UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, August 24, 2026.

Met at fourteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Keenan 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. Keenan), 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 Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-6379 of Section 2E of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) submitting its Merit Rating Board (MRB) Transfer Schedule Fiscal Year 2027 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 19, 2026);

Comptroller,-- MRB Transfer Schedule FY27 report. SD4125

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-6368 of Section 2E of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) submitting its Fiscal Year 2027 transfer schedule for the Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 19, 2026);

Comptroller,-- MTTF FY27 transfer schedule. SD4126

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-6370 of Section 2E of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) submitting its Fiscal Year 2027 transfer schedule for the Regional Transit Authorities (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 19, 2026);

Comptroller,-- RTA FY27 transfer schedule. SD4127

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-1068 of Section 2E of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) submitting its Fiscal Year 2027 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);

Comptroller,-- MATF FY27 transfer schedule. SD4128

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues July 2026 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received August 21, 2026);

MassGaming,-- Gaming Revenues July 2026 report. SD4129

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant to Section 23(2A)(e)(xi) of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its quarterly report for the period ending June 30, 2026 (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 Service) (received August 20, 2026); and

PrimBoard,-- Q2 2026 report. SD4130

Report of Division of Occupational Licensure (pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 147 of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 annual report (received August 20, 2026).

DOL,-- FY26 report. SD4131

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill requiring AEDs in clubs and fraternal organizations (Senate, No. 1606);

AEDs,-- clubs and fraternal organizations.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5659) of Kimberly N. Ferguson (by vote of the town) that the town of Rutland be authorized to grant one additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises; Rutland,-- liquor license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5660) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to hold hybrid and remote town meetings; Belmont,-- town meetings.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5661) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to increase certain income, asset and benefit limits for senior property tax abatements; Belmont,-- senior property tax abatements.

To the committee on Revenue.

Bills

Extending the timeframe for the issuance of licenses granted pursuant to chapter 46 of the acts of 2020 in the city of Easthampton (House, No. 5547,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and Easthampton,-- liquor licenses.

Amending the charter of the town of Bellingham to allow the Director of Finance to serve as the Town Accountant (House, No. 5564,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; Bellingham,-- town accountant.

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

The Senate Bill providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (Senate, No. 3181),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment*, striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5658. Great River Regional School District.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and the House amendment was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence (as corrected BTR).

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Jehlen) “commending the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation on its recognition of September 15, 2026 as International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day.” Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the city of Westfield to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of firefighter (see House, No. 5288, amended) (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 (Mr. Keenan) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.** Bill laid before the Governor.

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 establishing a sewer and water advisory board in the town of Walpole (Senate, No. 3087) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Walpole,-- sewer and water advisory board.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill amending the town of Arlington's means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4575),-- was read a third time.

Arlington,-- senior property tax exemption.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Friedman presented an amendment in section 1, by inserting after the word "levy", in line 6, the following language:- "; provided, however, that the town shall have declared an overlay surplus pursuant to section 25 of chapter 59 of the General Laws prior to implementing clause (ii)."

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 authorizing the City of Westfield to convert a seasonal license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off premises to an annual license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off premises (House, No. 5346),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Westfield,-- liquor license.

The House Bill modernizing financial departments in the city of Holyoke (House, No. 5448),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Holyoke,-- financial departments.

The House Bill relative to amending the traffic commission in the city of Westfield (House, No. 5449),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Westfield,-- traffic commission.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Wakefield to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 5418),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Wakefield,-- senior property tax exemption.

Report of a Committee.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The House Bill designating Domestic Workers' Rights Day (House, No. 3417).

Domestic Workers' Rights Day.

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.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Keenan), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of John F. "Jack" Wilk.

Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

Bill laid before the Governor.

An engrossed Bill providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (see Senate, No. 3181, amended) (which originated in the Senate), **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 (Mr. Keenan) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Order Adopted.

Time of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of John F. "Jack" Wilk.

The Senator from Norfolk and Plymouth, Mr. Keenan, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of John F. "Jack" Wilk of Quincy.

John F. "Jack" Wilk passed away peacefully on May 17, 2026, at the age of 86.

Jack grew up in Malden, Massachusetts and attended Malden Public Schools before enlisting in the US Army in 1959. Although he never saw active duty, he was very proud of his commitment to our country.

He worked at the United Fruit Company, where he met his wife of 60 years, Dorothy Treacy, "Dottie".

Jack and Dottie moved to Quincy and together raised their four children: Brian, Karen, Maureen, and Tricia in a loving and warm home. They highly valued education, making sacrifices so their children could attend Sacred Heart Elementary School, Boston College High School, and Fontbonne Academy. As Jack encouraged these opportunities for his children, he continued to pursue his own educational goals, earning his bachelor's degree from Northeastern in 1975 as he balanced full-time work and the responsibility of raising a growing young family.

Jack worked as a project manager for many years at the United Fruit Company, Talbots, and finally Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

A dedicated volunteer, Jack generously shared his time with Sacred Heart Church, Squantum Yacht Club, the Knights of Columbus, and most recently, the Presidents Golf Course men's league, giving back to the communities he loved.

Jack will be remembered for his storytelling, his love for Boston sports, his not always but sometimes skilled golf game, and most of all, his dedication to his community and family.

For the last 30 years, Jack's number one interest was his grandchildren. He rarely missed the opportunity to support them, attending every game, every band performance, and every dance recital he could make. His family found the perfect expression for the life he lived: he was 'Always There.'

Jack is survived by his loving wife Dottie, his four children and their families, Brian Wilk and his wife Christine of Hingham, Karen Keohane and her husband John of Quincy, Maureen Panagrossi and her husband Jon of Marshfield, and Tricia Biegel and her husband Kevin of Charleston, South Carolina.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of John F. "Jack" Wilk, at twenty-six minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.