

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

[1]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

At a General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, held on the first Wednesday, being the seventh day of January, in the year two thousand and twenty-six, and the two hundred and fiftieth of the independence of the United States of America, a quorum of the members of the Senate, elected for a term of two years at an election held on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November in the year 2024, assembled at three minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., in the Senate Chamber, and were called to order by the Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem.

The Chair (Ms. Creem), 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 Trial Court Department of Research and Planning (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008) submitting its fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the prosecution and disposition of offenses established under “An Act Further Protecting Children” (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received December 31, 2025);

TCDRP,-- offenses
against children
FY25 report.
SD3479

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 2HHHHHH(d) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund December 2025 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 Emergency Preparedness and Management) (received December 31, 2025);

Disaster Relief and
Resiliency Fund
report.
SD3535

Report of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 39M 1/2 of Chapter 30 of the General Laws) submitting its Owner's Representative 2025 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Transportation) (received December 31, 2025);

MassDOT 2025
Owner annual
report.
SD3536

Report of MassDevelopment (pursuant to Section 34 of Chapter 23G of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 MassDevelopment annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 31, 2025);

MassDev,-- FY25
annual report.
SD3537

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 5A of Chapter 132B of the General Laws) submitting its Pesticide Program annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries and the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources) (received January 2, 2026);

EOEEA,--
Pesticide Program
annual report.
SD3538

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 111 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Working Group Implementation Plan report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received December 31, 2025);

MassHealth,--
PCA Working
Group report.
SD3539

Report of MassDevelopment (pursuant to Section 27 of Chapter 498 of the Acts of 1993) submitting its Mass Development Devens fiscal year 2025 annual report (received

MassDev,--
Devens FY 25

December 31, 2025);

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues November 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) submitting the Massachusetts Clean Energy Industry report for calendar year 2025 (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 Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Office of the State Treasurer (Section 17 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Comprehensive Financial FY25 annual report (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Division of Insurance (pursuant to Section 292 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its report of the Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board (ABLRAB) (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 30, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Jail and House of Correction, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Boston Pre-Release Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Massachusetts Treatment Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 5, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 106 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its study on the feasibility and efficacy of a housing construction sales tax exemption program (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received January 6, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 107 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its study on the feasibility and efficacy of allowing licensed third-party inspectors to conduct inspections of manufactured housing, off-site construction and multifamily housing projects (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received January 6, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to Section 13T of Chapter 23A of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Marketing Partnership FY25 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received January 7, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (Section 13T of Chapter 23A

annual report.
SD3540
MassGaming,--
Gaming Revenues
November 2025
report.
SD3541

MassCEC,--
Industry 2025
report.
SD3542

MCWT, --
Financial FY25
report.
SD3543
DOI,-- ABLRAB
report.
SD3547

DPH,-- Bristol
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD3548

DPH,-- Boston
Pre-Release Center
Inspection report.
SD3549

DPH,--
Massachusetts
Treatment Center
Inspection report.
SD3550
EOHLC,--
Housing
Construction Tax
Exemption report.
SD3551

EOHLC,--
Licensed Third-
Party Inspectors
report.
SD3552

EOED,-- MMP
FY25 annual
report.
SD3557

EOED,-- RTC

of the General Laws) submitting its Regional Tourism Councils FY25 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received January 7, 2026); and

FY25 annual report
SD3558

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to line item 8000-0600 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its FIFA World Cup Boston 2026: Public Safety and Transportation Preparation and Budgeting Readiness report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 7, 2026).

EOPPS,-- FIFA
World Cup Boston
2026 report.
SD3559

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orrall of Lakeville presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2897) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Berkley to increase the membership of the board of selectmen,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Berkley,-- board of
selectmen.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to support men's mental health;

Men's mental
health,-- support.
SD3556

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation relative to students accessing food and nutritional information;

Nutrition info,--
student access.
SD3544

By the same Senator, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to establish a celiac disease screening pilot program; and

Celiac disease,--
pilot program.
SD3545

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation relative to enhancing playground safety;

Playground safety.
SD3553

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

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to health equity and community health workers (Senate, No. 251);

Community health
workers.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to growing resources to optimize the utilization of group therapeutic care (Senate, No. 292);

Therapeutic care.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill increasing access to ABA services by recognizing assistant level providers (Senate, No. 1414);

Behavioral health
services.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to reduce the risks associated with allergic reactions (Senate, No. 1478);

Allergic reaction,--
epi-pen
availability.
Patient safety,--
non-FDA drugs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill protecting patient safety regarding non-FDA approved drugs (Senate, No. 1497);

Physicians
assistants,-- patient
care.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to removing barriers to care for physician assistants (Senate, No. 1502);

Hospital services,--
closing.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1503 and 1626, a Bill relative to the closing of hospital essential services (Senate, No. 1503);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill safeguarding victims of illicit drink spiking (Senate, No. 1537); and

Date rape drugs,--
testing.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the board

Naturopathy,--

of registration in naturopathy (Senate, No. 1547);

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

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition, a Bill relative to the fair distribution and pricing of event tickets (Senate, No. 286);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring internet security and privacy (Senate, No. 289);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 258), a Bill protecting the privacy of social care information (Senate, No. 2821);

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to the Bean New Deal (Senate, No. 922);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to healthcare worker and first responder safety (Senate, No. 1495);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill regulating delivered food (Senate, No. 1509);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a nursing workforce center (Senate, No. 1543);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to ensure cleaner air for communities overburdened by outdoor air pollution (Senate, No. 1548);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill related to the risk of getting cancer due to the consumption of alcohol (Senate, No. 1550); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill creating an OBGYN loan repayment grant program (Senate, No. 1561);

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 Senate, Nos. 194, 204 and 278, a Bill relative to credit card surcharges and transparency in credit card fees (Senate, No. 2819);

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to physical therapy (Senate, No. 215);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to clarify prescription monitoring program activities (Senate, No. 1479); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to patient identity and privacy protection in waiting rooms (Senate, No. 1532);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4738) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to special meetings of the city council of the city of Holyoke,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Bills

Authorizing the select board of the town of Hull to establish a schedule of fines for parking violations (House, No. 4247,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

board of
registration.

Event tickets,--
distribution.

Internet,-- security
and privacy.

Social care,--
privacy.

Plant-based,--
protein sources.

HIV testing,-- first
responders.

Food delivery,--
packaging.

UMASS,-- nursing
workforce center.

Transportation
pollution,-- air
quality.

Liquor stores,--
cancer risk
signage.
OBGYN,-- loan
repayment.

Transparency,--
credit card fees.

Physical therapy,--
definition.

Prescription,--
monitoring
program.
Patient privacy,--
waiting rooms.

Holyoke City
Council,-- special
meetings.

Hull,-- parking
violations.

Amending the charter of the city known as the town of Randolph regarding compensation of town council and school committee members and meetings of multiple-member bodies (House, No. 4891,-- on House, No. 4400) [Local approval received on House, No. 4400];

Randolph,--
charter.

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

Orders Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Lovely,--

Ordered, That a committee of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives be appointed to wait upon Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healey, Lieutenant-Governor Kim Driscoll and the Honorable Council and inform them that the two branches of the General Court are now assembled and ready to proceed to business.

Notification of
Governor and
Council.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Lovely, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Subsequently, Senators Lovely, Keenan and Durant were appointed the committee.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Subsequently, the order was returned with the endorsement that the House had concurred and that Representatives Giannino, Owens, Philips and Wong were appointed to the committee on the part of the House.

Ms. Lovely, for the said committee, afterwards reported that it had attended to its duty and the committee was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Brownsberger,--

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is now assembled and ready to proceed to business.

Notify House of
Representatives.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Rausch, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Senators Feeney, Friedman and Dooner were appointed the committee.

Subsequently, Ms. Friedman for the said committee, reported that it had attended to its duty. The committee was discharged.

Committee of the House.

The Chair (Ms. Creem) welcomed a committee of the House of Representatives that arrived to declare that the House of Representatives was now assembled and ready to proceed to business.

Convening of the
House of
Representatives.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Rausch,--

Ordered, That the Clerk begin the daily printing of the Journal of the Senate, as authorized by Senate Rule 6, and that the daily reading thereof be dispensed with; that, under authority of Section 22A of Chapter 3 of the General Laws, copies of the Journals of the entire session be printed and bound with the customary appendices and an index; and that a certified copy thereof be deposited with the Secretary of the Commonwealth as the official bound Journal of the Senate.

Printing of the
Senate Journal.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Rausch, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently,

Shannon

that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Shannon Manning, an employee of the trial court.

Manning,-- sick
leave.
SD3496

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Keenan, 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.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4907) of John Barrett, III and Lindsay N. Sabadosa relative to the sale of nitrous oxide;

Nitrous oxide,--
sale.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4908) of Jim Durkin for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for William Blalock, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office;

William Blalock,--
sick leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Driscoll,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M. and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Charles D. Baker, III.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, the Senator from Plymouth and Norfolk, Mr. O'Connor, the Senator from Worcester and Hampden, Mr. Fattman, the Senator from Worcester and Hampshire, Mr. Durant and the Senator from Bristol and Plymouth, Mrs. Dooner moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in honor of Charles D. Baker, III.

Charles D. Baker III, age 97, passed away on November 1, 2025, after several years of declining health.

Charles Duane Baker III was born in Newburyport on June 21, 1928, to Charles Jr. and Eleanor Little Baker. He attended Harvard College briefly after high school, served in the United States Navy as World War II ended, and completed his bachelor's degree at Harvard in 1951. Recalled to the Navy during the Korean War, he subsequently graduated from Harvard Business School in 1955 and that same year married Elizabeth "Betty" Ghormley.

The father of former Governor Charles D. Baker IV, Mr. Baker served his country and Commonwealth with distinction across a long and varied career in both the private and public sectors. His professional roles included leadership at Harbridge House, senior positions in the United States Department of Transportation, and service as an undersecretary in the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He later taught business administration at Northeastern University and contributed his time and expertise to numerous boards and civic institutions, including McLean Hospital.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Mr. Baker placed family at the center of his life. He loved crossword puzzles and reading widely, maintained an extensive collection of reference works, enjoyed golf, and was an active member of his Congregational Church and the North Hill community, where he founded programs that enriched the lives of his neighbors. Known for a practical, analytical approach to leadership

and a warm, inclusive sense of family that extended to cousins, friends, and neighbors, he made those around him feel comfortable and appreciated.

Mr. Baker was predeceased by his sisters Nancy and Caroline, his beloved wife Betty, and his companion Sandra Levine. He is survived by his sons Charles D. Baker IV, Jonathan Baker, and Alex Baker; grandchildren Charlie, Christian, AJ, Caroline, and Chase; and great-grandson Charlie. The Senate extends its deepest condolences to his family and many friends and honors his lifetime of service and devotion.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Charles D. Baker, III, at twenty-six minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Rush, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.