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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, August 27, 2026.

Met at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Tarr in the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Tarr), 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 Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Dukes County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received August 24, 2026); DPH,-- Dukes County Correctional Facility Inspection report. SD4132

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Norfolk County House of Correction and Alternative Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received August 24, 2026); DPH,-- Norfolk County HC and AC Inspection report. SD4133

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Plymouth County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received August 24, 2026); DPH,-- Plymouth County Correctional Facility Inspection report. SD4134

Report of the Division of Administrative Law Appeals (pursuant to Section 4H of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting its 2025 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 24, 2026); DALA,-- 2025 annual report. SD4135

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 37(c) of Chapter 69 of the Acts of the General Laws) submitting its Progress of the Green School Works Program FY26 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 Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received August 24, 2026); DESE,-- FY2026 Green School Works report. SD4136

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 124 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Health Safety Net/Medicare Savings Program transfer certification FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 24, 2026); MassHealth,-- MSP Transfer Certification FY26 report. SD4137

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its March 2025 quarterly Pharmacy Pipeline 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026); MassHealth,-- Pharmacy Pipeline March quarterly CY25 report. SD4138

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Section 2 Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its June 2025 quarterly Pharmacy Pipeline 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026); MassHealth,-- Pharmacy Pipeline June quarterly CY25 report. SD4139

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its MassHealth Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) 2025 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026);

MassHealth,-- MCAC CY25 report. SD4140

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B) of Chapter 18 and Section 3C(d) of Chapter 118 of the General Laws) submitting its Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children Consolidated FY25 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 Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received August 25, 2026);

DTA ,-- TAFDC Consolidated FY26 report. SD4141

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to line item 4400-1004 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 25, 2026);

DTA,-- HIP FY26 report. SD4142

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)g of Chapter 18 of the General Laws, Section 2 of Chapter 118 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 report on standard budgets of assistance for Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 25, 2026);

DTA,-- Standard Budget FY26 report. SD4143

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 158 of the Acts of 2014) submitting its fiscal year 2026 report on agency paper reduction efforts (received August 25, 2026);

DTA,-- paper reduction FY26 report. SD4144

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan fourth quarter fiscal year 2025 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026);

MassHealth,-- CMSP Q4 FY25 report. SD4145

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan first quarter fiscal year 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026);

MassHealth,-- CMSP Q1 FY26 report. SD4146

Report of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (pursuant to Section 101 of Chapter 159 of the General Laws) submitting its 2025 Fare Citation 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 Transportation) (received August 25, 2026);

MBTA,-- Fare Citation CY25 report. SD4147

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan second quarter fiscal year 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026);

MassHealth,-- CMSP Q2 FY26 report. SD4148

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) third quarter fiscal year 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 25, 2026);

MassHealth,-- CMSP Q3 2026 report. SD4149

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 183/4 (8) of Chapter 6A of the General Laws) submitting Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) 2023 annual 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 Financial Services, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received August 26, 2026);

EOPSS,-- MFIRS 2023 annual report. SD4150

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 12A of General Laws) submitting its Boston Public Schools Procurements, Contracts, and Payments report (received August 26, 2026);

OIG,-- Boston Public Schools report.
SD4151

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Health Safety Net Trust Fund 2024 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 Health Care Financing) (received August 26, 2026);

MassHealth,-- HSN FY24 annual report.
SD4152

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 65(b) of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 annual report on the processes used to determine eligibility for Health Safety Net reimbursable health services (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received August 26, 2026);

MassHealth,-- HSN Eligibility 2024 report.
SD4153

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 65(b) of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its 2025 annual report on the processes used to determine eligibility for Health Safety Net reimbursable health services (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received August 26, 2026);

MassHealth,-- HSN Eligibility 2025 report.
SD4154

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0500 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its 2023 Accountable Care Organizations legislative report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received August 26, 2026); and

MassHealth,-- ACO 2023 report.
SD4155

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant Section 115 of Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) submitting its Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) Academy Consolidation 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 26, 2026).

EOPSS,-- MPTC Academy Consolidation report.
SD4156

Report of a Committee.

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

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 3044, 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 retirement benefits for Alec Ciminello (Senate, No. 3265);

Public Service,-- study.

Referred, under Joint Rule 29, 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 Health to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public health matters (Senate, No. 3258); and

Public Health,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to retirement benefits for Alec Ciminello (Senate, No. 3265);

Public Service,-- study.

And recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Rules.

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

Alec Ciminello,-- retirement benefits.

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. 3265), reported on the residue, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the joint 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.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

Haverhill,-- Craig Riley.

A Bill authorizing Craig Riley to take the civil service examination for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 5384,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Recess.

Recess.

There being no objection, at eighteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Tarr) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at fourteen minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, 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).

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), 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:

Bills laid before the Governor.

Amending the membership of the Quabbin watershed advisory committee (see Senate, No. 3133);

Removing the seating capacity requirements for licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in the town of Belmont (see House, No. 5344, amended); and

Authorizing the town of Wakefield to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 5418).

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:

Foxborough,-- liquor licenses.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Foxborough to grant three additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 3094),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Feeney presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3266).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3266) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Dennis,-- digital legal notices.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Dennis to publish legal notices digitally (Senate, No. 3098),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Weston,-- liquor license.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Weston to grant an additional license for sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5548),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

Topsfield,-- liquor licenses.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Topsfield to convert 4 licenses for sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises to 4 licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises and to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages in the containers less than 200 milliliters (Senate, No. 2526),-- 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 contained in House document numbered 5650.

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Time of meeting.

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

Moment of Silence.

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 Irene Janet Hershman.

Adjournment in Memory of Irene Janet Hershman.

The Senator from Plymouth and Norfolk, Mr. O'Connor, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Irene Janet Hershman, a remarkable South Shore resident, from the town of Hull, who passed away peacefully on July 25th, 2026, at the age of 96, surrounded by the family she cherished above all else.

Born to the late Jessie Zimmerman and Sybil Kreutch, Irene was a true trailblazer. In 1951, during an era when higher education opportunities for women were scarce, she worked multiple jobs to put herself through Boston University, graduating with distinction and earning the prestigious BU Cup for her extraordinary leadership. Determined to continue her education, she went on to earn a master's degree.

Irene translated that passion for learning into a distinguished career as an English teacher at Hull High School. Whether challenging advanced scholars with her deep love for drama and literature, or lifting struggling learners who needed a champion, Irene impacted generations of the South Shore's youth. Her students remembered her long after graduation for inspiring them to dream bigger and reach higher.

In addition to her career as an educator, Irene was an incredible performer, frequently taking center stage in local theater and musical productions at Temple Beth Shalom. She was an intrepid, solo traveler who explored Europe, Asia, Israel, and the UK.

Above all, Irene was devoted to her family. Introduced by her sister, the late Lila Aaron, and brother-in-law Samuel, Irene met the love of her life, Sam Hershman. They married in October 1953 and raised their family in Hull until Sam's untimely passing in 1982.

Even well into her 90s, Irene continued to power-walk five miles each day up Allerton Hill, embodying absolute grit, style, and resilience.

Irene leaves behind her three loving children: Warren, June, and Sheri; eight grandchildren: Samantha, Nicholas, Michelle, Brian, Samuel, Elliana, Casey, and Ryan; seven doting great-grandchildren: Walker, Jaxson, Landon, Lenna, Aria, Colin, and Oliver; and a community that was immeasurably enriched by her presence.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Irene Janet Hershman, at four minutes before one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.