

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026**

[31]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Rausch) introduced in the rear of the Chamber, a group of students from the Brimmer and May School in Newton. The students are part of a Global Studies Diploma Program and were visiting the State House and engage in civics and direct learning of state government. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Brimmer and May School.

Report.

Report of the Office of Child Advocate (pursuant to Section 89 of Chapter of 119 of the General Laws) submitting its Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board 2025 annual 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 the Judiciary) (received April 7, 2026),-- was placed on file.

OCA,-- JJPAD FY25 annual report. SD3831

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

Mr. Fattman presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3051) of Ryan C. Fattman and Michael J. Soter (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to a certain retirement benefit to be paid to the surviving spouse of fallen officer, Stephen LaPorta, of the police department of the town of Uxbridge,-- and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.

LaPorta surviving spouse,-- Uxbridge.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Ms. Howard presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Vanna Howard for legislation relative to a certain property in the city of Lowell,-- and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Lowell,-- land. SD3832

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bill promoting and enhancing the sustainability of birth centers and the midwifery workforce (Senate, No. 784),-- ought to pass with an amendment, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3045) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Birth centers,-- midwifery workforce.

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

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on Senate, No. 725, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to licensing of earned wage access services providers by the Division of Banks (Senate, No. 3047); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee on Senate, No. 804, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to provide regulation and reporting requirements for qualifying virtual currency kiosk operators (Senate, No. 3049) [Senator Tarr dissenting];

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill relative to employees of the Commonwealth who are required to respond to emergencies or work in hazardous environments (Senate, No. 1786);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to credible service for school nurses (Senate, No. 1787);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Brockton school police (Senate, No. 1789);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Mass Port police officers (Senate, No. 1798);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to non-clerical workers of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (Senate, No. 1803);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill designating certain employees of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to be in Group 2 of the contributory retirement system (Senate, No. 1804);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to provide fair and affordable public retiree benefits (Senate, No. 1817);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill providing retirement benefits for caregivers at the Soldiers' Homes (Senate, No. 1823);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to public safety dispatchers (Senate, No. 1827);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill regarding the disability pension for Michael Palmer (Senate, No. 1841);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to retirement boards (Senate, No. 1844);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to further defining employees classified in Group 4 (Senate, No. 1846);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to employees of the Commonwealth who are required to respond to crime scenes (Senate, No. 1853);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Massachusetts certified emergency telecommunicators (Senate, No. 1856);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the annual allowance for certain survivors of public retirees and employees (Senate, No. 1867);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to Option (d) beneficiaries (Senate, No. 1868); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to retirement for nuclear reactor operators (Senate, No. 1871);

Financial Services,-- study.

Id.

Emergency workers,-- retirement.

School nurses,-- credible service.

Brockton,-- school police.

MassPort police officers,-- Group 4 retirement.

MWRA,-- non-clerical workers.

MA DOT,-- group 2 retirement.

Public retiree,-- benefits.

Soldiers' Homes,-- retirement benefits.

Public safety dispatchers.

Michael Palmer,-- disability pension.

Retirement boards,-- creditable service.

Group 4 employees,-- classification.

Forensic scientists,-- retirement.

Emergency telecommunicators certification.

Public retirees,-- annual allowance.

Option (d) beneficiaries.

Nuclear reactor operators,-- retirement.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill relative to the membership of the PRIM board (Senate, No. 1816); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to protect the retirement classification of Barnstable county dispatchers and dispatch retirees (Senate, No. 1819);

**Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

*Committees Discharged.*

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to transportation matters (Senate, No. 3009); and

Of the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Health Care Financing to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 3038);

And recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Rules.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were severally considered forthwith and accepted.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Bills

Amending the charter for the town of Nantucket (House, No. 4441, changed-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Relative to a real property exemption for persons with disabilities in the town of Swampscott (House, No. 4444,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Amending the town of Arlington's means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4575,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Relative to the town of Reading Home Rule Charter (House, No. 5102,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

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

A Bill designating a certain bridge in the town of Hopkinton as the Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge (House, No. 3608,-- on petition),-- was read.

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

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5359) of Mark J. Cusack relative to military creditable service for judges,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Way and Means, that the Senate Bill to build resilience for Massachusetts communities (Senate, No. 2542),-- ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No 3050).

PRIM board,-- membership.

Barnstable county dispatchers.

Transportation,--- study.

Health Care Financing,-- study.

Nantucket,-- charter.

Swampscott,-- property exemptions.

Arlington,-- property exemptions.

Reading,-- charter.

Hopkinton,-- Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge.

Judges,-- military creditable service.

Environmental bond bill.

*Order Adopted.*

Mr. Rodrigues presented the following order, to wit:

*Ordered*, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill to build resilience for Massachusetts communities (Senate, No. 2542) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3050) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Procedural order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M, on Friday, April 10, 2026. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the Senate Ways and Means new draft (Senate, No. 3050), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill as amended is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

**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 Wednesday, April 15, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.**

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), 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 (Ms. Rausch) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the Governor.

Amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (see Senate, No. 2859, amended); and

Authorizing the city of Springfield to appropriate funds to help certain residents meet their local tax obligations (see House, No. 3213).

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

*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 nineteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.