

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

[38]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 23, 2026.

Met at eighteen 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).

Life Scout Jack Knauber from the Narragansett Council Troop 22 in Taunton, led the Chair (Mr. DiDomenico), members, guests, staff and a group of Scouts from around the Commonwealth in the recitation of 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 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 258F of the General Laws) submitting an updated 2024 annual report on Certification for Violent Crime and Human Trafficking (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received April 22, 2026, was placed with original report);

EOPSS,-- Victims of Violent Crime 2024 report. SD3745

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 164 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its preliminary review of Sheriffs' Budgets and Expenditures (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 Safety and Homeland Security) (received April 22, 2026);

OIG,-- Sheriffs' Budgets and Expenditures. SD3858

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to line item 1596-2516 of Section 2A of Chapter 7 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Special Education Transportation study on Strategies to Mitigate Rising Costs (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received April 22, 2026);

OIG,-- Special Education Transportation study. SD3859

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 54 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Pandemic Funding Oversight Calendar Year 2026 First Quarter report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 22, 2026);

OIG,-- Pandemic Funding Oversight CY26 Q1 report. SD3861

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 6B(b) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its third quarter Federal Grants Fiscal Year 2026 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 22, 2026).

Comptroller,-- federal grants Q3 FY26 report. SD3863

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Driscoll, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. for legislation relative to fire safety in college communities; and

Colleges,-- fire safety. SD3860

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation relative to the leasing of the Pilgrim Memorial Park in Plymouth;

Plymouth,-- Pilgrim Memorial Park. SD3862

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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

Special Commission Report.

Report of the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission (pursuant to Section 219 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting its 2025-2026 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received April 21, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

EOHSS,-- CPHPP
2025-2026 annual
report.
SD3857

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on Senate, Nos. 262 and 2636, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate documents relative to consumer protection and professional licensure matters (Senate, No. 3063);

Consumer
Protection and
Professional
Licensure,-- study.

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

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill to establish a celiac disease screening pilot program (Senate, No. 2928, changed in line 16, by adding after the word “shall” the following words:- “aim to”);

Celiac disease,--
pilot program.

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

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 189), a Bill relative to digital right to repair (Senate, No. 3062);

Digital right to
repair.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (Senate, No. 1122);

Immigration,--
detention.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (Senate, No. 1127);

Immigrant Legal
Defense Fund.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to ensure fair access to compensation for victims of human trafficking and forced labor (Senate, No. 1186); and

Human
trafficking,--
victims.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill 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. 2922);

NSTAR
easements.

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

Committees Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 3060), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2939) of Kelly A. Dooner and Justin Thurber (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the appointment of retired police officers in the town of

Dighton,-- special
police officers.

Dighton,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

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

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 3060), reported on the residue, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2942) of John J. Cronin and Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Greg Pinkerton, an employee of the department of corrections,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

Greg Pinkerton,--
sick leave.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to Massachusetts winning global investment, talent, and innovation (House, No. 5386),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.**

Economic
development.

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:

Authorizing the town of Marblehead to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 4225); and

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Further regulating the appointment of special police officers in the city of Malden (see House, No. 4584, amended).

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Moore, Finegold, Collins, Montigny, Oliveira and Fernandes, Ms. Kennedy, Messrs. Payano and O'Connor, Ms. Rausch, Mr. DiDomenico, Ms. Creem, Mr. Keenan, Ms. Howard, Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Lovely) "commending the IBS Patient Support Group on its recognition of April 19, 2026 as World IBS Day."

IBS Patient
Support Group.

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 House Bill providing for the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4234, amended) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Fairhaven,--
special police
officers.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Montigny presented an amendment to strike out, in line 15, the words "performing police details" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "appointment under this act".

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill increasing the membership of the Haverhill board of health from 3 members to 5 members (House, No. 4057) (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.**

Haverhill,-- board of health.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. DiDomenico) handed the gavel to the Minority Leader, Mr. Tarr, for the purpose of an introduction. After remarks, Mr. Tarr introduced in the rear of the Chamber, Scouts from around the Commonwealth. Mr. Tarr invited to the well of the Chamber Brayden McGrail, Cape Cod and Islands Flag Bearer from Webelos Cub Scout Pack 59 in Yarmouthport, Maura Looney, Heart of New England Flag Bearer from Lion Cub Scout Pack 53 in Auburn, Adam French, Mayflower Flag Bearer from 2nd Class Scout Troop 367 in Medway, Kyle Burden, Narraganset Flag Bearer from Troop 40 in Taunton, Zandy Gargoloff, Spirit of Adventure Flag Bearer from Arrow of Light Cub Scout Pack 100 in Westford and Lyncoln Reeves, Western Massachusetts Flag Bearer from Webelos Cub Scout Pack 570 in West Springfield.

Molly Murphy,-- and other scouts.

Mr. Tarr invited to the Rostrum, Camille Lovelette, Tenderfoot Scout, Cape Cod and Islands Council, from Troop 150 in Yarmouthport to recite the Scout Oath, and Bennett Bredford, Eagle Scout, Heart of New England Council, from Troop 107 in Grafton to recite the Scout Law. Mr. Tarr then invited to the Rostrum, Molly Murphy, Eagle Scout, Spirit of Adventure Council, from Troop 502 in Woburn. She was accompanied by Cyrus Reeves, Wolf Cub Scout, Western Massachusetts Council from Pack 570 in West Springfield and Robert Trudell, Tenderfoot Scout, Mayflower Council from Troop 9 in Plymouth.

Molly addressed the Chamber on the importance of scouting and Cyrus and Robert presented the Chair and Minority Leader with the 2025 Report on the State of Scouting in Massachusetts, as follows:

2025 Scouting Report. SD3864

Membership

- 9,835 Cub Scouts
- 9,389 Scouts BSA
- 223 Venturing
- 34 Sea Scouts
- 282 Exploring
- 872 Scouting Units
- 19,761 Total Members

Achievements

- 23,500 Merit Badges
- 96, 479 Eagle Scout Hours of Dedicated Service

Service to Community

- 203,738 Hours of Community Service valued at \$3,056,070

After remarks, the Senate welcomed them with applause and the scouts along with various troop leaders and parents withdrew from the Chamber.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

On motion of Mr. Durant, the report was ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, at sixteen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.