

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

[16]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Met at six minutes past one o'clock P.M. (Mr. DiDomenico 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. DiDomenico), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Postponement of Senate session,-- Senate Rule 5A.

February 22, 2026

Michael D. Hurley
Clerk of the Senate
State House, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerk Hurley,

Due to the continuing state of emergency and expected hazardous traveling conditions tomorrow, I am cancelling the Senate session scheduled for Monday, February 23rd pursuant to Senate Rule 5A. The Senate will reconvene on Tuesday, February 24th at 1pm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Karen E. Spilka]

Karen E. Spilka
President of the Senate.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Id.

February 23, 2026

Michael D. Hurley

Clerk of the Senate  
State House, Room 335  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerk Hurley,

Due to the continuing state of emergency and expected hazardous traveling conditions tomorrow, I am cancelling the Senate session scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th pursuant to Senate Rule 5A. The Senate will reconvene on Wednesday, February 25th at 1pm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Spilka  
President of the Senate.

*Reports.*

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

Report of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 222 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 Audited Financial Statements, Single Audit report and Attleboro Commuter Rail Station and Parking Lot Statement (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 February 18, 2026);

GATRA,-- FY25  
financial  
statements.  
SD3693

Report of Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to line item 7004-9316 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting it Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program first quarter FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 19, 2026);

EOHLC,-- RAFT  
FY26 Q1 report.  
SD3696

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Sections 1A and 1B of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its report on the comparison of Actual Revenue Collections to Budget 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 20, 2026);

Comptroller,--  
Actual Revenue  
Collections FY26  
Q2 report.  
SD3698

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Stabilization Fund Interest Transfer FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 20, 2026);

Comptroller,--  
Stabilization Fund  
FY26 report.  
SD3699

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Essex County Women in Transition, the Plan of Correction from the facility and the Plan of Correction acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received February 20, 2026);

DPH,-- Essex  
County Women in  
Transition  
Inspection report.  
SD3700

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2TT of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Liability Management and Reduction Fund 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 20, 2026); and

Liability  
Management and  
Reduction Fund  
2025 report.  
SD3701

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for MCI Shirley, the Plan of Correction from the facility and the Plan

DPH,-- MCI  
Shirley Inspection  
report.

of Correction acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received February 20, 2026).

SD3702

*Orders.*

Ms. Friedman presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Health Care Financing until May 1, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 687, 734, 831, 1390, 1497, and 1502 relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 2964); and

Health Care Financing,-- extension order.

Ms. Edwards presented an Order relative to granting the committee on The Judiciary be granted until April 2, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1035, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1064, 1067, 1101, 1109, 1122, 1127, 1134, 1143, 1146, 1177, 1178, 1184, 1186, 1196, 1200, 1203, 1205, 1221, 1230, 1232, 1236, 1242, 1244, 1245, 1247, 1260, 1267, 1276, 1282, and 1284 relative to judiciary matters (Senate, No. 2971);

The Judiciary,-- extension order.

**Severally referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

*Reports of Committees.*

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Bill to establish a community schools special legislative commission (Senate, No. 409),-- ought to pass.

Community schools,-- commission.

**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. 4748) of Dennis C. Gallagher (with the approval of the town council) that the town of Bridgewater be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Bridgewater,-- liquor license.

**To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3920) of Colleen M. Garry (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide sustainable water resources in the town of Tyngsborough;

Tyngsborough,-- water resources.

**To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5136) of Greg Schwartz and Cynthia Stone Creem (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to increasing the maximum amount of penalties for violations of ordinances in the city of Newton;

Newton,-- ordinance violations.

**To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

**Bills**

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Angela C. Depina (House, No. 4388,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Boston,-- Angela C. Depina.

Authorizing Anthony Morales to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4442,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Anthony Morales.

Relative to the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4751,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Westborough,-- charter.

Permitting the city of Revere to establish penalties and liens for rooming house & certificates of fitness ordinance violations (House, No. 4752,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Revere,-- ordinance violations.

**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 Messrs. Gomez, Barrett, Payano, Moore and DiDomenico, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Lovely, Messrs. Fernandes, Eldridge and Keenan, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. O'Connor, Rush and Oliveira, Ms. Rausch, Ms. Jehlen, and Mr. Montigny) "commending the New England Chapter of The National Kidney Foundation, Inc. for its recognition of March 2026 as National Kidney Month and March 12, 2026, as World Kidney Day."

New England Chapter of The National Kidney Foundation, Inc.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

*Engrossed Bill.*

An engrossed Bill 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 (see House, No. 4272, amended) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. DiDomenico) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

*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 O. Moore for legislation relative to medication administration in rest homes.

Rest homes,-- medication. SD3673

**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 Aging and Independence.**

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 Paul W. Mark for legislation to clarify the operation of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Franklin Regional Council of Governments. SD3676

**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.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Labor and Workforce Development be granted until March 3, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1303, 1305, 1307, 1311, 1320, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1367, and 1376, relative to workforce development, unemployment insurance, fair wages, collective bargaining rights, paid leave, workplace safety (Senate, No. 2785).

Labor and Workforce Development,-- 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 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight be granted until February 28, 2026, within which time to make its final report on

State Administration and Regulatory

current Senate documents numbered 2111, 2112, 2113, 2165, and 2172, relative to state administration and regulatory oversight matters (Senate, No. 2941).

Oversight,--  
extension order.

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

*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 Orange to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen (House, No. 4701),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Orange,-- board of  
selectmen.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5157) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa relative to safety in schools;

Schools,-- safety.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Education.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5158) of Andres X. Vargas, Judith A. Garcia and others for legislation to further regulate state and local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement;

Immigration  
enforcement,--  
participation.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5159) of Brian M. Ashe for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System to grant credible service to Sara Scibelli;

Sara Scibelli,--  
creditable service.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5160) of Adam J. Scanlon for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the distribution of lottery revenues to municipalities;

Lottery revenue  
distribution,--  
commission.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Revenue.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5161) of Adam J. Scanlon and Steven S. Howitt relative to utility services;

Utility services,--  
affordability.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5162) of Paul K. Frost, John J. Marsi and others that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation designate a segment of State Route 20 in the town of Oxford as the Brodeur curve in honor of Michael and Kyle Brodeur of Charlton;

Oxford,-- Route 20  
designation.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Transportation.**

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

*Ordered*, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-four minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.