

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

[112]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

Met at eight 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.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to Section 17 of Chapter 23D of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Center for Employee Ownership 2025 annual report (received December 26, 2025);

EOED,--
MassCEO CY25
annual report.
SD3506
OCA,-- CTTF
2025 annual report.
SD3507

Report of the Office of Child Advocate (pursuant to Section 14 of Chapter 18C of the General Laws) submitting its Childhood Trauma Task Force 2025 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received December 29, 2025);

Report from MassHealth (pursuant to Section 35TTT(f) of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Workforce and Capital Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 26, 2025);

MassHealth, --
LTC Workforce
Trust report.
SD3508

Report of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (pursuant to Section 14C of Chapter 167 of the General Laws) submitting its Small Business Loan Review Boards annual report for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received December 29, 2025);

OCABR,-- Small
Business Loan
Review Boards
annual report.
SD3509

Report of the Office of the State Treasurer (pursuant to Section 35QQ(b) of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Economic Empowerment Trust Fund Fiscal Year 2025 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Education and the Joint Committee on Financial Services) (received December 29, 2025);

OST,-- EETF
FY25 annual
report.
SD3510

Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 35PPP of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Wellfleet Hollow State Campground Trust Fund FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 29, 2025);

DCR,-- Wellfleet
Hollow FY25 trust
fund report.
SD3511

Report of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 35BBB of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Horseneck Beach Maintenance FY25 Trust Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 29, 2025);

DCR,--
Horseneck,-- FY25
trust fund report.
SD3512

Report of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 35BBB of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Douglas Forest Maintenance Trust Fund FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways

DCR,-- Douglas
Forest FY25 trust
fund report.

and Means) (received December 29, 2025);

Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 35FFF of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Nickerson State Park Trust Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 29, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 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 December 29, 2025);

Report from MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its MassHealth Caseload and Utilization Methodology FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 22, 2025);

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-1071 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 transfer schedule for the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 30, 2025);

Report of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment) and the Massachusetts Cultural Council (pursuant to Section 42 of Chapter 23G of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 report of the Cultural Facilities Fund (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received December 29, 2025);

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 annual 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 Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received December 30, 2025);

Report of the Massachusetts Health Connector (pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 176Q of the General Laws) submitting its MA Health Connector FY2025 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate President, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received December 30, 2025);

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 budget request (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 30, 2025);

Report of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (pursuant to line item 0321-1500 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 Estimated Deficiency report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 30, 2025); and

Report of the Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 6(b) of Chapter 6C of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 annual performance management 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 Transportation) (received December 30, 2025).

SD3513

DCR,-- Nickerson
Park trust fund
report.
SD3514

A&F,-- EA
Housing bi-weekly
report.
SD3515

MassHealth,--
Caseload
Methodology
FY25 report.
SD3516
Comptroller,--
CBHPPTF FY26
transfer schedule.
SD3517

MassDev,--
Cultural Facilities
Fund FY25 annual
report.
SD3518

OVA,-- FY25
annual report.
SD3519

Health Connector,-
- FY25 report.
SD3521

OVA,-- FY26
budget request.
SD3522

CPCS,-- FY26
Estimated
Deficiency report.
SD3523

MassDOT,-- FY25
Tracker report.
SD3524

Special Commission Report.

Report of the Special Commission on the Fossil Fuel Workforce (pursuant to Section 109 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report on the impact of the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy on workers and industries in Massachusetts (received December 30, 2025),--**was placed on file.**

Fossil Fuel
Workforce
Commission,--
report..
SD3520

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill to explore alternative funding sources to ensure safe and reliable transportation (Senate, No. 2404); and

Transportation,--
alternative funding.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 2366, a Bill establishing a special commission on micro-transit (Senate, No. 2873);

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

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 477), a Bill establishing the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (Senate, No. 2825);

Elderly,-- all-
inclusive care.

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

By Ms. Jehlen, for the committee on Aging and Independence, on petition, a Bill protecting vulnerable elders from abuse (Senate No. 466);

Vulnerable elders,-
- abuse.

By Mr. Fernandes, for the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, on petition, a Bill to address the impact of climate change on farms and fisheries (Senate, No. 60):

Farms and
fisheries,-- climate
change.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to urban farmland (Senate, No. 61);

Urban Agriculture
Fund.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to establishing a food justice frontline (Senate, No. 63);

Food Justice
Frontline Program.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing healthy soil performance guidelines (Senate, No. 65);

Healthy soil,--
performance
guidelines.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to lobstering closure mitigation (Senate, No. 68);

Lobster
mitigation,-- fund.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to promote economic opportunities for cottage food entrepreneurs (Senate, No. 69);

Cottage foods,--
regulations.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the use of food security infrastructure grants (Senate, No. 71);

Food security,--
grants.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the Department of Fish and Game (Senate, No. 73);

Fish and games,--
programs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 56, a Bill protecting our soil, farms and food from PFAS contamination (Senate, No. 2802);

PFAS
contamination
protection.
Transfer program,-
- cranberry water

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 602, a Bill relative to a cranberry water use transfer program (Senate, No. 2803);

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition, a Bill relative to protecting biometric information under the security breach law (Senate, No. 187);

Security breach
law.

Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, on petition, a Resolve preventing the discharge of radioactive materials (Senate, No. 540)

Radioactive
materials,--
discharge.
Emergency
management
agency,-- revise.
Medically

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill modernizing the Massachusetts emergency management system (Senate, No. 541);

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill to strengthen

the review process for a medically conditioned license to operate a motor vehicle (Senate, No. 2403);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish a monthly payment plan and protect motorists from excessive EZ-Pass fees and fines (Senate, No. 2405);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to improved headlight safety (Senate, No. 2418);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the use of video screens while operating a motor vehicle (Senate, No. 2423);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to safety glass standards (Senate, No. 2426);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to handicap parking access for individuals with autism (Senate, No. 2428);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to motor vehicle leasing parity (Senate, No. 2434);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill increasing the penalties for violating speed limits in school zones (Senate, No. 2436);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting road safety (Senate, No. 2444);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to a motorcycle safety fund (Senate, No. 2447);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to protect the health and well-being of child passengers in vehicles (Senate, No. 2450);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Purple Heart registration plates (Senate, No. 2453);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting passenger safety on motorcoaches (Senate, No. 2611);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 2350, 2409, 2420 and 2606, a Bill facilitating cost efficient transportation (Senate, No. 2872);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 2368, a Bill to increase opportunity by ending debt-based driving restrictions (Senate, No. 2874);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 2413, a Bill relative to pedestrian safety (Senate, No. 2875);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, No. 2394, a Bill directing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of restoring commuter rail to Cape Cod (Senate, No. 2876);

By Mr. Rush, for the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, on petition, a Bill in furtherance of the Citizens Commission concerning a Constitutional Amendment to secure government of the people (Senate, No. 2464);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill amending death and disability compensation for members of the armed forces and the organized militia of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2468);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill excluding Chapter 115 payments to veterans from gross household income calculation (Senate, No. 2470);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to military personnel and medical records (Senate, No. 2485);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to uniformity in veteran benefits (Senate, No. 2487);

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

conditioned
license,-- review.

MA tolls,--
payment plan.

Headlight safety.

Drivers,-- video
screens.

Safety glass,--
standards.

Parking placard,--
autism.

Motor vehicle
leasing.

School zones,--
speed limits.

Yellow dot
program.

Motorcycles,--
safety fund.

Child passengers,--
vehicles.

Purple Heart,--
license plates.

Motorcoaches,--
passenger safety.

Transportation,--
cost efficient.

Debt-based,--
driving restrictions.

Pedestrian safety.

Cape Cod,-- rail
restoration.

Citizens
Commission,--
vacancies.

Armed
forces/militia,--
death and
disability.
Veterans,--
payments.

Military
personnel,--
medical records.
Veteran benefits,--
uniformity.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill relative to historic route designations (Senate, No. 2388); and

Historic routes.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to regional transit authority advisory boards (Senate, No. 2401);

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

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to the Monson select board (House, No. 4602,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Monson,-- select board.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The Senate Bill authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Plainville (Senate, No. 1898) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Plainville,-- police details.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Acushnet (House, No. 2341) (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.**

Acushnet,-- charter.

The House Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Wellesley (House, No. 4363),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment previously adopted by the Senate.**

Wellesley,-- land.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill modernizing the commonwealth's cannabis laws (House, No. 4206),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2749, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Donahue of Worcester, González of Springfield and Soter of Bellingham had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Cannabis.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Gómez, Comerford and Durant were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

A Bill relative to the composition of the licensing board for the city of Salem (House, No. 4007,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Salem,-- licensing board.

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

Engrossed Bills.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing a select board-town administrator form of government in the town of Rochester (see Senate, No. 4030); and

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Further regulating the term of the town moderator in the town of Norwood (see House, No. 4381).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.