

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

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Met at nine 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.

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Fattman, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation relative to youth social media safety; and

Social media,-- youth safety. SD3759 License plates. SD3760

By Mr. Tarr (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Richard Carlson for legislation to require only one license plate;

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

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on Senate, No. 2349, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to prohibiting video recording or broadcasting while driving (Senate, No. 3007);

Transportation,-- study.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5247) of Kate Hogan (by vote of the town) that the town of Maynard be authorized to prohibit or restrict the application of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in said town;

Maynard,-- rodenticides.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5248) of Hannah Bowen (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Beverly be authorized to continue the employment of John G. LeLacheur as police chief in said city;

Beverly,-- John G. LeLacheur.

To the committee on Public Service.

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 Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to repeal archaic laws criminalizing pregnancy.

Pregnancies,-- archaic laws. SD3722

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

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The Senate Bill designating October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day (Senate, No. 2145).

Pregnancy and
Infant Loss
Awareness Day.

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

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 amending the charter of the town of Tewksbury to modify the residency requirement for the town manager (Senate, No. 1446) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Tewksbury,-- town
manager.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Luis Cabral (House, No. 4349) (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.**

Boston,-- Luis
Cabral.

The House Bill making the charter of the county of Nantucket gender neutral (House, No. 4504),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Nantucket,--
charter.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Sally Desrosiers, an employee of the department of correction (House, No. 4962) (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.**

Sally Desrosiers,--
sick leave.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5260) of Lindsay N. Sadosa and Joanne M. Comerford relative to taxation of certain foreign government pension benefits,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Revenue.**

Foreign pension
benefits,-- taxation.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Pascarelli.

Moment of silence.

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Bourne on May 20, 2025 (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 4763), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in

Bourne,-- election
results.

accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted, in concurrence, by a vote of 2 to 0.

The bill was signed by the Acting President, (Mr. Brownsberger) and sent to the House for enactment.

Subsequently, the bill, which originated in the House, came from the House with the endorsement that it had been enacted in that branch.

The bill, having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having voted in the affirmative, and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (all 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:

Enacting certain powers of the board of water commissioners of the Cotuit Fire District (see House, No. 2258);

Authorizing the Cotuit Fire District to raise and appropriate money for the Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit, Inc. (see House, No. 2259); and

Further regulating the composition of the licensing board for the city of Salem (see House, No. 4007).

Bills laid before the Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday next at twelve o'clock noon, in a full formal session without a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Pascarelli.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Pascarelli.

Ralph Pascarelli, 76, passed away on March 6, 2026, at his South Boston home, surrounded by his loving family after a brief illness. Ralph was born in Roxbury on August 4, 1949. During his elementary school years, he moved with his family to Stoughton. He was a proud member of the Stoughton High School Class of 1969 and often gathered with friends to reminisce about the good old days.

After briefly attending college in Florida, Ralph enlisted in the United States Army in 1971. He served for two years as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, earning commendations for para jumping and sharpshooting. Just before deploying, he "borrowed" his brother Joe's motorcycle and was involved in a serious accident that ultimately ended his military service. He received an honorable discharge as an Army Specialist 4th Class.

Ralph married Cheryl Tracy on September 3, 1977, her birthday. They made their home in her hometown of South Boston, a neighborhood Ralph quickly made his own, never missing a parade or Sully's trip or chance to walk Castle Island. Following in his father's footsteps, he began working for Amtrak. For 32 years, Ralph served as a signal maintainer based out of South Station, where he built lifelong friendships and always remained close enough to pop home.

After retiring in 2009, Ralph spent even more time at his second home, the South Boston Yacht Club. He held leadership positions there, volunteered with the South Boston Special Kids Program, and was always ready to help or supervise anyone in need. His friends from the Easterly crew and his Tuesday card game will miss him dearly.

Ralph's greatest joy was his family. He and Cheryl raised three daughters, Nicole, Tracyann, and Jenney, and he loved spending time with his five grandchildren: Josh, Kiley, Ash, Brenny, and Emilee.

Ralph had a deep love for Old English Sheepdogs. His beloved Skoshee was his companion during his railroad years, later followed by his loyal Bella. We like to imagine Ralph and Bella reunited once again. More recently, he also grew quickly attached to Shiloh, another faithful sidekick who brought him great joy.

Ralph was a friend to all, someone who always "had a guy for that," and he never met a Keno machine he didn't like. He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him. The next time you hear a Cher song, know it's a wink from him.

In addition to his beloved wife Cheryl, his daughters, and his grandchildren, Ralph was the cherished father-in-law of Chris O'Brien and James Seder. He is also survived by his siblings: Donna Bonanno and her partner Lew, Pamela Napolitano and her husband Vincent, and Paula Cleary, all of Raynham; Joseph Pascarelli and his wife Tracy of Yarmouth; Patricia Shea and her husband Thomas, Ann Marie Leonard and her husband Charles, and Anthony Pascarelli and his wife Caryn, all of Stoughton. In addition to his parents, Philomena and Pasquale, he was predeceased by his sister, Annette Pascarelli. Ralph was also the brother-in-law of William Tracy and his partner Amy of Chestnut Hill; the late John Tracy and his wife Peggy of Rockland; Janny Tracy of Weymouth; and Robert Tracy and his wife Christine of Rockland.

He will also be greatly missed by his dear friends and co-grandparents, Chet and Patricia O'Brien. Ralph was the loving uncle, great-uncle, and great-great-uncle to dozens of nieces and nephews.

Mr. Pascarelli will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Ralph Edward Pascarelli, at twenty-six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Wednesday next at twelve o'clock noon.