

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

[44]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Met at four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Driscoll 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. Driscoll), 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 Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol 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 May 12, 2026);

DPH,-- Bristol
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD3907

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Bristol County Modular Building, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received May 12, 2026);

DPH,-- Bristol
County Modular
Building Inspection
report.
SD3908

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Women's Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received May 12, 2026);

DPH,-- Bristol
County Women's
Center Inspection
report.
SD3909

Report of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure from the Norfolk County Registers Technological Fund report (copies having been forwarded to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight) (received May 13, 2026);

Norfolk ROD
Technological Fund
report.
SD3910

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Sections 1A and 1B of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its report on the comparison of Actual Revenue Collections to Budget for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received May 13, 2026);

Comptroller,--
Actual Revenue
Collections FY26
Q3 report.
SD3911

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to line item 2200-0107 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Department of Environmental Protection's report on the development and administration of a grant program for small businesses to support alternatives to single-use plastics (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources) (received May 14, 2026); and

MassDEP Single-
Use Plastics
Program FY25
report.
SD3913

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-9813 Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its second FY26 Rural Aid report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received May 14, 2026).

DESE,-- Rural
School Aid FY26
second report.
SD3914

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Kilcoyne of Clinton, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3088) of Robyn K. Kennedy and Megan K. Kilcoyne (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize a certain employment contract for the town of Boylston [Local approval received]; and

Walpole,-- sewer and water advisory board.

By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3087) of Michael F. Rush (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the creation of a sewer and water advisory board in the town of Walpole [Local approval received];

Boylston,-- employment contract.

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports of a Committee.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill to empower communities against environmental damage (Senate, No. 1245);

Environmental enforcement task force.

Read and, under Joint Rule 29, referred to the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill enhancing access to abortion care (Senate, No. 1244);

Abortion care,-- access.

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 relative to repeat violent firearm offenders (Senate, No. 1282);

Violent firearm offenders.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill protecting access to justice (Senate, No. 2975); and

Court hearings,-- security.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to violations of the United States Constitution under color of law (Senate, No. 2976);

Federal officers,-- liability.

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

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill to further clear titles to real property affected by technical irregularities in recorded instruments (Senate, No. 1203);

Federal officers,-- liability.

Read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Elijah George Osborne (Senate, No. 3017) [Local approval received];

Boston,-- Elijah George Osborne.

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

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 joint committee on Health Care Financing to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 3067); and

Health Care Financing,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Financial Services to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document to strengthen the state credit union charter (Senate, No. 3078);

Financial Services,-- study.

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5420) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf, Peter J. Durant and Paul K. Frost (by vote of the town) that the town of Leicester be authorized to continue the employment of Kenneth M. Antanavica as police chief of said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.**

Leicester,-- police chief.

A Bill designating a portion of state highway Route 7A in the town of Lenox as the Ross B. Dindio Memorial highway (House, No. 3645,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Lenox,-- Ross B. Dindio Memorial highway.

A Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Luisa Fernandes (House, No. 4604, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Boston,-- Luisa Fernandes.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Crighton, Barrett, Brady, Brownsberger and Collins, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Cronin, Cyr, DiDomenico, Driscoll and Durant, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Eldridge, Fattman, Feeney, Fernandes and Finegold, Ms. Friedman, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Howard, Ms. Jehlen, Mr. Keenan, Ms. Kennedy Mr. Lewis, Ms. Lovely, Mr. Mark, Ms. Miranda, Messrs. Montigny, Moore, O'Connor, Oliveira and Payano, Ms. Rausch and Messrs. Rodrigues, Rush, Tarr and Velis) "commending the National Brain Tumor Society Inc. for its recognition of May 2026 as Brain Tumor Awareness Month."

National Brain Tumor Society Inc.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Driscoll) then introduced on the Rostrum, Senator Crighton and Representatives Giannino of Revere and Moakley of Falmouth, and read the following resolutions, as follows:

RESOLUTIONS COMMENDING THE NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY INC. FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF MAY 2026 AS BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, THE NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY INC. HAS RECOGNIZED MAY 2026 AS BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DEVASTATING DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH BRAIN TUMORS; AND

WHEREAS, THE MOST RECENT DATA INDICATES THAT MORE THAN 108,000 INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE EXPECTED TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH A PRIMARY BRAIN TUMOR IN 2026 AN ESTIMATED 18,000 OF WHICH WILL RESULT IN DEATH INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 380 WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH; AND

WHEREAS, MALIGNANT BRAIN TUMORS ARE AMONG THE DEADLIEST FORMS OF CANCER AND ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF CANCER-RELATED DEATHS IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 19; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMONWEALTH IS HOME TO SEVERAL MAJOR FACILITIES THAT FOCUS ON RESEARCH TO FIND BETTER TREATMENTS FOR DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH BRAIN TUMORS, INCLUDING THE DANA-FARBER/HARVARD CANCER CENTER, DAVID H. KOCH INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATIVE CANCER RESEARCH AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND BRIGHAM AND WOMEN’S HOSPITAL; AND

WHEREAS, INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BRAIN TUMORS THROUGH ADVOCACY, SUPPORT FOR TARGETED RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING PATIENTS WITH BRAIN TUMORS AND THEIR FAMILIES; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY COMMENDS THE NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY INC. FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF MAY 2026 AS BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH AND FURTHER EXTENDS TO IT ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR ITS ENDEAVORS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DEADLY DISEASES AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH BRAIN TUMORS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO THE NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR SOCIETY INC.

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 authorizing the town of Dartmouth to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4006),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Dartmouth,-- liquor license.

The House Bill relative to the charter of the town of Westwood (House, No. 4753),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Westwood,-- charter.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5431) of Carole A. Fiola relative to firefighter staffing;

Firefighter staffing,- grants.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5430) of Kip A. Diggs that the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority be authorized to designate the Hyannis Transportation Center in the town of Hyannis as the Thomas S. Cahir Cape Cod transportation center;

Hyannis,-- Thomas S. Cahir Cape Cod Transportation Center.

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

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), 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. Driscoll) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Regulating the number of registered voters who may petition for a special town meeting in the town of Andover (see Senate, No. 2544, amended);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Amending the town charter of the town of Plymouth (see House, No. 4501, changed); and

Authorizing the town of Pembroke to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4817).

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Tarr), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Joseph Elliott McKechnie.

Moment of silence.

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.

Adjournment in Memory of Joseph Elliott McKechnie.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Joseph Elliott McKechnie of Gloucester.

Joseph Elliot McKechnie passed away unexpectedly in the Virgin Islands on April 19, 2026. Born on April 20, 1958, Joe was raised on Wolf Hill by his parents Frederick and Eleanor McKechnie, alongside his brothers John, Jim, and Jay. His childhood was spent exploring the woods and waterways of Gloucester, especially the Annisquam River, and he graduated from Gloucester High School in 1976.

On his 18th birthday, Joe enlisted in the United States Coast Guard, beginning a distinguished 23 year career that included two tours in Gloucester, service aboard the USCG Vigilant during the Blizzard of 1978, and retirement as a Lieutenant from the Marine Safety Office in Boston. After his military service, he became a national and international expert in LNG shipping and fleet construction, serving on the Board of Directors for Teekay LNG and later working as a private consultant. He also contributed to his community as a corporator of the Cape Ann Savings Bank and as a member of the City of Gloucester Capital Improvements Committee.

In recent years, Joe embraced more time at home—playing golf, boating, working in the yard, traveling, spending time with his mother, and enjoying the company of family and friends. He was always happiest with water in view. Joe lived a life of service, loyalty, and love, and he will be deeply missed and forever remembered by the Gloucester community and all who knew him.

Joe was known for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering devotion to family. He shared 42 years of marriage with his wife and childhood best friend, Ginger (McGary) McKechnie, and was a proud father to Jonathan McKechnie and his wife Lori of Gloucester, and to Gaelyn Destino and her husband Matthew of Marshfield, Vermont. He adored his granddaughters, Grace and Zoey McKechnie, and cherished his many sisters in law, brothers in law, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his father Frederick and by his grandparents Eleanor and John Critchett and Helen and Elliott McKechnie.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Joseph Elliott McKechnie, at twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
