

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026**

**[30]**

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, April 6, 2026.

Met at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.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.

Reports.

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

Report of Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 2EEEEEE of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund Expenditure 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 Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity) (received April 1, 2026);

A&F,-- Federal Matching and Debt Reduction report. SD3820

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-9813 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its first FY25 Rural School Aid report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

DESSE,-- Rural School Aid FY25 first report. SD3821

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-9813 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its second FY25 Rural School Aid report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

DESSE,-- Rural School Aid FY25 second report. SD3822

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-9813 Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its first FY26 Rural Aid report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

DESSE,-- Rural School Aid FY26 first report. SD3823

Report of Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant line item 7004-9030 of Chapter 9 of the Acts 2025) submitting its Alternative Housing Voucher Program FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

ELOHC,-- FY26 AHVP report. SD3824

Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 40R of the General Laws) submitting its Smart Growth Zoning and Housing Production FY25 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

EOHLC,-- 40R FY25 report. SD3825

Report of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (pursuant to line item 0321-1500 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Committee for Public Counsel Services FY2025 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 2, 2026);

CPCS,-- FY2025 annual report. SD3827

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Berkshire County Jail and House of Correction, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 2, 2026); and

DPH,-- Berkshire County Jail HC Inspection report. SD3828

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to line-item 4590-0915 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children March 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 Public Health) (received April 3, 2026).

DPH,-- Pappas  
March 2026 report.  
SD3829

*Petition.*

Mr. Cronin (by request) presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dennis Galvin for legislation to increase pre-employment requirements for appointment as a Massachusetts police officer,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Police officers,--  
education.  
SD3826

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5332) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to electing certain city officials and filling related vacancies; and

Holyoke,-- city  
vacancies.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5333) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Holyoke be authorized to amend its charter to require that elected officials be citizens and residents for at least two years;

Holyoke,--  
residency  
requirement.

**Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5334) of Jeffrey N. Roy (with the approval of the town council) that the town of Franklin be authorized to increase the limit of the local hotel excise;

Franklin,-- hotel  
excise tax.

**To the committee Revenue.**

**Bills**

Authorizing Kenneth Navarro to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4476,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,--  
Kenneth Navarro.

Authorizing William "Rob" Cargill to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4477,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Haverhill,--  
William Cargill.

Regarding special meetings of the Holyoke City Council (House, No. 4738,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Holyoke City  
Council,-- special  
meetings.

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

*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 authorizing the town of Berkley to recall elected officials (Senate, No. 2552),-- was read a third time.

Berkley,-- recall  
elected officials.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mrs. Dooner presented an amendment that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3018).

**The amendment was adopted.**

**The (Senate, No. 3018) was then passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

The House Bill authorizing the city of Springfield to appropriate funds to help certain residents meet their local tax obligations (House, No. 3213) (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.**

Springfield,--  
property tax.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (Senate, No. 2859),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with amendments*, by inserting after section 60 the following section:

Sandwich,--  
charter.

“SECTION 61. The third sentence of said subsection (a) of said section 4.7 of said charter, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word ‘selectmen’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select board.”;

By inserting after section 63 the following section:

“SECTION 63A. The second sentence of said subsection (b) of said section 4.7 of said charter, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word ‘selectmen’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select board.”; and

By inserting after section 71 the following section:

“SECTION 71A. The second sentence of clause (m) of said section 5.1.4 of said charter, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word ‘special’.”

**The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the House amendments were considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.**

*Report of Committees.*

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order granting the committee on Public Health until April 17, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 2928, relative to establish a celiac disease screening pilot program.

Public Health,--  
extension order.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5348,-- on House, No. 5050, in part),-- was read.

Supplemental  
appropriations.

**There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

*Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.*

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 5348), 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 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.

Id.

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

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

**The Senate then passed the bill to be enacted; and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. DiDomenico) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

*Ordered*, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday 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 three minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.