

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

[14]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Met at twelve 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, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, William Hine and Izzy Mae Adams of Scituate. They are 11th grade students at Scituate High School who are advocating for financial literacy education to be available to every public school student in the Commonwealth. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

William Hine and Izzy Mae Adams.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2025 through January 2026 (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 the Judiciary) (received February 13, 2026);

EOTC,-- rental protections Feb 2026 report. SD3682

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Settlements and Judgements report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 13, 2026); and

Comptroller,-- Settlements and Judgements Q2 FY26 report. SD3683

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Data February 2026 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 Labor and Workforce Development) (received February 13, 2026).

DER,-- UI trust fund report. SD3684

Petition.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Thurber of Somerset presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2961) of Kelly A. Dooner and Justin Thurber (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes,-- and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Dighton,-- conservation land.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports of Committees.

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

Strengthening transitional planning and increasing accountability for persons with disabilities and their families (Senate, No. 313);

Establishing a special commission to investigate double utility poles (Senate, No. 2315); and

Relative to the long-term fiscal health and sustainability of special education in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2864); and

The Senate Resolve

Establishing a commission to consider the inclusion of nuclear energy in Massachusetts future energy planning (Senate, No. 2258);

Severally ought to pass

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5107) of David T. Vieira (by vote of the town) relative to the charter and the town clerk in the town of Falmouth;

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5108) of David T. Vieira (by vote of the town) relative to the acquisition and disposition of certain land in the town of Falmouth; and

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5109) of David T. Vieira (by vote of the town) the town of Falmouth be authorized to expend funds to offset certain costs associated with the installation of low pressure pumps on private property in future sewer service areas in said town;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5110) of Aaron L. Saunders (by vote of the town) that the town of Petersham be authorized to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley, Jr., and David A. Shoemaker, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

To the committee on Public Service.

Bills

Relative to the nomination process for candidates for town meeting in Milford (House, No. 4185,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Designating a certain overpass in the town of Sandwich as the U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Raymond G. Tourville Veterans Memorial Overpass (House, No. 4374,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Alex J. Rodriguez (House, No. 4391,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Relative to the charter of the town of Westwood (House, No. 4753,-- on House, No. 4102) [Local approval received on House, No. 4102];

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

Disabled persons,-- transition planning.

Double utility poles,-- special commission.
Special ed,-- fiscal health.

Future Energy planning Commission.

Falmouth,-- charter and town clerk.

Falmouth,-- land.

Falmouth,-- sewer service pumps.

Petersham,-- Richard D. Cooley, Jr. and David A. Shoemaker.

Milford,-- town meeting.

Sandwich,-- U.S. Staff Sgt Raymond G. Tourville Vet. Memorial Overpass.
Boston,-- Alex J. Rodriguez.

Westwood,-- charter.

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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 select board of the town of Arlington to place upon a town ballot a question to increase the number of licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4815),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Arlington,-- liquor licenses.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "congratulating Owen Kirby on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout"; and

Owen Kirby.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "congratulating Jonathan Rothwell on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout."

Jonathan Rothwell.

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 Julian Cyr for legislation for long-term coverage of gender affirming care medications.

Coverage,-- gender affirming care. SD3650

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 Financial Services.

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 Joanne M. Comerford and Susannah M. Whipps for legislation to provide equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District.

Great River Regional School District,-- ballot question. SD3630

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 Municipalities and Regional Government.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

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 clarifying call firefighter rights (Senate, No. 1915),-- was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Call firefighters,-- creditable service.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. O'Connor and the bill was read a third time.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, recommending that the bill be amended as follows, and when so amended it be correctly drawn, by substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2960).

The report was accepted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2960) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey certain land in the town of Brookfield (Senate, No. 2128),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Durant presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2958).

Brookfield,-- land conveyance.

The amendment was adopted.

**The bill (Senate, No. 2958) was then passed to be engrossed.
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

Becket,--
conservation
commission.

The House Bill authorizing alternate members for the conservation commission of the town of Becket (House, No. 3977) (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.**

Swampscott,-- fall
town meeting.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Swampscott to establish a fall annual town meeting (House, No. 4438) (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.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Student literacy.

The House Bill relative to teacher preparation and student literacy (House, No. 4683),-
- 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 2940, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Gordon of Bedford, Cataldo of Concord and Marsi of Dudley had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators DiDomenico, Lewis and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5128) of James K. Hawkins (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the establishment of a board to oversee use and occupancy payments for manufactured housing community accommodations in the city of Attleboro,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Attleboro,--
manufactured
housing board.

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

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Amending the charter of the city known as the town of Agawam to strike the reference to the board of appeals (see House, No. 4380, amended); and

Authorizing the select board of the town of Arlington to place upon a town ballot a question to increase the number of licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4815).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

Time of meeting.

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

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

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