

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, April 27, 2026.

Met at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Durant for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Durant then introduced guests of the Minority Leader, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of Greek dignitaries that were visiting the State House in recognition of George Demeter Day and Parliamentary Law Month. George Demeter was recognized for his contributions to the parliamentary process and his dedication to the protection of the rights of individuals by ensuring an orderly process. Among the group were: President of NAP's New England Association of Parliamentarians and Past President of the Hellenic Bar Association and Boston's Order of AHEPA Chapter #24, Peter Senopolous, President of the George Demeter Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians, Peter Klapes, President of Boston's Order of AHEPA Chapter #24, Chris Tsiotos, President of the Boston chapter of the Daughters of Penelope, Mary Kazis, Vice President of the Alpha Omega Council, Costa Speliakos, President of the George Demeter Unit of the N.A.P.-National Association of Parliamentarians, Peter Klapes, President of the Hellenic Bar Association , George Georgountzos, President and Founder of the 26.2 Foundation ,Tim Killduff and Consul General of Greece in Boston, Symeon Tegos. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Greek dignitaries.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 24, 2026);

A&F,-- EA Housing bi-weekly report. SD3866

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its February 2026 monthly report on year-to-date net state tax revenue for the current fiscal year (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received April 24, 2026); and

DOR,-- Net Tax Revenue February FY26 report. SD3867

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its March 2026 monthly report on year-to-date net state tax revenue for the current fiscal year (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received April 24, 2026).

DOR,-- Net Tax Revenue March FY26 report. SD3868

Petition.

Mr. Durant and Mr. Ashe of Longmeadow presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Peter J. Durant and Brian M. Ashe for legislation to create crumbling concrete relief for homeowners,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Homeowners,--
concrete relief.
SD3865

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5387) of James Arciero (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize print-free digital legal notices in the town of Westford; and

Westford,-- digital
legal notices.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5388) of Mark D. Sylvia and Kelly A. Dooner (by vote of the town) relative to authorizing the transfer of a certain parcel of land in the town of Marion;

Marion,-- land.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5389) of David K. Muradian, Jr. (by vote of the town) that the town of Upton be authorized to continue the employment of Michael Marchand, the fire chief in said town, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Upton,-- Michael
Marchand.

To the committee on Public Service.

Bills

Establishing a board of election commissioners in the city of Salem (House, No. 3907,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Salem,-- board of
election
commissioners.
Charlemont,--
elections.

Providing for recall elections in the town of Charlemont (House, No. 4434,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely, Messrs. Brady and Collins, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Cronin and DiDomenico, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Eldridge, Fattman, Feeney, Fernandes and Finegold, Ms. Jehlen, Mr. Keenan, Ms. Kennedy, Messrs. Moore, Oliveira and Payano, Ms. Rausch, and Mr. Rush) “commending the Celiac Disease Foundation for its recognition of May 2026 as Celiac Disease Awareness Month and May 16, 2026 as International Celiac Disease Awareness Day.”

Celiac Disease
Foundation.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Fattman), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Officer Stephen A. LaPorta.

Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill providing for the retirement of Walter L. Guertin, a former member of the fire department in the city of Attleboro (Senate, No. 1859),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment*, striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5331.

Walter L. Guertin,-
- pension.

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

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 Nick Collins that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to establish a special commission on assessing reform.

Property assessment,-- study. SD3782

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 Revenue.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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 grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2553),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Berkley,-- liquor license.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill regulating the issuance of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the town of Bolton (Senate, No. 2628) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Bolton,-- liquor licenses.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Opinions of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Communication from the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court on important questions of law relative to legislative stipends (see House No. 5010) [for opinions, see Senate document numbered 3066] (received in the office of the Clerk of the Senate on Monday, April 27, 2026, at twenty-four minutes past ten o'clock A.M.),-- **the opinion was unsealed at eleven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, read and placed on file.**

Legislative stipends.

Communication from the Honorable Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court on important questions of law relative to the public records law (see House No. 5004) [for opinions, see Senate document numbered 3065] (received in the office of the Clerk of the Senate on Monday, April 27, 2026, at twenty-four minutes past ten o'clock A.M.),-- **the opinion was unsealed at eleven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, read and placed on file.**

Public records law.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

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.

Adjournment in Memory of Officer Stephen A. LaPorta.

The Senator from Worcester and Hampden, Mr. Fattman, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Officer Stephen A. LaPorta of Uxbridge.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Officer Stephen A. LaPorta of Uxbridge, Badge #31, passed away tragically on January 7, 2026, at the age of 43 in the line of duty.

Stephen LaPorta dedicated his life to public safety with unwavering commitment, humility, and pride. His career in law enforcement began as a dispatcher in Mendon, where he simultaneously served as a part-time police officer. He later continued his service in Uxbridge as both a dispatcher and part-time officer and also served the Town of Millville as a part-time police officer. In 2024, Stephen fulfilled a lifelong dream when he was sworn in as a full-time police officer with the Uxbridge Police Department, proudly serving his community as Badge #31. His loss is deeply felt within the department, among his fellow officers, and throughout the many communities in which he served with honor.

Stephen's devotion to public service was matched only by his devotion to his family. He was the beloved husband of Shannon (Carney) LaPorta for 17 years and the devoted father of Matthew LaPorta of Uxbridge. He was the cherished son of Andrew and Katina (Sangermano) LaPorta of Franklin, and the loving son-in-law of Christopher and Donna Carney of Millbury. Stephen is remembered and mourned by many loving relatives, close friends, and countless colleagues who admired his kindness, loyalty, and selfless spirit.

Known for his compassion and willingness to help anyone in need, Stephen touched the lives of all who knew him. He brought warmth, reliability, and a steady presence to every relationship—whether with family, friends, or fellow officers. Outside of his work, Stephen was a dedicated Boston sports fan who loved cheering on the Bruins, Patriots, and Red Sox, and he found joy in music, especially as a devoted Kenny Chesney fan. His passions reflected his warm and vibrant spirit and his appreciation for the simple, meaningful moments in life.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends, colleagues, and the entire Blackstone Valley as they mourn his passing and continue to honor his legacy of dedication, kindness, and service.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Officer Stephen A. LaPorta, at five minutes past twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Durant, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.