

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

Met at fourteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Cronin 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. Cronin), 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. Cronin) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, members of the UK diplomatic corps who were visiting Boston to see the England vs. Ghana World Cup match. Among the group were: Deputy Head of Mission Lucy Ferguson, Deputy Counsel General Nicola Moss, Head of Politics, Press, and Public Affairs Alec Scicchitano and England's Fan Embassy Organizer Thomas Concannon. The Senate welcomed them with applause, they signed the guestbook and withdrew from the Chamber.

UK diplomatic corps.

Reports.

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

Report from MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2YYYY of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting Substance Use Disorder Federal Reinvestment Trust Fund (SUD Trust Fund) FY23 FY24 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 22, 2026); and

MassHealth,-- SUD Trust Fund FY23&FY24 report. SD4011

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to line-item 4590-0915 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children May 2026 report (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 Health) (received June 22, 2026).

DPH,-- Pappas May 2026 report. SD4012

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3144) of Dylan A. Fernandes (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Bourne to convey a right-of-way and easement [Local approval received]; and

Bourne,-- right-of-way and easement.

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3138) of Rebecca L. Rausch (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Medfield to utilize alternative methods for notice of public hearings [Local approval received];

Medfield,-- public hearing notices.

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

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3139) of Rebecca L. Rausch (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Medfield to continue the employment of David O'Toole as deputy fire chief [Local approval received];

Medfield,-- David O'Toole continued employment.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to authorize the Buzzards Bay Water District to convey non-exclusive easements over a certain parcel of land; and

Buzzards Bay Water District,-- easements. SD4013 Mass DFG,-- conveyed easements. SD4014

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to convey easements over certain parcels of land; and

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

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 Public Safety and Homeland Security to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to wakesurfing (Senate, No. 3126);

Public Safety and Homeland Security,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Community Development and Small Businesses to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to creating the engaging neighborhoods, organizations, unions, governments, and households fund (Senate, No. 3127);

Community Development and Small Businesses,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Health Care Financing to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to strengthening laws combatting human trafficking and protecting survivors of modern-day slavery (Senate, No. 3129);

Health Care Financing,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to revenue matters (Senate, No. 3130); and

Revenue,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to expanding the mission of the Office of the Veteran Advocate (Senate, No. 3136);

Veterans and Federal Affairs, -- study.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules;

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

Committee 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. 3128), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3051) of Ryan C. Fattman and Michael J. Soter (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to a certain retirement benefit to be paid to the surviving spouse of fallen officer, Stephen LaPorta, of the police department of the town of Uxbridge,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

LaPorta surviving spouse,-- Uxbridge.

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. 3128), reported on the residue, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the joint

Alec Ciminello,-- retirement benefits.

petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3044) of Kelly A. Dooner, Steven S. Howitt and Adam J. Scanlon for legislation relative to retirement benefits for Alec Ciminello, an employee of the department of corrections,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill allowing fair compensation of Massachusetts credit union directors (House, No. 1338, amended,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Credit union directors,-- compensation.

A Bill relative to waiving the maximum age requirement for Boston police officers for Matthew Cummings (House, No. 5034,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Boston,-- Matthew Cummings.

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. Cronin) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Regulating the maximum age requirement for original appointment as a police officer for the city of Worcester (see House, No. 3929); and

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the city of North Adams to appoint retired North Adams police officers as special police officers within said city for paid detail assignments (see House, No. 4141, amended).

The Senate Bill to build resilience for Massachusetts communities (Senate, No. 3064),— 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 of House document numbered 5518.

Environmental bond.

Mr. Durant moved that the Senate NON-concur in the House amendments and asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and Senators Cyr, Rausch and Durant were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. DiDomenico, Crighton, Barrett, Brady, Brownsberger and Collins, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Cronin, and Cyr, Messrs. Driscoll and Durant, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Eldridge, Fattman, Feeney, Fernandes and Finegold, Ms. Friedman, Mr. Gómez, Ms. Howard, Ms. Jehlen, Mr. Keenan, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Lovely, Ms. Miranda, Messrs. Montigny, Moore, O'Connor, Oliveira and Payano, Ms. Rausch, Messrs. Rodrigues and Rush, Ms. Spilka and Messrs. Tarr and Velis) “congratulating Edward “Eddie” Palladino on his retirement from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation”; and

Edward “Eddie” Palladino.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes) “commending the Town of Plymouth on its commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and its contributions to the history of the United States of America.”

Town of Plymouth.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5528) of Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Edward Gillen, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;

Edward Gillen,--
sick leave.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5529) of Todd M. Smola for legislation to create a Legion of Merit motor vehicle license plate;

Legion of Merit,--
license plate.

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

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 relative to removing the term hearing impaired from the general laws (Senate, No. 2120),-- was read a third time

Hearing impaired,--
term.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Creem presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act removing the term hearing impaired from the General Laws" (Senate, No. 3142).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3142) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4203),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Haverhill,--
elections.

The House Bill providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4204),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Id.

The House Bill extending the timeframe within which the town of Southbridge may grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5096) (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.**

Southbridge,--
liquor licenses.

Orders Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill relative to energy affordability, clean power and economic competitiveness (House, No. 5175) to be reported by the committee on Ways and Means with a recommended new text Senate document numbered 3143 on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, and read into the Senate Journal on Thursday, June 25, 2026, shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new text pending.

Procedural order.
SD4015

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 4:00 P.M, on Friday, June 26, 2026. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 3143), 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

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

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. Durant, and the order was considered forthwith and 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.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.