

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

[64]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, July 20, 2026.

Met at three minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Jehlen 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 (Ms. Jehlen), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Jehlen) handed the gavel to Mrs. Dooner for the purpose of an introduction. Mrs. Dooner then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Seekonk High School varsity baseball team. The Seekonk High School Warriors were recognized for winning the 2026 MIAA Division 4 State Championship title, defeating Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School with a score of 4-3 on June 13, 2026. The team was also the guest of Representative Howitt of Seekonk. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Seekonk High
School varsity
baseball team.

Communications.

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Senate Rule 13C, and was placed on file, to wit:

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Senate with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at sixteen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on Monday, July 20, 2026).

Senate Audit for
Fiscal Year 2024.

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Joint Rule 24, and was placed on file, to wit:

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Joint Accounts of the Massachusetts Legislature with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at sixteen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on Monday, July 20, 2026).

Joint Accounts
Audit for the Fiscal
Year 2024.

Report.

Report of the Department of Correction (pursuant to Section 119A(i) of Chapter 127 of the General Laws) submitting its DOC FY25 Medical Parole annual 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 the Judiciary) (received July 17, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

DOC,-- Medical
Parole FY 25 annual
report.
SD4065

Petition.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Orrall of Lakeville presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3182) of Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Taunton to utilize certain areas of conservation land for road improvements,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Taunton,-- road improvements.

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 a certain current Senate document relative to assisted living residencies in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 3176); and

Health Care Financing,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to animal telehealth (Senate, No. 3177);

Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure,-- 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.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5583) of Joseph D. McKenna and Ryan C. Fattman (by vote of the town) that the town of Webster be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Webster,-- liquor license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5584) of Manny Cruz (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Salem be authorized to use ranked choice voting for local elections in said city;

Salem,-- ranked choice voting.

To the committee on Election Laws.

A Bill designating the Hyannis Transportation Center in the town of Hyannis as the Thomas S. Cahir Cape Cod Transportation Center (House, No. 5430,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

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

A Bill to amend the operations of the city of Boston Finance Commission to establish the Boston Inspector General Oversight Commission (House, No. 5585,-- on House, No. 4924) [Local approval received on House, No. 4924],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Boston,-- Inspector General Oversight Commission.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fattman) "congratulating Jean M. Bubon on her retirement after 21 years of dedicated service to the town of Sturbridge."

Jean M. Bubon.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill improving campaign finance reporting for statewide ballot questions (Senate, No. 2916),— 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 5558.

Statewide ballot questions.

Mrs. Dooner moved that the Senate NON-concur in the House amendment and asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and Senators DiDomenico, Oliveira and Fattman were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

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 exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (House, No. 4702),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Leominster,-- police exemptions.

The House Bill providing for the powers of the town administrator of the town of Carlisle (House, No. 5308) (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.**

Carlisle,-- town administrator.

The House Bill authorizing the transfer of a certain parcel of land in the town of Marion from the Marion open space acquisition commission to the Marion select board (House, No. 5388) (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.**

Marion,-- land.

The House Bill further regulating property tax classifications in the city of Watertown for fiscal year 2027 and subsequent fiscal years (House, No. 5569) (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.**

Watertown,-- property tax.

The House Bill regarding the disability pension for Misael Rodriguez administered by the Springfield retirement board (House, No. 5391),-- was read a third time.

Springfield,-- Misael Rodriguez.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Gomez presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3185.

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 removing the seating capacity requirements for licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the town of Belmont (House, No. 5344) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Belmont,-- liquor licenses seating capacity.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Brownsberger moved that the bill be amended in section 1, by inserting after the word “seats”, in line 3, the following words:- “as otherwise permitted by law”; and

In section 2, by inserting after the word “seats”, in line 6, the following words:- “as otherwise permitted by law”.

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.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5592) of Kathleen R. LaNatra that the Commissioner of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance be authorized to enter into lease with the town of Plymouth for Pilgrim Memorial Park in said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.**

Plymouth,-- Pilgrim Memorial Park.

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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Dedicating a certain park and a certain field space in the South Boston section of the city of Boston (see House, No. 899, amended); and

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat (see House, No. 4321).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mrs. Dooner,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday next at one o'clock P.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

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