.

24

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Cyr and Payano moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out section 31 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

36

“SECTION 31. Said chapter 94G is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

Section 23. (a) For the purposes of this section, the word “licensee” shall mean any marijuana establishment licensed pursuant to this chapter, any medical marijuana establishment licensed pursuant to chapter 94I or any other applicable licensee determined by the commission.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any licensee to receive or extend credit, directly or indirectly, for marijuana or marijuana products sold or delivered to any licensee except in the usual course of business and for a period of not more than 60 days. Nothing in this chapter shall require any licensee to extend credit to any other licensee. If any licensee does not discharge in full any such indebtedness within such 60-day period or a mutually agreed upon term less than 60 days, the indebtedness shall be overdue and such licensee shall be delinquent with respect to such indebtedness. Within 3 days after a licensee becomes delinquent, the licensee

that extended the credit may notify the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission and the delinquent licensee in a manner to be determined by the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission; provided, however, that no delinquency may be reported under this subsection unless the total undisputed indebtedness owed to the licensee that extended the credit exceeds \$20,000. The notice shall contain the name of the delinquent licensee, the date of delivery of the marijuana or marijuana products and the amount of the indebtedness remaining undischarged. Within 5 days after receipt of such notice, the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission shall review the delinquency notice and, upon finding it valid and providing the delinquent licensee 7 days to cure or dispute the posting, include the name and address only of the delinquent licensee in a delinquent list containing the names and addresses of all delinquent licensees. Such inclusion shall constitute notice to all licensees of the delinquency of such licensee.

(c) If a licensee has a good faith dispute or has agreed to a payment plan with the licensee that extended the credit, the licensee may file an application with the commission, or third party service provider approved by the commission, requesting that the application of subsection (b) be suspended as to the licensee for a reasonable period. Upon receipt of an application under this subsection, the commission or third party service provider approved by the commission shall set down the application for review within 7 days and shall notify all licensees engaged in selling to the applicant of the review and investigation request. Pending such review, the commission or third party approved by the commission may, after an investigation and determination that the facts as stated by the licensee in its application would constitute reasonable grounds for relief, order that such licensee shall not be posted as delinquent. If the commission or third party approved by the commission or third party service provider approved by the commission finds it is in the public interest to do so, it may suspend the application of subsection (b) with respect to the applicant for such period as it may consider to be reasonable and in the public interest. Such action shall not deprive creditors of all legal rights available to them for the collection of the indebtedness and shall be contingent on such terms and conditions as the commission or third party service provider approved by the commission shall determine.

(d) If a licensee is seriously damaged in its business by riot, insurrection, civil disturbance, fire, explosion or by an act of God, so-called, the licensee may file an application with the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission requesting that the application of subsection (b) be suspended as to the licensee for a reasonable period. Upon receipt of an application under this subsection, the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission shall set down the application for hearing within 21 days and shall notify all licensees engaged in selling to the applicant of the hearing and give all interested parties the right to be heard. Pending such hearing, the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission may, after an investigation and determination that the facts as stated by the licensee in its application would constitute reasonable grounds for relief, order that such licensee shall not be posted as delinquent. If the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission finds it is in the public interest to do so, it may suspend the application of subsection (b) with respect to the applicant for such period as it may consider to be reasonable and in the public interest. Such action shall not deprive creditors of all legal rights available to them for the collection of the indebtedness and shall be contingent on such terms and conditions as the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission shall determine.

(e) No licensee under this chapter shall sell or deliver, directly or indirectly, marijuana or marijuana products to a licensee whose name is posted on the delinquent list, except for payment in cash on or before delivery by certified funds, electronic funds transfer or other

payment method as may be approved by the commission, and no licensee who is posted on the delinquent list shall purchase or accept delivery of any marijuana or marijuana products except for payment in cash on or before delivery by certified funds, electronic funds transfer or other payment method as may be approved by the commission.

(f) Upon full discharge of the indebtedness for which a licensee was posted to the delinquent list, the licensee who filed the notice of delinquency shall, within 24 hours thereafter, notify the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission of the discharge of the indebtedness. The commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission shall, within 3 business days after the receipt of such notice, remove the name of the delinquent licensee from the list. The commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission shall, by regulations, prescribe how licensees, other than the licensee who filed the notice pursuant to this section and the licensee subject to such notice, shall be notified of the filing of the name of a licensee on the delinquency list and the removal of the name of a delinquent from such list.

(g) The commission shall not authorize a change of ownership or control of a licensee on the delinquent list until all delinquencies are satisfied and the commission or a third party service provider approved by the commission has removed the licensee from the delinquent list under this section, except for approval of court-appointed receivers or trustees under a voluntary assignment for the benefit of creditors; provided, however, that prior approval of such assignment shall be obtained from the commission after notice to all creditors has been given and reasonable time allowed for objections by all creditors.

(h) Notwithstanding and in lieu of any other penalty under this chapter, any person who violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 per violation. Further, any person who is found to have violated this section by knowingly reporting incorrect delinquencies to the posting list may be subject to a separate fine or punishment to be determined by the commission. Each incorrect posting of a licensee on the delinquent list shall constitute a separate violation.

(i) The posting list shall be confidential supervisory information, shall not be a public record under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 or section 10 of chapter 66, and may be available for inspection by a licensee or a duly authorized agent of a licensee only; provided, however, that the commission may allow third party access to the list by its licensing software provider for purposes of administering this section.

(j) This section shall apply to credit extended for marijuana or marijuana products evidenced by invoices first issued on or after the later of (1) the date that is 365 days after the effective date of this act and (2) the effective date of regulations of the commission implementing this section. The commission shall promulgate such regulations, in accordance with chapter 30A, not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Jehlen, Ms. Miranda, Messrs. Payano, O'Connor and Eldridge, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

“SECTION 52. The cannabis control commission shall conduct, or retain an outside expert to conduct, a study on the effects of the current marijuana excise tax rates established in chapter 64N of the General Laws on the sustainability of the cannabis industry. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the impact of the excise tax on: (i) consumer demand with regard to businesses licensed pursuant to chapters 94G and 94I of the General Laws; (ii) consumer demand for illicit cannabis and the size of the illicit cannabis market; (iii) the rates of marijuana related business closures; and (iv) businesses that have or could qualify for the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund established by section 14A of said chapter 94G. The study shall evaluate the impact of state taxes on the sale of cannabis in other states and any other relevant factors regarding the impact of the current excise tax on consumers and businesses in the commonwealth. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commission shall

submit a report of its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on cannabis policy.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting the following sections:-

45

“SECTION X. Section 4 of chapter 94G subsection (a1/2)(xxix), as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (a1/2)(xxix)(6) after the word 'marijuana' the following words:- ‘provided that the commission shall not prohibit advertising, marketing and branding of sales, discounts, and customer loyalty programs within a Marijuana Establishment, through a delivery service, on an internet website maintained by a Marijuana Establishment, or through an opt-in email marketing campaign;’.

SECTION XX. The commission shall promulgate or amend regulations as necessary to be consistent with Section 1 not later than 365 days from the effective date of this act.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting the following sections:-

46

“SECTION X. Section 4 (a) of chapter 94G is hereby amended by striking clause (xxix) and replacing with the following:-

(xxix) review, regulate, enforce and approve host community agreements pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of section 3; provided however, that all host community agreements must comply with chapter 94G, section 3 (d) upon issuance of a final license and upon renewal every year thereafter.

SECTION XX. Section X shall take effect as of November 9, 2022; provided, however, that a municipality that has entered into a host community agreement with a licensee prior to November 9, 2022 shall renegotiate such agreement to bring it into compliance with subsection (d) of section 3 of chapter 94G of the General Laws prior to renewal of a license under said chapter 94G.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting the following section:-

47

“SECTION XX. Section 4 (a) of chapter 94G is hereby amended by inserting the following new subsection:-

(xxxiii) establish a state-run reference laboratory for the purpose of setting and enforcing cannabis testing standards, conducting a wide spectrum of laboratory tests, performing audits and providing technical guidance to independent testing laboratories subject to control and oversight by the commission.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out section 27, and replacing it with the following:-

48

“SECTION 27. Section 14(b) of chapter 94G, as so appearing, is amended by striking the subsection and replacing it with the following:-

(b) Money in the fund shall be subject to appropriation. Money in the fund shall be expended for the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter and chapter 94I by the commission and by the department of agricultural resources for the implementation, administration and enforcement of sections 116 to 123, inclusive, of chapter 128 and the provision of pesticide control pursuant to chapter 132B; provided, however, that, annually, 1 per cent of the fund shall be transferred to the commission for information technology and other data systems; and provided further, that, annually 15 per cent of the fund shall be transferred to the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund established in section 14A. Thereafter, money in the fund shall be expended for: (i) public and behavioral health including but not limited to, evidence-based and evidence-informed substance use

prevention and treatment and substance use early intervention services in a recurring grant for school districts or community coalitions who operate on the strategic prevention framework or similar structure for youth substance use education and prevention; (ii) public safety; (iii) municipal police training; (iv) the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund established in section 2G of chapter 111; and (v) programming for restorative justice, jail diversion, workforce development, industry specific technical assistance, and mentoring services for economically-disadvantaged persons in communities disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration for marijuana offenses pursuant to chapter 94C.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

49

“SECTION 52. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all property, including, but not limited to, buildings, facilities, cash, equipment, books, papers, memoranda, files, maps, plans, records, documents, property held in trust and other property, both personal and real, of whatever description pertaining to the operation of the cannabis control commission that are in the possession or under the control of the commission or employee of the commission as of the effective date of this act shall remain under the control of the commission following the effective date of this act and all duly existing contracts, leases or obligations of the commission that are in effect as of the effective date of this act shall remain in effect following the effective date of this act. The commission may exercise all rights and enjoy all interests conferred upon it by any previously executed contracts or obligations. No existing right or remedy held or granted by the commission that is not expressly affected by this act shall be lost, impaired rendered void or affected by this act; provided, however, that in the case of collective bargaining agreements, any obligations under such agreements shall expire on the stated date of expiration in such agreements.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Fernandes moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out, in line 263, the figure “12” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following figure:- “20”.

50

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Collins, Ms. Miranda and Ms. Edwards moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 51 the following section:-

53

“SECTION 52. Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the General Laws is amended by inserting, at the end of the section, the following subsection:

(g) The executive office of economic development, in consultation with the advisory board, shall establish a program to guarantee loans through Community Development Financial Institutions, non-traditional nonprofit lenders, credit unions, and banks using a portion of the fund.

(i) The executive office of economic development, in consultation with the advisory board, shall convene at least one public listening session for stakeholders to provide feedback regarding the amount or percent of available funds that should be used for this program and other program details; the types, amounts, and qualifications for loans; and any other related topics the executive office of economic development or the advisory board wish to investigate. The executive office of economic development or a majority vote of the advisory board may elect to hold additional public listening sessions. The executive office of economic development will endeavor to ensure all interested parties, particularly social equity businesses, community development financial institutions, and underrepresented and underserved lenders are given ample notice of public meetings and adequate opportunity to testify at public listening sessions and may partner with the cannabis control commission, the commissioner of banks, other departments and divisions within the executive office, and

community partners to encourage participation.

(ii) The executive office of economic development, in consultation with the advisory board, shall convene a stakeholders working group to provide feedback and guidance in the development of this program. The working group shall include the fund manager, the secretary of the executive office of economic development or their designee, the commissioner of banks of their designee, the director of the growth capital division of the Massachusetts development finance agency or their designee, the chairs of the joint committee on cannabis policy committee or their designees, the chairs of the joint committee on ways and means or their designees, the chairs of the joint committee on financial services or their designee, the chairs of the joint committee on community development and small business or their designee, the chair of the Massachusetts cannabis control commission or their designee, the executive director of the cannabis control commission or their designee, three social equity businesses owners appointed by the governor, three social equity business owners and three social equity business owners appointed by the attorney general, one community development financial institution leader appointed by the governor, one bank leader appointed by the governor, one credit union leader appointed by the governor, and the executive director of the eon foundation or their designee.

(iii) The advisory board, in consultation with the working group and the executive office of economic development, shall approve the percent or amount of available funds to be used for this program.

(iv) The advisory board, in consultation with the executive office of economic development and the working group shall promulgate regulations governing the structure and administration of the program.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. O'Connor and Keenan, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end thereof the following section:-

“SECTION XXXX. Chapter 64N is hereby amended in Section 5 by inserting at the end thereof the following sentence:- Notwithstanding the previous paragraphs, one percent of the tax imposed under this section 2 of this chapter shall be deposited into the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund for the cost of evidence-based public health programs dedicated to primary prevention of youth substance use.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Lovely and Mr. Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out the language in lines 3-5, the following words:- “2 commissioners appointed by the governor, 1 of whom the governor shall designate as chair” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “3 commissioners appointed by the governor, 1 of whom the governor shall designate as chair, and 1 alternate member. The alternate member will attend all commission meetings and shall have the duties and powers of a commissioner if a commissioner is absent. The alternate will not have the powers of the chair.”;

By inserting after the word “commission”, in line 14, the following words:- “The alternate member shall serve as regular members of the commission whenever any regular member is unable to attend a meeting of the commission.”;

By inserting after the word “commissioner”, in line 15, the following words:- “And alternate member”;

By inserting after the word “party”, in line 19, the following words:- “The alternate shall be designated as ‘unenrolled’ from a political party”;

By inserting after the word “commissioner”, in line 24, the following words:- “The alternate member shall serve for the term of 4 years.”;

By inserting after the word “commission”, in line 276, the following words:- “The alternate member will serve in the capacity of an absent commissioner for the purposes of a quorum.”; and

By inserting after the word “chapter 7”, in line 35, the following words:- “The alternate shall also receive a salary equal to the 2 remaining commissioners”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to grant easements in certain parcels of land to the city of Lowell (see House, No. 4772), 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 7 to 0.

Lowell,-- land.

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

Orders of the Day.

Ms. Friedman in the Chair, the Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth’s cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Cannabis laws,--
modernizing.

Mr. Brownsberger moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 29 the following section:-

6

“SECTION 29A. Subsection (a) of section 15 of said chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby by amended by adding the following sentence:- ‘Annually, the commission, in collaboration with independent testing labs and marijuana establishments, shall review and update, where appropriate regulations and testing protocols to ensure compliance with the most recent industry standards, research and data.’”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Moore and Driscoll, Ms. Rausch and Messrs. Brady, Montigny, Eldridge and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, by inserting after the word “division”, in line 97, the following words:- “ or from receiving complaints or information regarding the quality, efficiency or integrity of the commission's programs and operations”.

3-

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at nine minutes before seven o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Moore, as follows, to wit (yeas 37 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 110]:**

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

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
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

Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E. – 37.

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at two minutes before seven o'clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Eldridge, Ms. Miranda, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Payano and Collins moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 20 the following section:-

17

“SECTION 20A. Paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of said section 4 of said chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following words:- ; provided, however, that limited delivery of marijuana or marijuana products to consumers shall be allowed in any municipality in the commonwealth; provided further, that notwithstanding this paragraph, a municipality that does not authorize retail marijuana establishment licenses within its limits may request, and the commission shall grant, a waiver from this requirement and may prohibit delivery of marijuana or marijuana products in said municipality; and provided further, that said waiver shall be valid for not more than 2 years and may be extended in 2-year increments upon request, at the commission’s discretion.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. O'Connor and Keenan, Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end thereof the following section:-

9

“SECTION XXXX. Subsection (a1/2) of section 4 [The Cannabis Control Commission] of chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking clause (xxvi) and inserting in place thereof the following:

(xxvi) requirements for the labeling of a package containing marijuana or marijuana products that shall, at a minimum, include: (1) a symbol or easily recognizable mark issued by the commission that indicates the package contains marijuana or a marijuana product; (2) a symbol or other easily recognizable mark issued by the commission on the package indicating to children that the product is harmful to children; (3) the name and contact information of the marijuana cultivator or the marijuana product manufacturer who produced the marijuana or marijuana product; (4) the results of sampling, testing and analysis conducted by a licensed independent testing laboratory; (5) a seal certifying the marijuana meets such testing standards; (6) a unique batch number identifying the production batch associated with manufacturing, processing, and cultivating; (7) a list of ingredients and possible allergens; (8) in bold, the amount of delta-nine-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ 9-THC) in the package and in each serving of a marijuana product as expressed in absolute terms and as a percentage by weight; (9) the number of servings in a package if there are multiple servings; (10) a use-by date, if applicable; and (11) the following statement, including capitalization: ‘This product has not been analyzed or approved by the FDA. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN.’; and (12) comprehensive prominent rotating health warnings, based on the best available research on what constitutes effective warnings for transmitting knowledge and achieving behavior change from tobacco and cannabis warning research, including pictorial warnings if supported. These regulations shall be periodically updated based on emerging science on cannabis and on warning communication best practices, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health. These warnings must also include the

increased risk of cannabis use disorder/addiction, mood disorders (anxiety/depression), psychosis, schizophrenia, suicidal thoughts, and cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome with use of THC-containing marijuana products, especially when initiated young, used frequently, and/or with use of products containing more than 10% THC.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-four minutes before eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. O'Connor, as follows, to wit (yeas 11 – nays 26) [**Yeas and Nays No. 111**]:

YEAS.

Brady, Michael D.
Cronin, John J.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Keenan, John F.

Lewis, Jason M.
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **11.**

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.

Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F. – **26.**

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at seventeen minutes before eight o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking section 1 in its entirety and inserting in its place the following:-

“SECTION 1. Section 223. (a) There shall be a Massachusetts cannabis control commission, which shall consist of 5 commissioners of whom shall be appointed by a majority vote of the governor, attorney general and the treasurer and receiver general. The commissioners shall devote their full time and attention to the duties of the office. The governor shall designate as chair. The governor, attorney general and the treasurer and receiver general shall appoint commissioners, 1 of whom shall have experience or expertise in economic development in rural and underserved communities and social communities; 1 of whom shall have experience or expertise in law enforcement; 1 of whom shall represent the interest of consumers; 1 of whom shall have experience or expertise in any of the following areas: public health, the regulation and business of consumer commodities, or the production and distribution of marijuana and marijuana products; and 1 of whom with a background in social justice issues related to the cannabis. Prior to appointment to the commission, a background investigation shall be conducted into the financial stability, integrity, potential conflicts of interest and responsibility of a candidate, including the candidate’s reputation for good character and honesty. No person convicted of a felony shall

25

be eligible to serve on the commission.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at ten minutes before eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 8 – nays 29) **[Yeas and Nays No. 112]:**

YEAS.

Brady, Michael D.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.

Lewis, Jason M.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **8.**

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F. – **29.**

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at five minutes before eight o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Suspension of Senate Rule 38A.

Ms. Kennedy moved that Senate Rule 38A be suspended to allow the Senate to meet beyond the hour of 8:00 P.M.; and the same Senator requested unanimous consent that the rules be suspended without a call of the yeas and nays. Senator Tarr, requested that the question on suspension of the rule be determined by a standing vote, and it was suspended by a vote of 13 to 4.

Senate Rule 38A.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Messrs. Tarr, Montigny, Keenan and O'Connor moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking, in their entirety, the following sections:- section 8, section 22, section 23, section 25, and section 26.

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 8 – nays 29) **[Yeas and Nays No. 113]:**

YEAS.

Cannabis laws,--
modernizing.

26

Cronin, John J.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.

Keenan, John F.
Montigny, Mark C.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – 8.

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crichton, Brendan P.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F. – 29.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at seven minutes past eight o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking in lines 57-58 the following:- “The chair, in consultation with the commission, shall appoint an executive director, who shall devote their full-time duties to the office and shall serve at the pleasure of the chair and under the supervision and direction of the chair” and inserting in place thereof the following:-“The chair, shall nominate an executive director, who shall devote their full-time duties to the office. The nomination shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the commission. The executive director shall serve under the supervision and direction of the commission.”

27

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking lines 427 - 429 in their entirety.

28

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in line 78 after the word, “ceases” the following:- “(6) The executive director shall be removed from office for cause by a majority vote of the commission. For purposes of this section, “cause” shall mean conduct or actions determined by the commission to constitute a violation of the duties and responsibilities of the executive director.”

30

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end the following section:-

31

“SECTION X. The cannabis control commission, in collaboration with the Isenberg School of Business at the University of Massachusetts, shall study, investigate, and analyze the current state and competitiveness of the cannabis industry in the commonwealth, and the impacts of factors including but not limited to, rates of taxation, particularly in the context of neighboring states, the relative size and strength of the market for, and distribution channels of, illegal cannabis products and their unlicensed sale and their impacts, access to

capital for the creation and maintenance of legal business ventures in the commonwealth for the production, distribution, and retail sale of cannabis products, positive and negative factors impacting the state's cannabis industry, the number and type of currently authorized cannabis products in the state and their relative benefits and liabilities, job creation and maintenance, the impacts of federal policy, and other relevant factors relative to the competitiveness, sustainability, and economic impacts of said industry.

Such findings, together with statutory, regulatory, and administrative policy recommendations to address them, shall be included in a comprehensive report filed with the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy, the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, and the clerks of the House and Senate not later than December 1, 2026.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Driscoll and Payano moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

33

“SECTION 52. The cannabis control commission shall, in consultation with medical experts and appropriate state agencies and departments including the department of public health, the department of agricultural resources, the department of revenue and the alcoholic beverages control commission, conduct a study and develop recommendations regarding the effective regulation of the hemp-derived cannabinoid market, which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) ongoing federal law and other statutory or regulatory changes; (ii) licensing conditions; (iii) testing requirements and standards; (iv) appropriate age requirements and other safeguards against underage access; (v) regulations for potential retail sales and taxation; and (vi) optimal procedures in other states that have undertaken regulation of ingestible hemp products. Not later than September 15, 2026, the commission shall publish the results of the study on its website and submit a copy to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and to the joint committee on cannabis policy.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

34

“SECTION _ Chapter 64N of the general laws as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new section:-Section _ . (a) There shall be a multi-agency illegal tobacco task force. to prevent, investigate, and enforce laws relating to the illicit cultivation, distribution, and sale of cannabis and cannabis products in the commonwealth, including violations of chapter 64N and other applicable laws. The task force shall be co-chaired by the colonel of state police or a designee and the commissioner of revenue or a designee and shall also consist of: the secretary of public safety and security or a designee; the state treasurer or a designee; the attorney general or a designee; the commissioner of public health or a designee, and the chair of the cannabis control commission.

(b) The task force shall coordinate multi-agency efforts to:

(1) investigate and prosecute violations involving illegal cannabis cultivation, distribution, and sales;

(2) identify and dismantle organized networks engaged in illicit cannabis activity;

(3) ensure proper collection of taxes and fees under chapter 64N;

(4) protect consumers and communities from unsafe, unregulated cannabis products;

(5) collaborate with federal, state, and local law enforcement and regulatory bodies.

(c) The task force shall meet at least quarterly and may establish working groups, meetings, forums or any other activity deemed to carry out its mandate

(d) The task force shall file an annual report on the results of its findings, activities and recommendations from the preceding year with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the chairs of the joint committee on cannabis policy, the joint committee on

revenue, the joint committee on public safety and homeland security and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) a description of the task force's efforts and activities during the year; (ii) identification of any administrative or legal barriers, including any barriers to multi-agency action or enforcement efforts; and (iii) proposed legislative or regulatory changes necessary to strengthen operations and enforcement efforts and reduce or eliminate any impediments to those efforts.

(e) The commissioner of revenue shall provide administrative support to the task force. All agencies represented on the task force shall cooperate and share information to the fullest extent permitted by law.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in line 118 after, “chapter 29” the following:-

38

“(n) The commission shall hold at least 1 public hearing annually on its operations, policies, and regulatory activities. Notice of the hearing shall be published not less than 30 days in advance in a manner reasonably calculated to inform the public, including posting on the commission’s website and distribution to relevant legislative committees. The commission shall prepare and make publicly available a summary of the testimony and comments received, together with any actions the commission intends to take in response, and shall post said information on the commission's website”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in line 118 after, “chapter 29” the following:- “(n) The commissioners by majority vote shall designate an employee to serve as the ombudsman for the commission. The ombudsman shall act as the primary point of contact for licensees, potential licensees, and other stakeholders, and shall be responsible for receiving inquiries, facilitating communication, and assisting in the resolution of concerns relating to the commission’s operations, licensing processes, and regulatory requirements. The ombudsman shall report regularly to the commission on issues raised and may recommend policy or procedural changes to improve transparency, efficiency, and stakeholder engagement.”

40

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. O'Connor and Keenan, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Montigny and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end thereof the following section:-

41

“SECTION XXXX. Subsection a1/2 of Section 4 of chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking subparagraph (2) of paragraph xxix and inserting in place thereof the following:- ‘(2a) a prohibition on advertising, marketing and branding by means of billboards; (2b) a prohibition on advertising, marketing, and branding by means of television, radio, internet, or print publication unless at least 85 percent of the audience is reasonably expected to be 21 years of age or older, as determined by reliable, up-to-date audience composition data’.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end the following section:-

51

“SECTION X. The Commissioners shall designate an employee to serve as the Legislative Liaison within the office of the Commission, whose purpose shall be to interact with the House and Senate on all issues relative to the Cannabis Control Commission and the Legislature.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following:-

52

“SECTION _. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary there shall be

a special commission to study the effects of cannabis use on youth in the commonwealth. The commission shall examine but not be limited to: (i) patterns of cannabis use among individuals under the age of 25; (ii) impacts on physical and mental health; (iii) educational and social outcomes; (iv) interactions with the juvenile justice system; and (v) the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

- (i) the commissioner of public health, or a designee;
- (ii) the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee;
- (iii) the chair of the cannabis control commission, or a designee;
- (iv) the attorney general, or a designee;
- (v) the commissioner of mental health, or a designee;
- (vi) 2 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall have expertise in adolescent medicine and 1 of whom shall have expertise in substance use prevention;

The commission shall consist of the following members:

- (i) the commissioner of public health, or a designee;
- (ii) the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, or a designee;
- (iii) the chair of the cannabis control commission, or a designee;
- (iv) the attorney general, or a designee;
- (v) the commissioner of mental health, or a designee;
- (vi) 4 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall have expertise in adolescent medicine; 1 of whom shall have expertise in substance use prevention; 1 of whom shall be a representative of youth advocacy organizations; and 1 of whom shall be a representative of community-based prevention programs.

(c) The commission shall hold at least 3 public hearings, in diverse geographic locations, to solicit input from youth, parents, educators, and community stakeholders.

(d) The commission shall file a report of its findings, including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action, with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the chairs of the joint committee on cannabis policy, and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than 18 months after the effective date of this section.”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Eldridge moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after line 118 the following:- “(n) The commission shall file an annual report with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the chairs of the joint committee on cannabis policy, and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means. The report shall be filed not later than December 31 of each year and shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) a summary of the commission’s regulatory, licensing, and enforcement activities during the preceding calendar year;
- (ii) data on license applications, approvals, denials, suspensions, and revocations;
- (iii) information on revenues collected pursuant to chapter 64N and expenditures made by the commission;
- (iv) an assessment of compliance and enforcement actions taken against unlicensed or illegal cannabis activity;
- (v) recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes to improve the effectiveness of cannabis regulation in the commonwealth; and
- (vi) any other information the commission deems relevant to inform the general court of its operations and the state of the cannabis industry.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting at the end the following section:-

54

55

“SECTION X. Chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

Section 23. (a) The Cannabis Control Commission shall conduct or retain an outside expert in economic analysis to conduct and publish a study on supply and demand in the cannabis market, including the legally licensed businesses and the existing black market. The study shall review the current cannabis canopy supply for patients and consumers; project future trends in consumption; provide an in-depth look at the price per pound as a market driver for consumers; and analyze the adequacy of the commission’s regulations on cultivation tiers. The study will offer projections for the appropriate number of licenses to enter the market per year given demand projections. Not later than January 1, 2027, the commission shall submit its report and any recommendations for legislation to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Joint Committee on cannabis policy.

(b) Notwithstanding section 4(a)(x) and section 5 of this chapter, or any other general or special law, rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, from the effective date of this section until 180 days after the publication of the report to the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy of the General Court pursuant to subsection (b), the commission shall not issue any marijuana retailer, marijuana cultivator or marijuana product manufacturer licenses to any person or entity unless such person or entity has submitted a marijuana establishment license application that has been deemed complete by the commission prior to the effective date of this section or unless such person is a participant in the social equity or economic empowerment program established by section 22 of this chapter or has a Host Community Agreement pending review of the commission.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in lines 261-262 by striking the words “12 percent” and inserting thereof the following:- “20 percent”.

57

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Brownsberger and Ms. Rausch moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 18 the following section:-

7

“SECTION 18A. Said section 4 of said chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘marijuana’, in line 267, the following words:- ; provided, however, that the commission may permit advertising, marketing and branding of sales, discounts and customer loyalty programs within a marijuana establishment or through an opt-in email list”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills—Land Taking for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to grant easements in certain parcels of land to the city of Lowell (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 4772) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing the bill to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-three minutes before nine o’clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 37 - nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 114]:

Lowell,-- land.

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, 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. – 37.

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at nineteen minutes before nine o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Friedman) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Westford to release agricultural preservation restrictions over land owned by Westford Gateway, LLC (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 4362, amended) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing the bill to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at eighteen minutes before nine o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 37 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 115**]:

Westford,-- land.

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.

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.

Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E. – 37.

**NAYS – 0.
ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at fourteen minutes before nine o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Friedman) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

“SECTION_. Section 13(i) of chapter 94G as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by striking the subsection in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following: -(i) Whoever furnishes marijuana, marijuana products or marijuana accessories to a person less than 21 years of age, either for the person's own use or for the use of the person's parent or another person shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 year or both such fine and imprisonment.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 42 the following section:-

“SECTION 42A. Said section 2 of said chapter 94I, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following subsection:-

(f) The commission may revoke or suspend a medical use marijuana license of a medical use marijuana licensee who illegally sells medical use marijuana.”; and

By inserting after the word “commonwealth”, in line 450, the following words:- “including, but not limited to, protocols to ensure that individuals diagnosed with said disorder are not able to access medical marijuana cards”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, by inserting after the word “chair”, in line 40, the following words:- “and commissioners”;

In said section 1, by striking out, in line 69, the word “chair” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- “commissioners”;

In said section 1, by inserting after the word “chair”, in line 72, the following words:- “or executive director”;

In said section 1, by striking out, in line 81, the word “members” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- “commissioners”;

In said section 1, by inserting after the word “decision”, in line 90, the following words:- “or any matter over which a commissioner may serve in an adjudicatory capacity”;

In section 21, by striking out, in line 213, the words “the attorney general,”;

Cannabis laws,--
modernizing.

42

29

56

By inserting after section 16 the following section:-

“SECTION 16A. Subsection (a) of said section 4 of said chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (xv) and (xvi).”;

By inserting after section 20 the following section:-

“SECTION 21A. Said section 4 of said chapter 94G, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following 2 subsections:-

(m) The executive director shall conduct investigations into the qualifications of all applicants for employment by the commission and all applicants for licensure.

(n) The executive director shall receive from the state police, the department of criminal justice information services or other agencies, including, but not limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Internal Revenue Service, such criminal offender record information relating to criminal and background investigations as necessary for the purpose of evaluating licensees, applicants for license, and lab agents as provided in section 21.”; and

By inserting after section 41 the following section:-

“SECTION 41A. Said section 2 of said chapter 94I, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 42 and 43, the words ‘qualifying patient or the qualifying patient’s personal caregiver’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:-card holders.”

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed, was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at five minutes before nine o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Gomez, as follows, to wit (yeas 30 to nays 7) **[Yeas and Nays No. 116]:**

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.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.

Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F. – **30.**

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Keenan, John F.

Montigny, Mark C.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **7.**

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed as one minute past nine o’clock P.M.,

the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment [For text of Senate amendment, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2749]

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Friedman), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Stephen P. Fauteux.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. DiDomenico,--

Time of meeting.

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Mark J. Carron.

The Senator from Worcester and Hampden, Mr. Fattman, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mark J. Carron.

Mark J. Carron passed away on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at the age of 63. Mark was a devoted public servant, entrepreneur, and beloved member of the Southbridge and Warren communities.

Born in Springfield and raised in Wales, Mark was the son of Michael J. Carron and Ann L. (Willey) Williams. He attended Wales Elementary School, graduated from Tantasqua High School—where he played basketball—and went on to study at Springfield College. Mark was known from a young age for his kindness, generosity, and deep sense of community.

He began his public service on the Southbridge Town Council and went on to represent the 6th Worcester District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1999 to 2007. After leaving office, he remained active in civic life, serving on numerous boards and committees for local nonprofits. Mark never met a stranger—his warmth and compassion made everyone feel like a friend.

He leaves behind his loving partner, Carrie Nault of Warren; his beloved friend and ex-wife, Cynthia Keane of Southbridge; his daughters, Alyxxandria M. Carron and her partner Nickleus Bibbeau of Southbridge, and Cole A. Gawron and her husband Matthew of Holland; his sons, Kenz Carron of Northampton and Michael Agbortoko of Revere; his mother, Ann L. Williams of Wales; his sister, Nancy E. Carron of Covington, Georgia; his brother, Jefferey A. Blake and his partner Jessica of Oxford, Georgia; stepdaughters Olivia Tatro of Ware, Kaitlyn Nault and Emma Nault of Warren; and his cherished grandchildren Kaelyn, Jayden, Natalie, Paisley, and Xaze, who lovingly called him “G-pop.”

Mark was predeceased by his stepfather, Roger J. Williams. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the communities he strengthened, and the family and friends who loved him deeply. He had a gift for making people feel seen, valued, and loved—living out his belief that everyone is a child of God.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and the entire Southbridge and Warren communities during this time of mourning.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mark J. Carron, at five minutes past nine o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. DiDomenico, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Stephen P. Fauteux.

The Senator from Norfolk and Middlesex, Ms. Creem, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Stephen P. Fauteux of Newton.

Stephen P. Fauteux passed away on September 14, 2025, at the age of 76. Stephen was raised in East Hartford, Connecticut and earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University in New Haven in 1970, where he met his wife of 54 years, Kathleen McKenna Fauteux. After completing his military service, Stephen earned his JD at Harvard Law School. In 1977, Steve and Kathy moved from Cambridge to Newton, Massachusetts, where they raised their three sons, Kevin, Michael and Andrew.

Starting in 1977, Steve worked as a Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General and for the Federal Trade Commission. In 1982 he went to work at the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission as Chief of the Enforcement Division, a position he served in for three decades. Steve's passion was always public service.

As a young man he was active in scouting and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. When his sons began playing soccer, Steve joined as coach and board member, later serving as president of both Newton Youth Soccer and Boston Area Youth Soccer. Known as the "Field Czar," he led a partnership with the city to drill wells and install irrigation across all of Newton's soccer fields, for which he received the Judge Franklin N. Flashner Youth Service Award in 1997.

A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Steve will be remembered for his dedication to family and his incredible work ethic. Steve is survived by his wife, Kathy Fauteux, his children and their spouses, Kevin and Jessica Fauteux, Michael Fauteux and Jean Yu, and Andrew and Sunali Fauteux, as well as eight grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters Maureen Schofield and Colleen Fauteux and his brother Kevin Fauteux.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Stephen P. Fauteux, at five minutes past nine o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. DiDomenico, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.