

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 30, 2026.

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Payano for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Payano then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of firefighters from Lawrence. Daniel Sirois, Otoniel Pedrosa, and Jason Martinez were recognized for their extraordinary bravery and heroic actions during a five-alarm fire in Lawrence on July 12, 2026. Through their courageous efforts, they safely rescued 51 residents from three buildings, with no reported injuries. The firefighters were accompanied by Fire Chief Patrick Delaney and Representatives Paulino of Methuen, Frank Moran of Lawrence and Reyes of Lawrence. The Senate applauded their heroic actions and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Daniel Sirois,
Otoniel Pedrosa and
Jason Martinez.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to the President for the purpose of an introduction. The President then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Camille and John Murphy from Indiana. The President recognized Camille as a former classmate from Yonkers High School in New York and for her service in the Indiana Senate. They were joined by their daughter, Allison, and granddaughters, Victoria and Charlotte Karns. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Murphy family.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Feeney for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Feeney then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Western Regional Vice President and National Officer with the American Political Items Collectors, Adam Gottlieb. The APIC is a national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting the collection, preservation and study of materials relating to political campaigns and the presidency. This year the National Convention is being held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Danvers. The Senate welcomed him with applause and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Adam Gottlieb.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. DiDomenico for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. DiDomenico then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Dr. Anna Seiders, a math and engineering teacher at Everett High School. Dr. Seiders was recognized for being named the 2026 Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year. Her approach to teaching centers on giving students authentic, real-world learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom. Dr. Seiders also leads Everett High School's STEM Club, which competes in Ten80 Education's Racing and Autonomous Vehicle Challenges. She was accompanied by Superintendent of Everett Public Schools William Hart, Principal of Everett High School Dr. John Braga, Director of Science at Everett High School Nancy Cianchetta and President of Everett Teachers Association Kimberly Auger and many family members

Dr. Anna Seiders.

and friends. The Senate applauded her accomplishments and she withdrew from the Chamber.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Ms. Howard and Mr. Brady for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Howard then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Patti Kirwin-Keilty. Patti was recognized for her remarkable career and years of public service to the city of Lowell and to the Commonwealth. The Senate wished her well on her retirement and she withdrew from the Chamber.

Patti Kirwin-Keilty.

Special Commission Report.

Report of the Special Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding (pursuant to Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its recommendations to the General Court on the commonwealth's funding structure for gun violence prevention services funding (received July 30, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

Special
Commission,--
VPSF final report.
SD4078

Order.

Ms. Edwards presented an Order relative to granting the committee on the Judiciary until December 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1039, and 1041, relative to acts regarding consumer protection and civil rights and due process (Senate, No. 3242);

The Judiciary,--
extension order.

Referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Report of Committee.

By Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, on Senate, Nos. 321, 324, 325, 331, 374, 398, 421, 423, 426, 427, 431, 438, 439, 458 and 459, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Education to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to education matters (Senate, No. 3238);

Education,-- study.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A communication from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (see Section 50 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting amendments to the rules and regulations governing Massachusetts public employee retirement (House, No. 5617),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.**

PERAC,-- MA
public employee
retirement.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5611) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the town) that the water and sewer commission of the town of Hopedale be authorized to be the appointing authority for all employees of the water and sewer department,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Hopedale,-- water
and sewer
commission.

Bills

Relative to the structure of the commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren (House, No. 5610,-- on House, No. 225);

Grandparents
Raising
Grandchildren.
Home care,--
services.
Alzheimer's and
Dementia,-- care.

Relative to home care services (House, No. 5612,-- on House, No 762); and

To improve care and prepare for the new era of Alzheimer's and dementia (House, No. 5621,-- on House, No. 769);

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

A Bill authorizing the city of Beverly to continue the employment of John G. LeLacheur as police chief (House, No. 5248,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Beverly,-- John G. LeLacheur.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to authorize the Montague Center Fire District and the Turners Falls Fire District to continue the membership of members John Annear, Lawrence William Peters Jr., David Rehorka, Richard Sawin and Sallie Sawin.

Montague Center/Turners Falls Fire Districts,-- membership. SD4007

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr, 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.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill relative to the Pilgrim Memorial Park in Plymouth (Senate, No. 3187).

Plymouth,-- Pilgrim Memorial Park.

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

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Fernandes presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3235).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3235) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, 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 to enter into a lease with the town of Plymouth for purposes of maintaining Pilgrim Memorial park in the town of Plymouth".

Sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to convey easements over certain parcels of land (Senate, No. 3189).

Mass DFG,-- conveyed easements.

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

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Fernandes presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3236).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3236) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

Bills

Authorizing the town of Auburn to offer expanded senior property tax abatements (House, No. 4585); and

Second reading bills.

To amend the operations of the city of Boston Finance Commission to establish the Boston Inspector General Oversight Commission (House, No. 5585);

Were severally read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twelve minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust for highway purposes (House, No. 5616, amended,-- on House, No. 5400),-- was read.

Woburn/Burlington,
-- land.

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

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill promoting transparency and public access in state government (House, No. 5469),-- was read a second time.

Government,--
transparency.

After remarks, the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3200, and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 65 by striking the word "all" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "text of all electronic polls or records of polls conducted in committee including the recommendation of the committee chair or chairs and all".

2

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 7, in line 73, by inserting after the word "session", the following words:- "; provided, that the journals shall indicate whether each member has voted in person or remotely".

3

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 87 by inserting after the word "audit" the following words:- "procured by or".

5

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out subsection (xv) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

6

"(xv) written disclosures, submitted by a member of the senate or house of representatives to the state ethics commission, clerk of the senate, or clerk of the house of representatives required under chapter 268A or statements submitted to the state ethics commission under chapter 268B;" and

By inserting after section ____ the following section:-

"SECTION ____ . Section 3 of Chapter 268B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended in line 17 by inserting after the word 'make' the following words:- 'disclosures,;' and in line 17 through 18 by striking the words 'commission available' and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 'commission in accordance with this chapter and chapter 268A available to the legislative access officers of the senate and house of representatives; make disclosures, statements and reports filed with the commission available'."

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 7, in line 98, by striking the word “and”; and, in said section 7, in line 101, by inserting, after the word “cycle”, the following words:- “; and (xx) electronic and written communications; provided, that the communications are unrelated to developing policy positions; provided further, that the communications are unrelated to a request by a constituent of a member of the general court for benefits, services or assistance from a state agency”.

7

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 7, by striking subsection (b)(1), and inserting in place thereof the following subsections:-

8

“(b)(1) The senate and house of representatives shall each appoint a legislative records access officer for their respective branch. Each legislative records access officer shall (i) assist the respective branch in preserving legislative records in accordance with this section and rules of the respective branch; and (ii) post all legislative records on the legislative website; provided, that prior to legislative records being posted on the legislative website, each legislative records access officer shall prepare guidelines to identify and exempt from posting records that may contain confidential information not suitable for posting; provided further, that such guidelines shall be updated periodically and shall be posted on the official website of the general court.

(2) For requests for access to legislative records, each legislative access officer shall coordinate the response of the respective branch and shall facilitate the resolution of such requests. Each legislative records access officer shall:

(i) assist persons seeking records of the legislature to identify the records sought;
(ii) prepare guidelines that enable a person seeking access to legislative records to make informed requests regarding the availability of such records electronically or otherwise; provided, however, that such guidelines shall: (A) be updated periodically; (B) include the categorical list of legislative records, as specified in subsection (a); and (C) be posted on the official website of the general court; and

(iii) prepare guidelines for the identification and processing of requests that are frivolous, designed to harass or seek records that may contain confidential information not suitable for dissemination; provided, however, that such guidelines shall describe the criteria by which such requests shall be identified, the procedures and timeframe by which they shall be reviewed and any steps taken to protect personal information prior to production; provided further, that such guidelines shall be updated periodically and shall be posted on the official website of the general court; and, in said section 7, in line 123, by striking the figure ‘(2)’, and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- ‘(3)’.”

After remarks, the amendment was rejected.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 7, by striking subsection (e)(5), and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

9

“(5) A requester aggrieved by a final determination of the legislative records access officer may petition the supreme judicial court for review of such determination, and the court shall have the original and exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether the withholding of a requested legislative record is in conformity with this section. In any action filed by a requestor pursuant to this section:

(i) the court shall, when feasible, expedite the proceeding;
(ii) the court shall determine the propriety of the determination of the legislative records access officer de novo; and

(iii) a presumption shall exist that each legislative record sought is public and the burden shall be on the legislative records access officer to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that such legislative record or portion of the legislative record may be withheld in accordance with this section.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill regarding the disability pension for Misael Rodriguez administered by the Springfield retirement board (see House, No. 5391, 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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Report of Committee.

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on the Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Bourne to convey a right-of-way and easement (Senate, No. 3144).

Bourne,-- right-of-way and easement.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Rausch, and the bill was read a second time.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Fernandes moved that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3237).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3237) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the release or exclusion of certain land from conservation restrictions in the town of Deerfield (House, No. 5614,-- on House, No. 4483),-- was read.

Deerfield,-- land.

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.

The House Bill relative to economic development in the commonwealth (House, No. 5576),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3228, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Michlewitz of Boston, Fiola of Fall River and Soter of Bellingham had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Economic Development.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Finegold and the matter was considered forthwith.

On motion of the same Senator, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Finegold, Rodrigues and Durant were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-eight minutes before three o'clock P.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twenty-seven minutes before five o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill relative to benefits for teachers (House, No. 4361),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendments striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3109; and inserting before the enacting clause an emergency preamble, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Ryan of Boston, Gonzalez of Springfield and Ferguson of Rutland had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Teacher benefits.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Durant and the matter was considered forthwith.

On motion of the same Senator, the Senate insisted on its amendments and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Rodrigues, Lovely and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill promoting transparency and public access in state government (House, No. 5469),-- the main question being on ordered the bill to a third reading.

Government
transparency.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking section 8 in its entirety.

10

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _the following section:-

11

“SECTION_. Chapter 66 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting after Section 22 the following new section:-

Section 23. (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:-

‘Core adjudicative record’, any record, document, draft, preliminary note, or communication created, received, or maintained by the judicial branch that directly relates to the adjudication of cases, judicial deliberations, case management, probation or parole operations, or attorney discipline.

‘Judicial administrative record’, any documentary material or data, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by the executive office of the trial court or the office of court management, that relates exclusively to the non-adjudicative, administrative operations of the judicial branch.

‘Judicial records access officer’, the employee or employees designated by the court administrator to coordinate responses to requests for judicial administrative records.

(b) Designation of Records Access Officer. The court administrator of the trial court shall designate 1 or more employees as judicial records access officers. The officers shall assist requesters in identifying responsive records and shall coordinate the judicial branch's compliance with this section.

(c) Scope of Access. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a judicial administrative record shall be subject to public inspection and copying under section 10; provided, however, any of the following categories of records shall be explicitly exempt from disclosure:

(i) Any core adjudicative record.

(ii) Any record specifically sealed or protected from disclosure by an order of the Supreme Judicial Court or a judge of the trial court.

(iii) Personal notes, draft memoranda, and internal communications of justices, clerks, or judicial staff concerning the disposition of any legal matter.

(iv) Records pertaining to court security procedures, physical security of courthouses, and judicial protection protocols, the disclosure of which would jeopardize public safety.

(v) Any record otherwise exempt from disclosure pursuant to clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4.

(d) For the purposes of this section, records concerning judicial branch vendor contracts, facilities management, procurement of goods and services, aggregate statistical reports on court operations, and technology expenditures shall be presumed to be judicial administrative records.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate or infringe upon the inherent constitutional authority of the judicial branch to manage its internal operations or to regulate the practice of law pursuant to Article XXX of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Rausch, Messrs. Mark and Keenan, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Lewis, Eldridge, Finegold and Tarr, Ms. Jehlen, Ms. Lovely and Mr. Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 7 the following section:-

“SECTION 7A. Chapter 233 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 200 the following section:-

Section 20P. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

‘Journalism’, gathering, preparing, collecting, photographing, recording, writing, editing, reporting, investigating, or publishing news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

‘Journalist’, a person who is or was engaged in journalism as an employee, agent, or independent contractor of a news organization at the time the news or information sought was obtained or received; or the news organization for which such person was engaged, and any supervisor, parent company, subsidiary, or affiliate thereof at the time the news or information sought was obtained or received.

‘News organization’, a newspaper, magazine, publication, book publisher, wire service, radio or television station or network, or other professional organization with a principal function of regularly disseminating news to the public.

(b) No court, grand jury, or judicial, executive, legislative, administrative or other body with the power to issue a subpoena or other compulsory process shall compel a journalist or news organization to testify about, produce or otherwise disclose: (i) the identity of a confidential source of information; or (ii) any information that would tend to identify such a confidential source; except as otherwise provided in this section.

(c) A court may compel disclosure of the identity of a confidential source or of information that would tend to identify any such confidential source, only upon a finding, after the journalist has been provided notice and an opportunity to be heard, that the party seeking such identity or information has established by clear and convincing evidence that such identity or information is: (i) material and relevant; (ii) critical or necessary to the maintenance of a party’s claim, defense or proof of an issue highly material thereto; (iii) not obtainable from any alternative source; and (iv) there is an overriding public interest in the disclosure.

(d) An order compelling disclosure under subsection (c) shall be limited to such portion or portions of the information sought as to which the showing required by said subsection (c) has been made and shall be supported by clear and specific findings made after a hearing.

(e) The provisions of this section shall apply to a subpoena or other compulsory process issued to a custodian or recordkeeper other than a journalist if the records or information

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sought would reveal the identity of a confidential source or would tend to identify such a confidential source. The party seeking the records or information shall provide the affected journalist or news organization, if known or reasonably ascertainable, with notice and an opportunity to be heard before disclosure; and the custodian or recordkeeper shall not disclose the records or information unless a court orders such disclosure upon the findings required by subsection (c).

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny or infringe upon the rights of a defendant in a criminal prosecution guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of the commonwealth.”

The question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at ten minutes before five o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Rausch, as follows, to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 215]:**

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.	Gómez, Adam
Brady, Michael D.	Howard, Vanna
Brownsberger, William N.	Jehlen, Patricia D.
Collins, Nick	Keenan, John F.
Comerford, Joanne M.	Kennedy, Robyn K.
Creem, Cynthia Stone	Lewis, Jason M.
Crighton, Brendan P.	Lovely, Joan B.
Cronin, John J.	Mark, Paul W.
Cyr, Julian	Miranda, Liz
DiDomenico, Sal N.	Montigny, Mark C.
Dooner, Kelly A.	Moore, Michael O.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.	O'Connor, Patrick M.
Durant, Peter J.	Oliveira, Jacob R.
Edwards, Lydia	Payano, Pavel
Eldridge, James B.	Rausch, Rebecca L.
Fattman, Ryan C.	Rodrigues, Michael J.
Feeney, Paul R.	Rush, Michael F.
Fernandes, Dylan A.	Spilka, Karen E.
Finegold, Barry R.	Tarr, Bruce E.
Friedman, Cindy F.	Velis, John C. – 40.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at two minutes before five o’clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered:

Report of Committee.

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on the Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill authorizing the Buzzards Bay Water District to convey non-exclusive easements over a certain parcel of land (Senate, No. 3188).

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

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Orders of the Day.

Buzzards Bay Water
District,--
easements.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill promoting transparency and public access in state government (House, No. 5469),-- the main question being on ordered the bill to a third reading.

Government
transparency.
19

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section__ the following section:-

“SECTION____. The public records officers required in sections 4, and 5 of this act shall, on an ongoing basis, seek to identify opportunities to make the public records defined herein available, on one or more electronic, public-facing platforms, and ensure, to the maximum feasible extent, that such records are posted and maintained on such platforms, provided, that the availability of such records, and the means of accessing them, shall be posted conspicuously on the web site of the legislature and updated as necessary, and provided further, that said officers such file a report with the clerks of the House and Senate annually, not later than December 31, with the clerks of the House and Senate, detailing their activities pursuant to this section and identifying obstacles to increasing electronic access to public records, which report shall also include any legislative or other recommendations.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after the word, “website” in line 139 the following:- “Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no legislative records access officer, the general court, or any branch, committee, member, officer, caucus, or employee thereof shall assess, charge, or collect any fee, cost, search rate, redaction fee, or assessment of any kind for processing, compiling, redacting, reproducing, or furnishing legislative records under this section. All legislative records subject to disclosure shall be furnished to the requestor free of charge.”

20

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 7, by striking out, in lines 236 through 240, inclusive, paragraph (6) of subsection (e) of section 22 of chapter 66 of the General Laws.

22

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking section 3 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following:-

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“SECTION 3. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out, in line 275, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, the word ‘sixty-six’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘66; provided, however, that public records of the general court shall be subject to disclosure under this chapter and chapter 66; provided further, that the general court may withhold a record, in whole or in part, if disclosure would be inconsistent with Article XXI of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, or if the record falls within any exemption established in clause twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4.’;

By inserting after section _ the following section:-

“SECTION _ .Said Clause Twenty-sixth of Section 7 of Chapter 4 is hereby further amended by adding the following two subparagraphs:

(x) communications between a member of the general court, or such member's employee or agent, and a constituent, provided that the communications reasonably relate to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a state or federal agency;

(y) communications, memoranda, drafts, or other documents relating to developing policy positions of members of the general court, the governor.”;

By striking lines 49-101 in section 7;

By striking lines 236-240 in their entirety; and

By inserting after section ____ the following section:-

“SECTION _____. The public records officers required in sections 4, and 5 of this act shall, on an ongoing basis, seek to identify opportunities to make the public records defined herein available, on one or more electronic, public-facing platforms, and ensure, to the maximum feasible extent, that such records are posted and maintained on such platforms, provided, that the availability of such records, and the means of accessing them, shall be posted conspicuously on the web site of the legislature and updated as necessary, and provided further, that said officers such file a report with the clerks of the House and Senate annually, not later than December 31, with the clerks of the House and Senate, detailing their activities pursuant to this section and identifying obstacles to increasing electronic access to public records, which report shall also include any legislative or other recommendations.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at fourteen minutes past five o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 6 – nays 33) **[Yeas and Nays No. 216]:**

YEAS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
 Durant, Peter J.
 Fattman, Ryan C.

Keenan, John F.
 O'Connor, Patrick M.
 Tarr, Bruce E. – **6.**

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.
 Brady, Michael D.
 Brownsberger, William N.
 Collins, Nick
 Comerford, Joanne M.
 Creem, Cynthia Stone
 Crighton, Brendan P.
 Cronin, John J.
 Cyr, Julian
 DiDomenico, Sal N.
 Driscoll, Jr., William J.
 Edwards, Lydia
 Eldridge, James B.
 Feeney, Paul R.
 Fernandes, Dylan A.
 Finegold, Barry R.
 Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
 Howard, Vanna
 Jehlen, Patricia D.
 Kennedy, Robyn K.
 Lewis, Jason M.
 Lovely, Joan B.
 Mark, Paul W.
 Miranda, Liz
 Montigny, Mark C.
 Moore, Michael O.
 Oliveira, Jacob R.
 Payano, Pavel
 Rausch, Rebecca L.
 Rodrigues, Michael J.
 Rush, Michael F.
 Velis, John C. – **33.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty minutes past five o’clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in line 122 after the word, “court” the following new clause:-

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“(v) notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, assist, facilitate, and fully comply with any request for administrative, financial, operational, or procurement records, data, or documentation submitted by the state auditor pursuant to section 12 of chapter 11”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

25

“SECTION_. Chapter 66 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

(a) On or before March 1 of each year, the secretary of the commonwealth, through the supervisor of public records, shall submit a comprehensive report detailing state-wide public records compliance and request activity for the preceding calendar year. The report shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, and the house and senate committees on ways and means, and shall be posted prominently on the official website of the secretary in a searchable, machine-readable format.

(b) The report shall aggregate data collected from each executive office, state agency, authority, department, board, commission, and, where applicable, the general court and the judicial branch. For each entity, the report shall include, but not be limited to, the following metrics:

The total number of public records requests received during the calendar year;

(i) The number of requests satisfied in full;

(ii) The number of requests satisfied in part, with records redacted or partially withheld;

(iii) The number of requests denied in full; and

(iv) The number of requests closed due to lack of responsive records or withdrawal by the requester;

A breakdown of the statutory exemptions under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4, or section 22 of this chapter, cited to justify redactions or full denials, categorized by frequency of use;

Timeliness and Extensions:

(i) The average and median number of business days taken to issue an initial response;

(ii) The average and median number of business days taken to fully fulfill a request;

(iii) The number of requests where a 20-business-day extension was sought or granted;

and

(iv) The number of requests where response timelines exceeded statutory deadlines without a formal extension or requester agreement;

Appeals and Enforcement:

(i) The total number of administrative appeals filed by requesters regarding denials, delays, or fee assessments; and

(ii) The disposition of those appeals, including the number of determinations affirming the agency, reversing the agency in whole or in part, or ordering immediate document production;

Fee Assessments:

(i) The total dollar amount of estimated fees assessed to requesters;

(ii) The total dollar amount of fees actually collected; and

(iii) The number of fee waivers requested, granted, and denied; and

(c) To facilitate the preparation of the report, every records access officer designated under section 6A or section 22 shall, on or before January 30 of each year, submit to the supervisor of public records a standardized annual compliance summary containing the data specified in subsection (b), recorded on a standardized form developed and distributed by the supervisor.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking the definition of “Legislative Record” as written in lines 51-101 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

“Legislative record”, any documentary material or data, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, received, maintained or kept by the general court or any branch, committee, member, officer, caucus or employee thereof; provided, however, that “legislative record” shall not include records the disclosure of which would endanger the safety or security of persons or property, including, but not limited to, building blueprints,

1

floor plans, security protocols and building access control information. Legislative records shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) all: (A) legislation; (B) resolutions; (C) bill summaries; (D) fiscal notes; and (E) amendments filed with the clerks of the senate or house of representatives, including the names of the primary sponsors and a list of the names of all petitioners;

(ii) published notices of committee hearings, the record of attendance of members at such hearings in accordance with joint rules of the senate and house of representatives and the recording and transcript of any hearing, when available;

(iii) written testimony solicited and received by a committee, subject to committee rules regarding the disclosure of sensitive information or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others;

(iv) all recorded votes of a committee, including roll calls or electronic polls of each member;

(v) committee reports on bills including favorable and adverse reports and extension and study orders;

(vi) the rules and joint rules of the senate and house of representatives, and any orders to adopt or amend such rules;

(vii) daily legislative session calendars and orders of the day;

(viii) the journals of the senate and house of representatives and all recorded votes, including roll calls taken in a legislative session;

(ix) finalized senate and house of representatives leadership assignments, committee assignments, office assignments and legislator contact information;

(x) published manuals or formal written policies of the senate or the house of representatives regarding employment, training and administrative operations prepared by the office of human resources of the senate or the house of representatives;

(xi) communications to the clerks of the senate or house of representatives regarding the official appointment of a legislative appointee to, or resignation or removal from, a commission, board or task force;

(xii) reports required by law to be submitted to the general court, any committee thereof or the clerks of the senate or house of representatives;

(xiii) financial records provided to the office of the comptroller, including, but not limited to, financial records relating to salaries of members, officers, temporary employees and employees, operating expenditures and expenditures to vendors;

(xiv) the final report of any audit conducted pursuant to the rules of the senate or house of representatives;

(xv) written disclosures submitted by a member of the senate or house of representatives to the clerks of the senate or house of representatives required under chapter 268A;

(xvi) names, public office addresses, job titles and salaries of members, officers and employees, as maintained by the office of human resources of the senate or house of representatives;

(xvii) procurements and contracts for goods and services, unless such procurement or contract is specifically or by necessary implication exempted from disclosure by law or rule or the disclosure of which would unduly impair present or future contract awards;

(xviii) a list of news outlets and legislative reporters approved to use state house rooms and facilities as members of the Massachusetts State House Press Association, Inc.; and

(xix) electoral district maps approved by the general court and the associated geospatial files in industry standard formats supported by the geographic information system used to create the approved electoral district maps for the most recent redistricting cycle.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out sections 1 and 2;

23

By striking out, in line 156, the word “their” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- “the”; and

By inserting after the word “days” in line 204, the second time it appears, the following words:- “the committee”.

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading and read a thirdtime.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-four minutes past five o’clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 34 - nays 6)

[Yeas and Nays No. 217]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crichton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Moore, Michael O.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Spilka, Karen E.
Velis, John C. – **34.**

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.
Fattman, Ryan C.

Montigny, Mark C.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **6.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at a half past five o’clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment [For text of Senate amendment printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3244]

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Committee of Conference Report.

A report of the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments to the House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316) (*amended by the Senate* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3086);-- reported, a “Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment” (House, No. 5620),-- came from the House, and was read.

The question on acceptance of the conference report, was determined by a standing vote, on motion of Mr. Tarr, and it was accepted, in concurrence by a vote of 21 to 4.

PROTECT Act.

Engrossed Bills—Land Takings for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (see Senate, No. 3052) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-six minutes before six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 218**]:

Dighton,--
conservation land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **39**.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill relative to the dissolution of the Holmes Park Water District (see Senate, No. 3160) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at nineteen minutes before six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 219**]:

Westminster,--
Holmes Park Water
District.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.

Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at sixteen minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill further providing for the disposition of certain land in the town of West Brookfield (see House, No. 5379) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at a quarter before six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 220**]:

West Brookfield,--
land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.

Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at thirteen minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to transfer certain parcels of land in the town of Norton (see House, No. 5561) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twelve minutes before six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 221]:

Norton,-- land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at ten minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill providing for the conveyance of certain parcels of land in the town of Bourne (see House, No. 4992) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the

Bourne,-- land.

Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at five minutes before six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 222**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.	Gómez, Adam
Brady, Michael D.	Howard, Vanna
Brownsberger, William N.	Jehlen, Patricia D.
Collins, Nick	Keenan, John F.
Comerford, Joanne M.	Kennedy, Robyn K.
Creem, Cynthia Stone	Lewis, Jason M.
Crighton, Brendan P.	Lovely, Joan B.
Cronin, John J.	Mark, Paul W.
Cyr, Julian	Miranda, Liz
DiDomenico, Sal N.	Montigny, Mark C.
Dooner, Kelly A.	Moore, Michael O.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.	O'Connor, Patrick M.
Durant, Peter J.	Oliveira, Jacob R.
Edwards, Lydia	Payano, Pavel
Eldridge, James B.	Rausch, Rebecca L.
Fattman, Ryan C.	Rodrigues, Michael J.
Feeney, Paul R.	Rush, Michael F.
Fernandes, Dylan A.	Tarr, Bruce E.
Finegold, Barry R.	Velis, John C. – 39 .
Friedman, Cindy F.	

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at three minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Moments of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Edward Cohen.

Moment of silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Byron Christopher Sumner.

Id.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills—Land Takings for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill releasing or excluding certain portions of land from a conservation restriction in the town of Middleton (see House, No. 5463) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at a quarter past six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 223**]:

Middleton,--
conservation
restriction.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at seventeen minutes past six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the transfer of certain parcels of land in the town of Weston from the Weston conservation commission to the Weston select board (see House, No. 5467) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at eighteen minutes past six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 224]:**

Weston,-- land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel

Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-one minutes past six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land in the town of Billerica for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path (see House, No. 5492) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-two minutes past six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 225]:

Billerica,-- land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crichton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-four minutes past six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the release or exclusion of certain land from conservation restrictions in the town of Deerfield (see House, No. 5614) (which originated in the House),

Deerfield,-- land.

having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-five minutes past six o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 226**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **39**.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-six minutes past six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust for highway purposes (see House, No. 5616, 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 24 to 0.

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

The Senate Bill regarding free expression (Senate, No. 2726),-- 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 5489, amended.

Woburn/Burlington,
-- land.

Free expression.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Cyr, and the House amendment was considered forthwith.

After remarks, the same Senator moved that the Senate concur with the House amendment *with a further amendment* striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place there of the text of Senate document numbered 3241.

The motion was accepted; and the Senate concurred in the House amendment *with a further amendment*.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the further amendment.

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (see House, No. 5620), 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 25 to 0.

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

Engrossed Bill—Land Taking for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust for highway purposes (see House, No. 5616, amended) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage; and, this being a bill providing for the taking of land or other easements used for conservation purposes, etc., as defined by Article XCVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at seventeen minutes before seven o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 227]:**

PROTECT Act.

Woburn/Burlington,
-- land.

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. — **39.**

Friedman, Cindy F.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at a quarter before seven o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, two-thirds of the members present having agreed to pass the same, and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Report of Committee.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill authorizing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to acquire interests in certain portions of land owned by the town of Andover which were acquired by the town for Article XCVII purposes (Senate, No. 3230).

Andover,-- land.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (see House, No. 5620) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, after remarks, was passed to be enacted, by a standing vote of 26-2, on motion of Ms. Creem, and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Miranda,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at twelve o'clock noon, and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Edward "Ed" Cohen.

The Senator from Hampden, Mr. Gómez, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Edward "Ed" Cohen of Springfield.

Ed Cohen was a man whose lens captured not only images, but the very spirit of Springfield and the Pioneer Valley. Ed was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, a community he would go on to document with unmatched devotion for more than five decades.

Ed pursued his studies at UMass Amherst, earning a degree in Communication Studies with a concentration in Afro American and Diversity in Communications—an academic path that deeply informed the inclusive and culturally rich perspective reflected throughout his work.

Professionally, Ed was far more than a photographer; he was a storyteller, a historian, and a guardian of community memory. Since 1975, he photographed life across the Pioneer Valley—family milestones, community celebrations, political demonstrations, musical performances, and the everyday moments that define a place and its people. His presence at

local events became so constant, so reassuring, that many said a gathering didn't truly feel complete until Ed arrived with his camera in hand.

Ed's work also stretched beyond local borders. Some of his most celebrated photographs feature literary giants James Baldwin and Maya Angelou, captured during Baldwin's 60th Birthday Celebration at UMass Amherst and Amherst College in 1984. These images became part of an exhibit at the Springfield Central Library and were included in one of Ed's own publications.

Throughout his career, Ed published several works, including *Heroes and Legends: Performance Portraits in Music, Dance, Theater, and the Spoken and Written Word*, and *James Baldwin's 60th Birthday Celebration*. He also provided photography for the 2003 book *Such Sweet Thunder: Views on Black American Music*, edited by Mark Baszak. His exhibitions appeared throughout Western Massachusetts, including at the Springfield Museums and Springfield Central Library, where he proudly highlighted diversity in his imagery.

Even as he matured in his craft, Ed never stopped learning. He continued his education at Springfield Technical Community College, taking courses in digital media technology, photography, and graphic arts—always striving to refine the tools he used to uplift others.

Ed's connection to this community went far beyond his artistic contributions. In 2025, after a serious fall that resulted in a brain bleed, Springfield rallied around him. Friends, neighbors, and families he had photographed over the years came together in support—a reflection of the love he had poured into his work and the lives he touched.

Despite ongoing health challenges, Ed continued to show up for his community—capturing its leaders, its celebrations, and its everyday beauty—until his passing in July 2026.

Ed Cohen was more than a photographer. He was a keeper of stories, a champion of diversity, and a gentle, affable presence whose work preserved the heartbeat of Springfield for generations. His images remind us of who we are, what we've celebrated, and how our community has grown. And though he is no longer with us, the moments he immortalized continue to speak—reminding us that a single photograph can hold history, love, and truth all at once.

May we honor Ed not only by remembering his work, but by carrying forward the spirit of connection and compassion he brought to every frame. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy continue to shine through every image he leaves behind.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Edward "Ed" Cohen, at five minutes before eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Miranda, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at twelve o'clock noon.

Adjournment in Memory of Byron Christopher Sumner.

The Senator from Suffolk, Ms. Miranda, moves that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Byron Christopher Sumner.

Pastor Byron Christopher "Chris" Sumner was an extraordinary faith leader, mentor, public servant, and proud son of Roxbury whose life of service transformed countless lives across the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Pastor Sumner dedicated his life to uplifting others. Whether serving as Executive Pastor of Jubilee Christian Church, leading some of Boston's most impactful youth-serving organizations, guiding the Melnea A. Cass Recreation Complex and Roxbury Heritage State Park, or mentoring generations of young people, he led with compassion, humility, and an

unwavering belief in the potential of every person he encountered. He understood that true leadership was not measured by titles, but by the lives we touch and the communities we strengthen.

To know Pastor Chris was to know someone who made every person feel seen, valued, and deeply loved. He possessed a rare ability to bring people together across neighborhoods, generations, and backgrounds, reminding us that faith is not confined to the walls of a church but is lived through service, justice, and love for one another. He was a steadfast presence in Roxbury and throughout Boston—a bridge-builder, a trusted mentor, and a source of hope whose guidance shaped countless community leaders, public servants, families, and young people.

Pastor Sumner's legacy extends far beyond the institutions he served or the positions he held. His greatest accomplishment was investing in people. He believed in others before they believed in themselves, challenged them to lead with purpose, and demonstrated through his own life that compassion, integrity, and faith have the power to transform communities. Those fortunate enough to have known him carry forward his lessons, his example, and his spirit. His impact will continue to be felt for generations to come.

On behalf of the Massachusetts Senate, I extend our deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Katani, his children Kandice, Kortney, and Kristian, his cherished grandchildren, his family, the Jubilee Christian Church community, and the countless individuals whose lives were forever changed by his friendship, mentorship, and ministry.

Therefore, Madam President, I respectfully request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Pastor Byron Christopher “Chris” Sumner—a faithful servant, a devoted husband and father, a beloved mentor, and one of Roxbury's greatest sons, whose enduring legacy of faith, service, and love will continue to inspire the Commonwealth for generations to come.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Byron Christopher Sumner, at five minutes before eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Miranda, the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at twelve o'clock noon.