

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Met at twenty-two minutes before twelve o'clock noon (Mr. Collins in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Collins), 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 the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund data for April 2026 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development) (received April 15, 2026); and

DER,-- Unemployment Trust Fund April FY26 report. SD3850

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-6368 of Section 2E of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund Transfer Schedule 2026 update (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 15, 2026).

MTTF Transfer Schedule FY26 update. SD3851

Petition.

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rules 9 and 12) of Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to provide for improved public access and climate resiliency on the Mystic River and increasing the utilization of the designated port area,-- was transmitted to the Secretary of State (under the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws).

Mystic River,-- port area. SD3846

Report of a Committee.

The following report was received the time within which the said committee was required to report having expired:

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate, No. 2922, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to grant easements to NSTAR electric company d/b/a Eversource Energy in return for NSTAR releasing or modifying easements for the benefit of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 3058);

State Administration and Regulatory Oversight,-- 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:

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5378) of Mark D. Sylvia and Kelly A. Dooner (by vote of the town) that the town of Marion be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Marion,-- liquor license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5379) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr., (by vote of the town) relative to the transfer of interest in land in the town of West Brookfield;

West Brookfield,-- land.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5380) of Paul J. Donato (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Medford be authorized to exempt the positions of police chief and deputy police chief from the civil service law;

Medford,-- police exemptions.

To the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5374) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to expanding the exemption for residential property in the town of Wellfleet;

Wellfleet,-- property exemption.

To the committee on Revenue.

A Bill financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 5375,-- on House, No. 4987),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

Roads and bridges.

Bills

Relative to changing the two-year elected term for the Mayor of Chicopee to a four-year elected term (House, No. 4201, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Chicopee,-- mayoral term.

Exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (House, No. 4702,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Leominster,-- police exemptions.

Establishing a charter for the town of Orange (House, No. 5053,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Orange,-- charter.

Authorizing the city of Salem to convert seasonal licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises to annual licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5097,-- on House, No. 4661) [Local approval received on House, No. 4661];

Salem,-- liquor licenses.

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

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 Michael D. Brady and Dennis C. Gallagher for legislation to establish the Firefighter Staffing Grant Program.

Firefighter staffing,-- grants. SD3787

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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 grant of easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (Senate, No. 3033),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Boston,-- land easement.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The House Bill increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Monson (House, No. 4602) (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.**

Monson,-- select board.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

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),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3054, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Michlewitz of Boston, Diggs of Barnstable and Sweezy of Duxbury had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Supplemental appropriations.

On motion of Mr. Durant, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Rodrigues, Comerford and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

A Bill authorizing the grant of easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (House, No. 5317,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Boston,-- land.

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Tuesday 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 a quarter before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.