

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026**

[25]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, March 23, 2026.

Met at twenty-seven minutes before twelve o'clock noon (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.

Report.

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues February 2026 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 Revenue (received March 20, 2026),-- was placed on file.

MassGaming,-- Gaming Revenues Feb 2026 report. SD3783

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Brady, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael D. Brady for legislation to establish the Firefighter Staffing Grant Program; and

Firefighter staffing,-- grants. SD3787 Property assessment study. SD3782

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by resolve) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nick Collins that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to establish the special commission on assessing reform;

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

Order.

Mr. Driscoll presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Public Health until April 17, 2026, within which time to make its final report on a current Senate document numbered 2928, relative to establishing a celiac disease screening pilot program (Senate, No. 3030);

Public Health,-- extension order.

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

Reports of a Committee.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill to study the delivery of medical care to persons held in custody (Senate, No. 1232); and

Medical care,-- persons in custody.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1230), a Bill establishing medical civil rights (Senate, No. 2992);

Id.

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

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill extending the civil statute of limitations for child abuse (Senate, No. 1200),

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to pre-adjudication credit for juvenile offenders (Senate, No. 1242); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1064), a Bill to safeguard civil rights and civil liberties (Senate, No. 2992);

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

Child abuse,--  
statute of  
limitations.  
Juvenile  
offenders,-- pre-  
adjudication credit.  
Civil rights  
enforcement.

*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 committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establishing credible service for eligible police officers and firefighters (Senate, No. 3019);

Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 3020);

Order relative to authorizing the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to economic development and emerging technologies matters (Senate, No. 3023);

Order relative to authorizing the committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to providing for mobile driver's licenses in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 3024); and

Order relative to authorizing the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establishing a special commission to ensure the safety and sustainability of non-profit public events (Senate, No. 3025);

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

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

Public Service,--  
study.

Id.

Economic  
Development and  
Emerging  
Technologies,--  
study.

Transportation,--  
study.

Rules of the two  
branches, acting  
concurrently,--  
study.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to providing for mobile driver's licenses in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 3024), reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2905) of Julian Cyr for legislation to provide for mobile driver's licenses in the commonwealth,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on the Transportation.**

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

Mobile driver's  
licenses.

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. 5280,-- on House, No. 5033, in part), -- **was read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

Supplemental  
appropriations.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

**Bills**

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden (House, No. 4506,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Conway,-- Howard Boyden.

Authorizing William Pilleri to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the town of Arlington notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4507,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Arlington,-- William Pilleri.

Authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police department member Michael Habel (House, No. 4525,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Conway,-- Michael Habel.

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

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (both 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. DiDomenico) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the Governor.

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Jason DeLeon (see Senate, No. 4142); and

Authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey certain parcels of land in the city of Brockton (see House, No. 4768, amended).

*Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Rush, Collins and Tarr) “celebrating the commissioning of the USS Massachusetts (SSN 798).”

USS Massachusetts (SSN 798).

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2081),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3029).

Agricultural resilience.

*Order Adopted.*

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

*Ordered*, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2801) the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft (Senate, No. 3029) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Wednesday, April 1, 2026.

Procedural Order SD3784

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M, on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the proposed Senate Ways and Means new draft (Senate, No. 3029), 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. Fattman, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Wednesday, April 1, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

*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 Joan B. Lovely for legislation relative to animal telehealth.

Veterinarians,--  
animal telehealth.  
SD3751

**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 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5295) of Michael P. Kushmerek for legislation to further regulate social media accounts for persons under 16 years of age;

Social media,--  
regulations.

**Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5296) of Michelle L. Badger relative to early intervention services for children with prenatal exposure to opioids;

Prenatal care,--  
opioid exposure.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5297) of Jack Patrick Lewis relative to retirement benefits for Suzanne Garcia a member of the state employees' retirement system and the Framingham retirement system;

Suzanne Garcia,--  
retirement.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5298) of Kristin E. Kassner and others relative to senior property tax credits;

Seniors,-- property  
tax credits.

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

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

*Ordered*, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Senate Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to violation of regulation regarding hot work processes (Senate, No. 1646),-- ought to pass with an amendment by striking out, in line 1, the word "us" and inserting in place thereof the following word:- "is".

Hot works.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Moore presented an amendment inserting after section \_\_ the following section:-

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“SECTION \_\_. Chapter 146 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 53A, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 53A. There shall be in the department a board to be known as the board of hoisting machinery regulations, which shall consist of six members to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, for terms of four years each. One such member shall be the chief inspector in said department, who shall serve as chair and act as a non voting member of said board, except in the case of a tie vote, one shall be an employee of a public utility who is actively engaged in hoisting machinery operations in the Commonwealth, one shall be a member from a private construction contractor who is actively engaged in hoisting machinery operations in the Commonwealth, one shall be a safety trainer who is authorized by the department to do continuing education classes for hoisting licenses in Massachusetts, one shall be an expert in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration who is actively involved in hoisting machinery related operations, and one shall be from the International Union of Operating engineers Local with jurisdictions in Massachusetts who has been actively engaged in hoisting machinery related operations in the commonwealth for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment.

Said board shall promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to chapter 30A, embodying the classifications of hoisting machinery and establishing criteria and procedures for the issuance, denial, renewal, suspension and revocation of licenses of apprentice operators of such machinery. However, a final adjudication that there has been a violation of federal or state occupational safety and health regulations, or any rule or regulation adopted by the department, shall be cause for the denial, revocation or suspension of any license issued under this section. Criteria for issuance of such licenses shall include, but not be limited to, training and experience requirements appropriate to the categories of machinery for which the license is intended, and registration with the apprenticeship council within the department of labor standards. A holder of such apprentice license may operate hoisting machinery only under the guidance and supervision of a holder of a license to operate for the category of hoisting machinery to be operated by the apprentice.

A majority of said board, constituted as above provided, may transact business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time.

The board may, subject to appropriation and with the approval of the commissioner, employ an executive secretary who shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-one and may employ such clerical, technical and other assistants as may be required by said board.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

**The bill (Senate, No. 1646, amended) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and, after remarks, passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Moment of Silence.*

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Dan McCole.

Moment of silence.

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*Adjournment in Memory of Mr. Dan McCole.*

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mr. Dan McCole.

Dan McCole, a beloved South Boston artist, newspaperman, and larger-than-life personality widely known as “Southie's oldest teenager,” passed away peacefully on March

12, 2026, at the age of 96. Over the course of a long and colorful life, he was many things: a newspaperman, painter, writer, singer, teacher, mentor, uncle, friend, grandfather, great-grandfather, and father; but above all, he was a man who embraced life with creativity, humor, and an open heart.

Born in 1929 in South Boston to Philip and Margaret (McGonagle) McCole, who had immigrated from County Donegal, Ireland, a few years earlier with three of his older siblings, Dan grew up deeply proud of his Irish heritage and his South Boston roots.

At just sixteen years old, shortly after the end of World War II, he enlisted in the United States Army and spent much of his service stationed in Panama. After returning home, he attended the Vesper George School of Art, where he first learned to channel his creative instincts into painting.

Dan joined the Boston Herald Traveler as a part-time editorial artist and gradually built a full career in the newspaper business. His entrepreneurial spirit soon led him to found the Weymouth News, a weekly newspaper. After ten years, he sold the Weymouth News but remained involved with several local publications before returning to the Boston Herald.

In the early 1990s, Dan returned to the artistic passion he had set aside decades earlier. He enrolled in a watercolor refresher course as a way of forcing himself back into painting and soon began entering his work in local art shows.

His art quickly gained a devoted following. A media story once noted that nearly every home in South Boston seemed to have a Dan McCole painting on its wall. His painting of Ted Williams once became part of a friendly baseball wager between the mayors of Boston and another city whose team Red Sox fans prefer not to mention; the painting ended up hanging in New York City's City Hall for a year.

His artistic contributions were widely recognized in exhibitions and by civic leaders. The City of Boston proclaimed May 11, 2011, as Dan McCole Day in recognition of his impact on the community and the arts.

Beyond his accomplishments as a newspaperman and artist, what people remember most about Dan McCole was the genuine way he lived. He had a magnetic personality: engaging, charismatic, and full of laughter. Music, conversation, and storytelling seemed to follow him wherever he went. A proud son of South Boston with a deep Irish spirit, he had an enormous circle of friends and acquaintances who were drawn to his warmth and authenticity.

Family was always at the center of his world. Though he maintained a long career, his children remember that he somehow managed to be present in their lives. As his family grew, he became a beloved patriarch who delighted in bringing generations of friends and family together.

Behind the joy and humor was also a generous mentor who believed deeply in the power of creativity. Dan encouraged everyone around him to find and express their artistic voice. He mentored young artists, supported teens through art and service projects, and reminded us all that life itself becomes the raw material for art.

To many, he was an artist, to others a teacher or mentor, but to all who knew him, he was a kind and genuine man whose warmth, creativity, and boundless charisma made him unforgettable.

Dan is survived by his four children: Carole Ann Wool (Jon) of Western Springs, IL; Christina Johnson (Rick) of Hollis, ME; Catherine McMahan (the late Dan) of Weymouth, MA; and Dan McCole (Jill) of Okemos, MI. He is also survived by longtime friend Nancy Powderly, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to his wife, Carole, Dan was predeceased by his brothers John J., Thomas P., Philip J., Michael Leo, and Robert C. McCole, and by his sisters Mary Ann Bergin and Margaret "Peg" Reardon.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Dan McCole, at six minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

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