

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

[29]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 2, 2026.

Met at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Cronin 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. Cronin), 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. Cronin) handed the gavel to Mr. Driscoll for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Driscoll then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Milton High School girls ice hockey team. The team was recognized for winning the program's first MIAA Division 2 state championship title, in a 2-1 victory over King Philip High School at the TD Garden. The team finished their season with a 25-1-1 record, highlighting their hard work and dedication. They were accompanied by Head Coach Matt Lodi, Assistant Coaches: Mark Knapp and Maggie Radley and Junior Varsity Coach Liz Hallisey. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Milton High School girls ice hockey team.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)(r) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 annual report on Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) eligible noncitizen status clients (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received March 31, 2026);

DTA,-- noncitizen FY25 report. SD3807

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 105 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting the Crumbling Concrete Stakeholder Working Group final 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 Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Committee on Housing) (received April 1, 2026);

EOHLC,-- Crumbling Concrete Stakeholder report. SD3808

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to 4401-1003 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its 2-Gen Economic Mobility Grant FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 31, 2026);

DTA,-- Gen Economic Mobility FY25 report. SD3809

Report of the Northwestern District Attorney (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2025 calendar year (received April 1, 2026);

Northwestern DA,- - wiretaps. SD3811

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to line item 4401-1000 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Employment Services

DTA,-- Employment

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Program (ESP) FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 31, 2026);

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)(s) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its Electronic Benefit Transfer Photo Requirement Exemptions FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 31, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Energy Center FY25 annual financial statements 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 Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received April 1, 2026); and

Report of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant line item 1595-623 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Energy Center FY26 Budget 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 Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received April 1, 2026).

Services FY25 report.
SD3812
DTA,-- Photo EBT FY25 report.
SD3813

EOEEA,-- MCEC FY25 statement-report.
SD3818

EOEEA,-- MassCEC FY26 Budget report.
SD3819

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orrall of Lakeville, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3042) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the state board of retirement to grant creditable service to Joseph D. Ryan [Local approval received];

Joseph D. Ryan,-- creditable service.

By Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orrall of Lakeville, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3043) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the state board of retirement to grant creditable service to Omar H. Ricketts [Local approval received];

Omar H. Ricketts,-- - creditable service.

By Mr. Driscoll, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William J. Driscoll for legislation to provide equitable access to military creditable service for judges; and

Judges,-- military creditable service.
SD3800

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James B. Eldridge for legislation to conform with the electoral count reform act of 2022 and ensure uniform faithful presidential electors;

Electoral reform,-- faithful electors.
SD3816

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

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bills To enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities (Senate, No. 149) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Autism,-- provider knowledge.

Mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer (Senate, No. 690) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Firefighters,-- cancer screening.

Protecting patients from surprise bills related to emergency ambulance service (Senate, No. 799) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Ambulance service,-- reimbursement.
Nurses,-- capacity determination.

Relative to capacity determination (Senate, No. 1073) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

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Relative to minimizing suffering during the commitment process (Senate, No. 1173) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000]; and

Relative to the use of artificial intelligence and other software tools in healthcare decision-making (Senate, No. 2632) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Severally ought to pass

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

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on Senate, Nos. 1534 and 1628, a Bill to protect the independence of clinical decision making (Senate, No. 1534);

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

By Ms. Comerford, for the committee on the Higher Education, on petition, a Bill relative to students accessing food and nutritional information (Senate, No. 2927);

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to constables in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 1146);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to violent or sexual offenses committed by those using the Emergency Assistance shelter system (Senate, No. 1260, changed in line 3, by strike through “or charged”);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1109), a Bill criminalizing harassment resulting in serious bodily injury or death of another (Senate, No. 3027);

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill relative to tolls on the roadways of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2357);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2414), a Resolve directing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of establishing a tunnel to connect the campuses of Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical school (“ENSATS”) (Senate, No. 3011); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 561 and 2351, a Bill to expedite MBTA maintenance, repair, and improvement project delivery (Senate, No. 3036);

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

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill clarifying the jurisdiction of the housing court department (Senate, No. 1067);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

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

Exempting Steven Justice from the maximum age requirement for appointment to the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 2985);

Exempting Javier Vargas from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 2986);

Exempting Brittany Sproule from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 2987);

Commitment process,-- suffering. Artificial intelligence,-- healthcare.

Clinicians,-- health care practices.

Nutritional info,-- student access.

Constables.

Emergency Assistance,-- violent offenders.

Harassment,-- criminalization.

Tolls,-- roadways.

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical school.

MBTA maintenance improvement.

Housing court,-- jurisdiction.

Bills laid before the Governor.

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Exempting Freddy Castaneda from the maximum age requirement for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 2988);

Designating a certain overpass in the town of Sandwich as the United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Raymond G. Tourville Veterans Memorial Overpass (see House, No. 4374);

Changing the name of the board of selectmen in the town of Williamsburg to select board (see House, No. 4524); and

Making the charter of the city of Chicopee gender neutral (see House, No. 4542).

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Oliveira) “celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Saint Paul’s Church of Palmer.”

Saint Paul’s
Church of Palmer.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1504), a Bill to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS (Senate, No. 3034);

PFAS,--
protection.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the bill was referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5280),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3041 (Direct Appropriations: \$1,836,246,066.00).

Supplemental
appropriations.

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 making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5280) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3041) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, April 9, 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.

Procedural Order.
SD3817

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

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, April 9, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5335) of Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to designate the American lobster as the official crustacean of the Commonwealth,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.**

Lobster,-- official
crustacean.

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Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

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.

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