

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

[15]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Met at nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Rush 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. Rush), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr Rush) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, seated in the the Gallery, a group of students visiting from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Senate welcomed them with applause.

Students from Fort Lauderdale.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Public Utilities (pursuant to Section 12Q of Chapter 25 of the General Laws) submitting its report on financial activities concerning the Energy Facilities Siting Board Trust Fund from November 6, 2024, through November 12, 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 18, 2026);

DPU,-- FY25 EFSB trust report. SD3687

Report of the Department of Public Utilities (pursuant to Section 12R of Chapter 25 of the General Laws) submitting its report on financial activities concerning the Unified Carrier Registration Trust Fund from November 7, 2024, through November 12, 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 18, 2026);

DPU,-- FY25 UCR trust report. SD3688

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 31 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Report on Sober Homes in Massachusetts (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery and the Joint Committee on Public Health (received February 18, 2026);

DPH,-- Sober Homes report. SD3689

Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (pursuant to line item 0521-0001 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its report detailing voter registration activity and a breakdown, by region, of active voters in the commonwealth for calendar year 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 18, 2026);

Secretary,-- CVR CY25 report. SD3690

Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (pursuant to Section 6A(e) of Chapter 66 of the General Laws) submitting its 2025 report on Public Records Requests received by agencies (received February 18, 2026);

Secretary,-- Public Records 2025 report. SD3691

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant line item 1595- 6232 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

Comptroller,-- MassCEC Transfer

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

(MassCEC) FY26 Transfer Schedule report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 18, 2026); and

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-2040 of Section 2B of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Prior Year Deficiencies Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2026 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 18, 2026).

Schedule 2026
report.
SD3694
Comptroller,--
Prior Year
Deficiencies Q2
FY26 report.
SD3695

Petition.

Mr. Driscoll presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2963) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Milton to use certain land acquired for conservation purposes for school purposes,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the House for concurrence.**

Milton,--
conservation land.

Reports of Committees.

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

Improving accessibility in the creative economy (Senate, No. 160);

To explore alternative funding sources to ensure safe and reliable transportation (Senate, No. 2404); and

Establishing a special commission on micro-transit (Senate, No. 2873); and

The Senate Resolves

Creating a special commission on affordable housing insurance (Senate, No. 768); and

Establishing a Norwood Hospital working group (Senate, No. 1622);

Severally ought to pass;

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

Economy,-- grant
program.
Transportation,--
alternative funding.

Commission,--
micro-transit.

Commission,--
affordable housing
insurance.
Norwood hospital.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill to stop profiling transgender people and low-income women (Senate, No. 1062);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Gardner District Court (Senate, No. 1075);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to strengthen justice and support for sex trade survivors (Senate, No. 1116);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to service of civil process fees (Senate, No. 1183); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to preventing ocean littering (Senate, No. 1231);

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

Crimes and
offenses,--
reporting.
Gardner district
court,-- cities and
towns.
Sex trade
survivors,--
support.
Civil process fees,-
- increase.
Ocean littering.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to advertising for justices of the peace (Senate, No. 1033);

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

Justices of the
peace,--
advertising.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor (under the provisions of Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution) recommending legislation validating certain proceedings of the town of Stow (House, No. 5129),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.**

Stow,-- town meeting.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5130) of Bridget Plouffe (by vote of the town) that the town of East Bridgewater be authorized to issue up to four additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

East Bridgewater,-- liquor licenses.

To the committee on Consumer protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3895) of Sean Reid and Daniel Cahill (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Lynn to establish a pilot program at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute for certain eighth grade students;

Lynn,-- career and technical education.

To the committee on Education.

Bills

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Angel G. Rivera (House, No. 4389,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Boston,-- Angel G. Rivera.

Providing for a town administrator in the town of Hopedale (House, No. 4784,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Hopedale,-- town administrator.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Elizabeth “Beth” Rennard on her retirement from a career of public service to the city of Salem.”

Elizabeth “Beth” Rennard.

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The House Bill authorizing the town of Hudson to grant 1 additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4272),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, it’s title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act authorizing the town of Hudson to grant an additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises”.**

Hudson,-- liquor licenses.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Environment and Natural Resources be granted until March 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 2877 and 2896, relative to environment and natural resources late files (Senate, No. 2949).

Environment and Natural Resources,-- extension order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor and, 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 Transportation be granted until March 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 561, 2343, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2349, 2351, 2353, 2357, 2363, 2372, 2373, 2379, 2380, 2385, 2393, 2398, 2411, 2414, 2429, 2432, 2438, 2448, 2454, 2513, and 2639, relative to transportation matters (Senate, No. 2781).

Transportation,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor and, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5137) of Shirley B. Arriaga relative to the sale of parrots.; and

Parrot,-- sale
restrictions.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5138) of Tackey Chan, Kate Donaghue and others relative to consumer protections for low valued legal tender scarcity;

Legal tender,--
scarcity.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5139) of Kenneth P. Swezey for legislation to establish a review process of guidelines for managing recreational use of beaches to protect piping plovers, terns and their habitats;

Piping plover,--
protection.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5140) of Kenneth P. Swezey for creating parity among Massachusetts beaches; and

Beaches,-- nesting
tools.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5141) of Kenneth P. Swezey for legislation to promote recreation on Massachusetts beaches;

Recreational
vehicles,-- beach
access.

Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Engrossed Bills.

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. Rush) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing alternate members for the conservation commission of the town of Becket (see House, No. 3977); and

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Authorizing the town of Swampscott to establish a fall annual town meeting (see House, No. 4438).

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill to build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation (House, No. 4769),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2962.

Higher education,--
infrastructure.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill to build resilient infrastructure to generate higher-ed transformation (House, No. 4769) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by

Procedural Order.
SD3686

striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2962) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, February 26, 2026, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new text pending; and be it further ordered that all amendments to the proposed new text shall be second-reading amendments, but further amendments in the third-degree to such amendments shall be in order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, February 26, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

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 William N. Brownsberger, Cindy F. Friedman, Pavel M. Payano, Cynthia Stone Creem and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to violations of the United States Constitution under color of law.

Federal officers,--
liability.
SD3677

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, 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.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O’Connor,--

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

Time of meeting.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Rush), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Phyllis Chapman .

Moment of silence.

Adjournment in Memory of Phyllis Chapman.

The Senator from Frist Plymouth and Norfolk, Mr. O’Connor, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Phyllis Chapman.

Phyllis Losordo Chapman, a longtime resident of Hingham, passed away on January 27, 2026, at the astounding age of 108. Born in Boston’s North End on November 5, 1917, Phyllis grew up in Hyde Park as one of eight children.

Phyllis made history in 1945 as one of the first women to graduate from Bentley college, being a member of the first night school class to include women during World War II. She was the first in her family to live to 100; she drove until she was 99; and worked into her 80’s as an accountant in her family’s business, Frank Losordo & Sons, a construction company serving the South Shore and the Cape.

On June 4, 1955, Phyllis married her late husband, Francis S. Chapman, with whom she enjoyed 50 years of marriage. From Fiji to Rome, Phyllis began traveling the world with Francis. After his passing, Phyllis continued to travel with two of her nieces, Mary Ann and Darlene Sowell, who she was very close with. From 2005 to 2018, Phyllis embarked on a total of 140 cruise trips.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Standing at just 4-foot-ten, Phyllis was known as the Hingham “energy bunny”. She was a celebrated member of the Hingham community for 61 years, and a treasure at the town’s senior center, known for her optimism and passion for staying active. Phyllis was a Patriots fan who never missed the evening news or her glass of white wine before dinner. She loved lobster and voted in every presidential election once she turned 20.

Beginning with her 100th birthday bash in 2017, Phyllis’s birthday parties drew in larger crowds as the years went on, attracting town selectmen, members of the police department, and local officials. At her 104th birthday, attendees sang Phyllis a tribute song adapted from Helen Reddy’s “I am a woman”, singing “She is strong, she’s invincible, she is Phyllis”.

Phyllis is survived by her many nieces, nephews, and their families and a wonderful group of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Pasqualina (Polcari) Losordo, her sister, Mary Losordo Sowell, and her brothers, Anthony, John, Frank, Joseph, Benjamin, and Michael. Phyllis was a joy to know and a gift to her community in Hingham. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Phyllis Chapman, at twenty-four minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. O’Connor the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.