

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

[105]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, December 8, 2025.

Met at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Jehlen in the Chair).

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

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

Report of the Division of Insurance (pursuant to Sections 4A and 4B of Chapter 175 of the General Laws) submitting its annual home insurance report for calendar year 2024 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Financial Services) (received December 4, 2025); and

DOI,-- home
insurance FY24
report.
SD3453

Report of the Department of Higher Education (pursuant to Section 215 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Commission on Higher Education Quality and Affordability (CHEQA) final report and recommendations (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 5, 2025).

DHE,-- CHEQA
final report.
SD3454

Petition.

Ms. Comerford presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to ensure appropriate and timely emergency medical response,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Medical response,-
- emergency.
SD3452

Reports of a Committees.

By Mr. Fernandes, for the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, on Senate, No. 62, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establish community fridges to address food insecurity (Senate, No. 2804);

Agriculture and
Fisheries,-- study.

By the same Senator, for the same committee on Senate, No. 64, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to improve pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren (Senate, No. 2805);

Id.

By the same Senator, for the same committee on Senate, No. 70, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to include the growing and cultivation of both hemp and marijuana in the definition of agriculture (Senate, No. 2806);

Id.

By the same Senator, for the same committee on Senate, No. 72, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to fees for certain commercial fishing permits (Senate, No. 2807);

Id.

By Mr. Oliveira, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on Senate,

Labor and
Workforce

Nos. 1313, 1314, 1315 and 1330, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Labor and Workforce Development to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to labor and workforce development matters (Senate, No. 2809);

Development,-- study.

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on Senate Nos. 205, 230, 241, 257 and 265, an 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. 2810);

Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure,-- study.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate Nos. 192, 219, 259 and 280, an 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. 2811);

Id.

By Mr. Velis, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on Senate, Nos. 1379, 1399, 1404 and 1409, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to insurance and treatment matters (Senate, No. 2813) [Senator Creem dissenting in so much as relates to Senate, Nos. 1379, 1399, 1404 and 1409 and Senator Keenan dissenting in so much as relates to Senate, No. 1404];

Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery,-- study.

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on Senate Nos. 721, 730, 739, 795 and 838, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to industry matters (Senate, No. 2814) [Senator Tarr dissenting in so much as relates to Senate, No. 739];

Financial Services,-- study.

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on Senate Nos. 539 and 542, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to emergency preparedness (Senate, No. 2815);

Emergency Preparedness and Management,-- study.

By Mr. Gómez, for the committee on Cannabis Policy, on Senate Nos. 88 and 97, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Cannabis Policy to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to cannabis policy matters (Senate, No. 2816); and

Cannabis Policy,-- study.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate Nos. 86 and 92, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Cannabis Policy to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to cannabis policy matters (Senate, No. 2817);

Id.

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

The following report was received the time within which the said committee was required to report having expired

By Mr. Eldridge, for the committee on Revenue, on Senate Nos. 1933 and 1935, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to revenue matters (Senate, No. 2824);

Revenue,-- study.

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

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill relative to mental health providers (Senate, No. 679);

Mental health providers.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to trans-inclusive health care access (Senate, No. 681);

Healthcare,-- trans-inclusive.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to special education health care costs (Senate, No. 683);

Health care costs,--
special education.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer (Senate, No. 690);

Firefighters,--
cancer screening.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring access to healthcare and medically necessary food for children (Senate, No. 691);

Medically
necessary food.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to facilitate timely access to quality health care by expanding access to patient navigation (Senate, No. 692); and

Health care,--
access.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to non-medical switching (Senate, No. 693);

Prescriptions,--
insurance coverage.

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

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bill relative to transparency of consumer health insurance rights (Senate, No. 685) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];- ought to pass.

Health insurance,--
transparency.

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

By Mr. Fernandes, for the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 55), a Bill fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2801);

Agricultural
resilience.

By Mr. Cyr, for the committee on Housing, on petition, a Bill relative to local public housing authorities (Senate, No. 955);

Community
Preservation Act,--
public housing.
Rental assistance
programs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to improve access to rental assistance programs (Senate, No. 957);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing upstream homelessness prevention assistance to families, youth, and adults (Senate, No. 961);

Homelessness
prevention,--
assistance.
COVID-19,--
homelessness.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting access to counsel and housing stability in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 968, changed by striking out the emergency preamble);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing housing training program for elected members of municipal boards (Senate, No. 981);

Municipal boards,--
- training.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to further regulate tenant fees in rental housing (Senate, No. 984);

Housing,-- rental
fees.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to guarantee a tenant's first right of refusal (Senate, No. 998);

Tenants,-- right of
refusal.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to create affordable homes for persons with disabilities (Senate, No. 1004, changed in Section 2 by adding the following clause:- "(k) The executive office of housing and livable communities and its contracted regional administering agencies may accept applications from landlords on behalf of their tenants under this section.");

Housing,--
disabilities.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to provide sewer and water rate relief (Senate, No. 1014, changed by striking, in lines 4, 13, and 19, the word "department" and inserting in place thereof the words "executive office"; in line 6, by inserting after the words "homeowners who are" the word "either"; and in line 8, by inserting after the word "thereto", the words "or whose income is less than 150 per cent of the federal poverty level; provided, that eligibility for such program shall be based on the higher of said income limits");

Sewer and water,--
rate relief.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill allowing moveable tiny houses as permanent residential dwellings and accessory dwelling units (Senate, No. 1474, changed by striking out the emergency preamble);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 983), a Bill to promote housing cooperatives (Senate, No. 2761);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1010), a Bill relative to creating a permanent affordability homeownership program (Senate, No. 2762);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1009), a Bill relative to transformative development initiatives in rural communities (Senate, No. 2763);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1006), a Bill creating the Home Works Program (Senate, No. 2818);

By Mr. Barrett, for the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, on petition, a Bill relative to grid battery storage innovation study (Senate, No. 2325);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing for utility shutoff protections during periods of extreme heat (Senate, No. 2612);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2235), a Bill relative to towing protections (Senate, No. 2779); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2269), a Bill facilitating distributed energy resources in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2780);

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

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Marshfield to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages (Senate, No. 274) [Local approval received];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Cohasset to issue five additional licenses for the sale of alcohol to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 276) [Local approval received]; and

By Mr. Cyr, for the committee on Housing, on petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Somerville to regulate rent in residential dwelling units (Senate, No. 22, changed by striking out section 1 and renumbering sections 2 - 6) [Local approval received];

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

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 Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to revenue matters (Senate, No. 2824);

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Speaker:

Tiny houses,--
permanent
dwellings.

Housing
cooperatives.

Permanent
Affordability
Homeownership
Program.
Rural
communities,--
development.

Home Works
Program.

Battery storage,--
study.

Utility,-- shutoff
protections.

Towing
protections.

Solar energy,--
permits.

Marshfield,--
liquor licenses.

Cohasset,-- liquor
licenses.

Somerville,-- rent
control.

Revenue,-- study.

Representatives Cabral of New Bedford, Diggs of Barnstable and Mendes of Brockton have been appointed to serve as his designees on the special commission established (under Chapter 1 of the Resolves of 2024) to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a statewide Massachusetts Cabo Verdean cultural center in the city of Boston to represent the over two hundred years history of Cabo Verdeans in the commonwealth.

Cabo Verdean
Center
Commission,--
appointment

Bills

Relative to the Great Barrington Fire District (House, No. 924,-- on petition);

Changing certain instances of the name of the inland fisheries and game fund to the George L. Darey Inland Fisheries and Game Fund (House, No. 1064, amended,-- on petition); and

Great Barrington
Fire District.
George L. Darey
Inland Fisheries
and Game Fund.

Authorizing the town of Scituate to issue four additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (printed in House, No. 4657,-- on House, No. 4184);

Scituate,-- liquor
licenses.

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

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The House Bill authorizing the city of Westfield to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of police officer (House, No. 3916),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Westfield,-- police
officer.

The House Bill amending the charter of the city of Malden (House, No. 4233),-- was read a third time.

Malden,-- charter.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Lewis presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2808.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill relative to certain special revolving funds in the town of Athol (House, No. 4401),-- was read a second time.

Athol,-- special
funds.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Comerford presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2812.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act dissolving a certain special fund in the town of Athol".

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Michael D. Brady and Michelle M. DuBois for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Edward Suber, an employee of the

Edward Suber,--
sick leave.
SD3370

department of youth services;

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

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 John J. Cronin and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Greg Pinkerton, an employee of the department of corrections;

Greg Pinkerton,--
sick leave.
SD3402

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

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to support families who experience the birth of a stillborn child;

Families,--
stillborn births.
SD3397

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

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Election Laws until January 30, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 515, 531, 534, and 2605, relative to election laws matters (Senate, No. 2772),-- ought to be adopted.

Election Laws,--
extension order.

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

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Cannabis Policy until January 27, 2026, within which time to make its final report on a current Senate document numbered 85, relative to cannabis policy (Senate, No. 2777),-- ought to be adopted.

Cannabis Policy,--
extension order.

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

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Revenue until March 6, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1933, 1935, 2004, 2017, 2027, and 2032, relative to revenue matters (Senate, No. 2758),-- ought to be adopted.

Revenue,--
extension order.

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

Pending the question on adoption of the order, Messrs. Collins and Brownsberger presented an amendment by striking out in line 3 the following:- "1933, 1935,".

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

The order (Senate, No. 2758, amended) was then adopted.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4826) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne relative to the condominium owners' rights,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on The Judiciary.**

Condominium
owners,-- rights.

Order Adopted.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

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