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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 20, 2026.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

Communication from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center submitting a letter regarding the delay in the submission of its annual fiscal reports (required by Section 5 of Chapter 23J of the General Laws) (received August 19, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

MassCEC,-- annual fiscal reports delay. SD4124

Reports.

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

Report from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 5G of Chapter 29 of the General Laws and Section 117 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its fiscal year 2026 capital gains tax revenue transfers to the Stabilization Fund, the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund, and the Pension Liability Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 19, 2026); and

Comptroller,-- Capital Gains Tax Certification FY26 Fund. SD4122

Report from the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2E of Chapter 9 and Section 85 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its revised fiscal year 2026 transfer schedule for the Medical Assistance Trust Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 19, 2026).

MATF Transfer ScheduleFY26 - revised report. SD4123

Report of a Committee.

The following report was received the time within which the said committee was required to report having expired:

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate, Nos. 227, 253, 1493, 1524, 1527, 1544, 1558, 1574, 1600, 1613 and 1620, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public health matters (Senate, No. 3258);

Public Health,-- study.

Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill amending the town meeting act for the town of Danvers (House, No. 5571,-- on petition) (Local approval received),--**was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Danvers,-- town meeting act.

The House Bill exempting the positions of police chief and deputy police chief in the city of Medford from the civil service law (House, No. 5380,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read. Medford,-- police exemptions.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) "congratulating the Newbury town library on its one hundredth anniversary", and Newbury library.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) "commending the Gloucester Adventure Inc. on its recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the Schooner Adventure". Gloucester Adventure, 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 Petersham to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley Jr. and David A. Shoemaker (House, No. 5110),-- was read a third time. Petersham,-- Richard D. Cooley, Jr. and David A. Shoemaker.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Comerford presented an amendment in section 1, by inserting after the second sentence the following sentence:- "While continuing to serve as a police officers in the town of Petersham pursuant to this act, Richard D. Cooley Jr. and David A. Shoemaker shall comply with all requirements of chapter 6E of the General Laws, including: (i) maintaining certification and good standing with the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; and (ii) complying with all in-service and other training requirements mandated by the municipal police training committee."

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Westfield to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of firefighter (House, No. 5288) (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.** Westfield,-- firefighter appointment.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill relative to the Dracut Water Supply District (House, No. 4101, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read. Dracut water supply district

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (all 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. Edwards) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Providing for a real property exemption for persons with disabilities in the town of Swampscott (see House, No. 4444); Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing Sean Duffy to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (see House, No. 4573);

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 (see House, No. 5304);

Authorizing the town of Lynnfield to appropriate funds from the Golf Enterprise Fund to the Recreation Capital Trust Stabilization Fund (see House, No. 5416); and

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 (see House, No. 5440).

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 Maura Therese Whittemore. Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill exempting the positions of police chief and deputy police chief in the city of Medford from the civil service law (see House, No. 5380) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Ms. Edwards) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.** Bill laid before the Governor.

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.

Adjournment in Memory of Maura Therese Whittemore.

The Senator from Bristol and Plymouth, Mrs. Dooner requested that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn in memory of Maura Therese Whittemore.

Maura Therese Whittemore of Taunton, formerly of Raynham, passed away tragically on July 1 at the age of 54.

Maura was a proud graduate of Coyle and Cassidy High School, Massasoit Community College, and Bridgewater State University. She dedicated more than two decades of her career to Bridgewater State University, where she took great pride in supporting students and serving her community.

She was a devoted member of St. Ann's Parish in Raynham, where she volunteered her time through the St. Vincent de Paul Society and numerous community events. Those who knew Maura remember her kindness, generosity, and unwavering commitment to helping others.

Most importantly, Maura was a cherished daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She was the beloved sister of our colleague, Representative Lisa Field, and her passing is deeply felt by all who knew and loved her.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend our heartfelt condolences to Representative Field, to Maura's parents, Arthur and Eileen Whittemore, her siblings, her nieces and nephews, and her many family members and friends. May they find comfort in the memories they shared and in the lasting impact Maura made on so many lives.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Maura Therese Whittemore, at twenty-nine 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.