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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Met at eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Rausch in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Pledge of allegiance.

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

Distinguished Guests.

Girl Scout Troop 83330.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Rausch) handed the gavel to Mr. Keenan for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Keenan then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Girl Scout Troop 83330 from Rockland. The Girl Scouts were on a tour of the State House learning about the different aspects of state government. They were also guests of Representatives DeCoste of Norwell and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Reports.

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

EOEEA, -- MassDEP Small Business Composting FY26 report. SD4097

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to line-item 2200-0107 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protections Small Business Composting FY26 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 Environment and Natural Resources) (received August 10, 2026);

EOHHS,-- Nursing and Allied Health Workforce FY25 report. SD4098

Report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to line item 4000-0020 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Nursing and Allied Health Workforce Development Initiative FY25 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Higher Education and the Joint Committee on Public Health) (received August 7, 2026);

DOL,-- Trench FY26 report. SD4100

Division of Occupational Licensure (pursuant Section 1 of Chapter 82A of the General Laws) submitting its Excavation and Trench Safety 2026 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 Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 10, 2026);

Cape & Is DA,-- Motor Vehicle Funds FY26 report. SD4101

Report of the Cape & Islands District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W of Chapter 90 of the General Laws and Section 47 of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its Motor Vehicle Forfeiture Funds FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2026);

Cape & Is DA,-- Crime Watch Trust Fund FY26 report. SD4102

Report of the Cape and Islands District Attorney (pursuant of Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its 2026 report relative to the use of monies in the law enforcement trust fund for the purposes of drug rehabilitation, drug education, and other anti-

drug or neighborhood crime watch programs (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2026);

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 July 9, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2026); A&F,-- EA Housing bi-weekly 7/9/26 report. SD4103

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 July 23, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2026); A&F,-- EA Housing bi-weekly 7/23/26 report. SD4104

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 August 6, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 11, 2026); A&F,-- EA Housing bi-weekly 8/6/26 report. SD4105

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 1G of Chapter 164 of the General Laws) submitting its Department of Public Utilities Concerning Self-Generation 2025 annual report (received August 11, 2026); EOEA,-- DPU Concerning Self-2025 report. SD4106

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 21(d)(5) of Chapter 25 of the General Laws) submitting its Department of Public Utilities Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Statement 2022-2024 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Climate Change and Global Warming and to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received August 11, 2026); DPU 2022-24 GHG Emissions Reduction report. SD4107

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 138 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting an examination of opioid-related overdose deaths among Massachusetts residents 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery and the Joint Committee on Public Health) (received August 12, 2026); DPH,-- Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths 2025 report. SD4109

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to line item 4512-0204 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts Naloxone Programs FY2024-FY2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 12, 2026); and DPH,-- Naloxone FY24-FY25 report. SD4110

Report of the Department of Children and Families (pursuant to Sections 7(e), 23, 24 and 25 of Chapter 18B and Sections 23(f), 23(h), 39½ and 51D of Chapter 119 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2025 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received August 12, 2026). DCF,-- FY2025 annual report. SD4111

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Comerford and Ms. Whipps of Athol, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3261) of Joanne M. Comerford and Susannah M. Whipps (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Greenfield to grant an additional liquor license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises [Local approval received]; Greenfield,-- liquor license.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3250) of Michael J. Rodrigues, Carole A. Fiola and Steven J. Oullette (by vote of the towns) for legislation to provide for recall elections for the Freetown-Lakeville regional school district [Local approval received]; Freetown-Lakeville school district,-- recall elections.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Election Laws.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports of Committees.

The following reports were received the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

By Mr. Oliveira, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate, Nos. 1307, 1311, 1339, 1343, 1349, 1359 and 1376, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Labor and Workforce Development to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to labor and workforce development matters (Senate, No. 3256); Labor and Workforce Development,-- study.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 2113, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day (Senate, No. 3257); State Administration and Regulatory Oversight,-- study.

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate Nos. 1681 and 1776, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public safety and homeland security matters (Senate, No. 3259); and Public Safety and Homeland Security,-- study.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 3108, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to authorizing the town of Andover to exempt all Andover police officers from civil service (Senate, No. 3260); Public Service,-- study.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on recommitted petition, a Bill establishing credible service for eligible police officers and firefighters (Senate, No. 2907); and Creditable service,-- police officers and firefighters.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill directing the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to place naloxone in subway stations (Senate, No. 2398); Naloxone,-- subway stations.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill authorizing the South Deerfield Fire District to continue the employment of fire department member Steven Kolakoski (Senate, No. 3155); and Steven Kolakoski,-- South Deerfield Fire District.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill improving safety measures for highway maintenance personnel (Senate, No. 2380); Highway workers,-- safety.

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

Dighton,-- special police officers.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on recommitted petition, a Bill relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Dighton (Senate, No. 2939) [Local approval received];

LaPorta surviving spouse,-- Uxbridge.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on recommitted petition, a Bill 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 (Senate, No. 3051) [Local approval received];

Medfield,-- David O'Toole continued employment.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Medfield to continue the employment of David O'Toole as deputy fire chief (Senate, No. 3139) [Local approval received]; and

Patrick Doherty,-- Holbrook firefighter.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Holbrook to appoint Patrick Doherty as a firefighter notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (Senate, No. 3165) [Local approval received];

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

Committees Discharged.

FFN Care commission.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the Senate Bill establishing a special legislative commission to study and examine Family, Friend, and Neighbor-Provided Childcare in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 3239),-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Athol,-- liquor licenses.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5652) of Susannah M. Whipps and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Athol be authorized to grant five additional licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk off the premises in said town; and

Id.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5653) of Susannah M. Whipps and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Athol be authorized to grant five additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises in said town;

Severally to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Hull,-- light plant.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5654) of Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor (by vote of the town) relative to the governance of the municipal light plant in the town of Hull; and

Tisbury,-- select board.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5655) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) for legislation to expand the membership of the select board of the town of Tisbury;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Official sedimentary structure.

A Bill establishing the official sedimentary structure of the Commonwealth (House, No. 3438,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Engrossed Bill Returned by Governor with Recommendation of Amendment.

Plymouth,-- Pilgrim Memorial Park.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to enter into a lease with the town of Plymouth for purposes of maintaining the Pilgrim Memorial state park in the town of Plymouth (see Senate, No. 3235, amended)

(which on Friday, July 31, 2026, had been laid before the Governor for her approbation), was returned to the Senate Clerk by the Governor on, Monday, August 10, 2026, at twenty-five minutes before three o'clock P.M., with a message recommending an amendment.

The message (Senate, No. 3254) was read and the Senate proceeded to reconsider the bill, in accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution.

Pending action thereon, the bill was referred to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, on motion of Mr. Collins.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

Credit union directors,-- compensation.

An engrossed Bill allowing fair compensation of credit union directors (see House, No. 1338, amended), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 3 to 0.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Rausch) and sent to the House for enactment.

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

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the town of Wrentham to exempt from taxation certain real estate owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of deputy chief George C. Labonte (see House, No. 4269); and

Establishing an economic development special revenue account for the town of Hopkinton (see House, No. 4293).

Reports of Committees.

Foxborough,-- sewer services. SD4069

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the joint petition of Paul R. Feeney and Michael S. Chaisson for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to provide sewer services to a certain parcel of land in the town of Foxborough.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Timothy Cluett,-- sick leave. SD4047

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Joint petition of Michael O. Moore and Paul K. Frost for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Timothy Cluett, an employee of the Worcester county sheriff's office.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service.

Reports of Committees.

Lowell,-- land.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to a certain property in the city of Lowell (Senate, No. 3061),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3253).

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

The bill (Senate, No. 3253) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

West Roxbury,-- sewer line easement.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Senate Ways and Means, that the House Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to release a certain sewer line easement in the West Roxbury section of the city of Boston (Senate, No. 5304),-- ought to pass.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Bolton/Lancaster,-- land.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Senate Ways and Means, that the House Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to convey certain parcels of land to the town of Bolton, the town of Lancaster or a municipal utility serving the town of Bolton or the town of Lancaster (Senate, No. 5440),-- ought to pass.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: "An Act authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to convey certain parcels of land to the town of Bolton, the town of Lancaster or a municipal utility serving the town of Bolton or the town of Lancaster".

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:

Hot works.

The House Bill implementing the recommendations of the Walsh-Kennedy Commission Report (House, No. 5491),-- **was read a third time, and, after remarks, was passed to be engrossed in concurrence, with the amendment previously adopted by the Senate.**

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

Thank you, Madam President. And through you to the members. I rise in support of this legislation that I am proud to have jointly sponsored with the state representative from Charlestown, Dan Ryan, who was my co-chair on the Walsh-Kennedy Commission. I want to thank the Senate President for prioritizing this important piece of legislation, the Chair of Ways and Means, and particularly the Senator from Belmont, Senator Brownsberger.

On March 16, 2014, not far from here in the State House, sparks from unpermitted welding work ignited a fast moving nine alarm fire on Beacon Street. The fire sent 18 people to the hospital and took the lives of Boston Fire Lieutenant Edward Walsh and firefighter Michael Kennedy. Lieutenant Walsh, age 43, was a husband, a father of three and a leader

in his firehouse. His wife, Kristen and their children, Morgan, Dylan and Griffin have carried his legacy forward. Firefighter Kennedy was a Marine Corps veteran, a mentor and a public servant whose commitment to helping others extended well beyond the firehouse. These are not just names on a commission or bill. They were sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, friends and firefighters who spent their lives looking out for others. Thousands of people came to say goodbye to them. Charity events held in their honor, foundations set up in their name. But the commitment to their legacies did not end there. In 2018, members of the Walsh and Kennedy families, firefighters, labor leaders, public safety stakeholders came to the State House to testify about the need for change and to ensure that a tragedy like this could not happen again. A special commission was formed to study cutting, welding and hot works safety. I was fortunate to be appointed to that commission, and serving on has been nothing less than transformative experience. We heard directly from firefighters, safety professionals, workers and families about what went wrong when the system failed and what needed to change.

Legislation we have now passed in the Senate previously in this new element that has passed the House, that is before us today, carries those lessons forward. It establishes clear statewide standards for hot works training and certification, including in-person initial training, continued education, multilingual instruction, stronger identity safeguards, and a reliable system to verify a worker's certification status. It increases civil penalties for violations and creates stronger consequences when repeated reckless or knowing failures to follow fire and building safety requirements result in serious injury or death. It also directs the state to establish a system for recording and publicly reporting noncompliance, giving regulators, property owners and the public better information about violations. These provisions are not intended to cast blame on responsible workers or businesses that follow the rules. They're intended to clearly define safe and compliant work, create meaningful incentives to follow those standards, and ensure accountability when dangerous violations put lives at risk. These responsibilities in this enforcement will now be carried out in memory of Lieutenant Walsh and firefighter Kennedy. And because their families refused to let this work fade with time, their families kept their legacies alive not only through remembrance, but through action. They returned to the State House, told their stories and asked us to make sure another family would not endure the same loss. The most meaningful way that we can honor Lieutenant Walsh and firefighter Kennedy is not only to remember how they died, but to act on what their deaths have taught us.

I want to thank the Walsh and Kennedy families for their strength, persistence and commitment over these many years. I also want to thank the professional firefighters in Massachusetts, Boston firefighters, local 718 and everyone who stayed with this effort. From the Commission room to the Senate floor. I also want to thank my colleagues for their support in seeing this legislation to the finish line. Today, more than 12 years after the fire on Beacon Street, we have completed and will complete an important piece of work that will better protect workers, firefighters and neighborhoods across the Commonwealth. We do so in the names of Edward Walsh and Michael Kennedy, and in recognition of the families who made sure their legacies would lead to lasting change. I ask that this legislation be approved today by my colleagues and thank the Senate President again for prioritizing this in this session.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, under Senate Rule 6A, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate

Ordered printed.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of North Attleborough (House, No. 5426),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee**

North Attleborough,-- charter.

on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: "An Act amending the charter of the city known as the town of North Attleborough".

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. Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-one minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Charles Moitoza.

The Senator from Bristol and Norfolk, Mr. Feeney, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Charles Moitoza.

Charles "Chuck" Moitoza of Norton, Massachusetts passed away in the presence of his loving family on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. He was the beloved husband of Donna (Waite) Moitoza, to whom he was wed for thirty-four years.

Originally from Taunton where he was born and raised, Chuck graduated from Taunton High School and earned his associate's degree from Bristol Community College. Through his thirty-five years as resident of Norton, Chuck dedicated his time to the betterment of the town in a number of ways.

As a former member of the Norton Select Board for eight years, Chuck was a fixture of the Norton community where he was known for his unwavering kindness and generosity. Most recently, Chuck spent his time coaching Pop Warner and High School football while also working at the Home Depot warehouse in Norton.

In his spare time, Chuck was an avid golfer, an enjoyer of his bourbon and cigars, and watched anything to do with sports. Though above, Chuck loved and treasured his family more than anything else in the world.

Chuck leaves behind his beloved wife Donna, his father Charles J. Moitoza, Sr., and his devoted children: Shannon Pina and her husband Rurark, Brittany Moitoza and her partner Johnny Stroud, Cameron Moitoza and his wife Alexandra, Evan Moitoza, Sr. and his wife Amanda, Dawson Moitoza, Francisco Escribano, Jazmyn Moitoza, and Antoni Escribano.

Chuck was the cherished grandfather of Marquise, Rowen, Mila, Noah, Gavin, Daxton, Vincente, and Evan, Jr. He was the dear brother of Richard Moitoza and his wife Lisa, Rosemary Marques and her husband Tony, and the much-loved son-in-law of Annette Waite and the late Russell Waite, and the brother-in-law of Karen Waite and Russel Waite.

Chuck will be sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues and all who knew and loved him. His loss leaves a void in the Norton community that will be difficult to fill; however, his legacy of service to the Norton community will undoubtedly be felt for generations to come.

May Chuck's memory live on through the athletes he coached, his contributions as a selectman, and his unending love for his family.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Charles Moitoza, at twenty-one minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.