

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

[63]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 16, 2026.

Met at twelve 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. Feeney for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Feeney then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Faith O'Hanlon of North Attleborough. Faith was recognized as the First Runner-Up at the 2026 Miss Massachusetts Competition and for being crowned Miss Boston 2026. Faith was also recognized for many other accomplishments. She is currently a professional flight and piano performance double major at Auburn University. She is a nationally recognized pianist and multiple-time Carnegie Hall competition winner and is an FAA-certified pilot holding both her Private Pilot Certificate and Instrument Rating. Faith also founded "Hope for Hearts", a community service initiative dedicated to heart disease awareness, advocacy, and CPR education, and wrote the children's book "Princess Valentine's Perfectly Imperfect Heart", inspired by her younger sister's journey with congenital heart disease. The Senate applauded her accomplishments and she withdrew from the Chamber.

Faith O'Hanlon.

The Chair (Ms. Creem) handed the gavel to Mr. Collins for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Collins then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Kenya Wilson. Ms. Wilson was recognized for having graduated from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Aspiring Supervisor Program and for her leadership in launching and developing the Ace Initiative for audio clarity and etiquette at the Massachusetts Trial Court. Ms. Wilson was also the guest of Senator Rush. The Senate welcomed her with applause and she withdrew from the Chamber.

Kenya Wilson.

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 54 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Pandemic Funding Oversight Calendar Year 2026 Second Quarter report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 15, 2026);

OIG,-- Pandemic
Funding CY26 Q2
report.
SD4056

Report of the Worcester District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting its Motor Vehicle Forfeiture Funds (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 15, 2026);

Worcester DA,--
Forfeiture Funds.
SD4058

Report of the Worcester District Attorney (pursuant to Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its Drug Rehab, Drug Education, Neighborhood Crime Watch

Worcester DA,--
Crime watch report.

Programs expenditures report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 15, 2026);

SD4059

Report of the Worcester District Attorney (pursuant to Section 32(e) of Chapter 12 of the General Laws) submitting its Community Based Juvenile Justice Program (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 15, 2026);

Worcester DA,--
Juvenile Justice
report.
SD4060

Report of the Worcester District Attorney (pursuant to Section 6 Chapter 258B of the General Laws) submitting its annual Victim Witness Advocate Program Plan (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 15, 2026);

Worcester DA,--
Victim and Witness
Rights Plan report.
SD4061

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2025 through June 2026 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received July 15, 2026); and

EOTC,-- rental
protections June
2026 report.
SD4062

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund data for June and July 2026 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development) (received July 15, 2026).

DER,-- UTF
June/July FY26
report.
SD4063

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Brownsberger (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Noelle Costa for legislation to establish reliance on written representations by retirement boards concerning the purchase or establishment of creditable service; and

Creditable service,--
written
representations.
SD4055
Passenger vanity
plates.
SD4054

By Mr. Fattman, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fatman for legislation relative to passenger vanity plates;

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, on Senate, No. 3057, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Health Care Financing to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to assisted living residencies in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 3176); and

Health Care
Financing,-- study.

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on Senate, No. 3082, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to animal telehealth (Senate, No. 3177);

Consumer
Protection and
Professional
Licensure,-- study.

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

By Mr. Gómez, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on recommitted petition, a Bill to promote school centered neighborhood development (Senate, No. 185);

School-centered
neighborhood
development.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on recommitted petition, a Bill creating the engaging neighborhoods, organizations, unions, governments and households fund (“The ENOUGH Act”) (Senate, No. 3022); and

ENOUGH Act.

By Mr. Finegold, for the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, on petition, a Bill authorizing municipalities to opt-in to a temporary pilot to extend the hours of liquor licenses and to allow for public consumption in designated districts in summer 2026 (Senate, No. 3112);

Liquor licenses,-- pilot program.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5577) of Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. (by vote of the town) relative to the department of public works in the town of Barre; and

Barre,-- DPW.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5578) of Kristin E. Kassner and Sally P. Kerans (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize print-free digital legal notices in the town of Topsfield;

Topsfield,-- digital notices.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5579) of Leigh Davis (by vote of the town) that the town of Stockbridge be authorized to modify employment for the fire department of said town

Stockbridge,-- fire department.

To the committee on Public Service.

A Bill authorizing the town of Auburn to offer expanded senior property tax abatements (House, No. 4585,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Auburn,-- senior tax abatements.

A report of the committee on Health Care Financing, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2101) of Michael J. Finn for legislation to enforce laws protecting worksite safety, and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on House Ways and Means,— **was considered forthwith, under Senate Rule 36, and accepted, in concurrence, in the discharge of the joint committee.**

Worksite safety.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill increasing the amount of parking fines in the town of Scituate (see Senate, No. 2577) (which originated in the Senate), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

A Bill relative to a conservation restriction in the town of Middleton (House, No. 5463,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Middleton,-- conservation restriction.

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

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5587) of Simon Cataldo for legislation to establish a Great Brook State Park trust fund;

Great Brook State Park Trust Fund.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5588) of Thomas W. Moakley for legislation to designate the regional lockup as a part of the Dukes County Jail and House of Correction;

Dukes County,--
regional lockup.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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 Dylan A. Fernandes, David T. Vieira and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation to authorize the Buzzards Bay Water District to convey non-exclusive easements over a certain parcel of land.

Buzzards Bay Water
District,--
easements.
SD4013

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

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 Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation relative to the leasing of the Pilgrim Memorial Park in Plymouth.

Plymouth,-- Pilgrim
Memorial Park.
SD3862

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Cronin, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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 Dylan A. Fernandes, David T. Vieira and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game to convey easements over certain parcels of land.

Mass DFG,--
conveyed
easements.
SD4014

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Cronin, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

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

The Senate Bill relative to Admiral David G. Farragut Park (Senate, No. 545).

Admiral David G.
Farragut Park.

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

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

The House Bill dedicating certain park and field space in the South Boston section of the city of Boston (House, No. 899).

South Boston,--
park dedication.

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

Subsequently, the rules were suspended, and the bill was read a third time.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, recommending that the same be consolidated with the Senate Bill relative to Admiral David G. Farragut Park (Senate No. 545) likewise referred to said committee, and that, when doing so, it will be correctly drawn.

The report was accepted.

The bill was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act

dedicating a certain park and a certain field space in the South Boston section of the city of Boston”.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill relative to toxic-free medical devices (Senate, No. 3106),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5550.

Toxic-free medical devices.

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

Reports of Committees.

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

The Senate Bill providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (Senate, No. 3026).

Great River Regional School District,-- ballot question.

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

Pending the question of ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Comerford moved to amend the bill by substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3181).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3181) was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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

The House Bill authorizing the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat (House, No. 4321).

Dalton,-- Christopher Francis Cachat.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Feeney, 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 considered as follows:

Bill

Relative to the town of Grafton's senior tax exemption (House, No. 5035).

Was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Second reading bill.

The Senate Bill reclassifying fire alarm operators in the city of Beverly (Senate, No. 1876) (its title having been changed by the committees on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Beverly,-- fire alarm operators.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of fire department member Howard Boyden (House, No. 4506),-- was read a third time.

Conway,-- Howard Boyden.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Mark presented an amendment in section 1, by inserting after the word “purposes”, in line 10, the following words:- “and, upon retirement, Howard Boyden shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired at 65 years of age”.

The amendment was adopted.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Conway to continue the employment of police department member Michael Habel (House, No. 4525),-- was read a third time.

Conway,-- Michael Habel.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Mark presented an amendment by inserting in section 1, after the word “purposes”, in line 14, the following words:- “and, upon retirement, Michael Habel shall receive a superannuation retirement allowance equal to that which he would have been entitled had he retired at 65 years of age”.

The amendment was adopted.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Recess.

There being no objection, at a quarter before twelve o'clock noon, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at fourteen minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill—Land Taking for Conservation Etc.

An engrossed Bill dissolving the Whately Water District (see House, No. 2250, changed) (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 thirteen minutes before one o'clock P.M., as follows, to wit (yeas 39 - nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 207]:**

Whately Water District.

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 five minutes before one 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.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of Ms. Comerford, the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Jane Yolen.

Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill relative to toxic-free medical devices (see House, No. 3106, amended) (which originated in the Senate), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence (House, No. 4767),-- was read a second time.

Workplace violence,-- prevention.

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 3171,-- was considered.

Ms. Creem in the Chair, Messrs. Keenan, O'Connor and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 5 by striking out the words "employer or" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "employer, "; and

1

In line 7 by striking out the words "who is providing health care services at," and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ", or an individual".

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Keenan and O'Connor moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 75 by inserting after the word "to" the first time it appears the following words:- "the employee's health care employer or".

2

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Keenan and O'Connor moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 2, in line 106, by striking the words "a permanent".

3

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Keenan and O'Connor moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 2, in line 113, by striking the word "directly".

4

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

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

Report of a Committee.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill relative to economic development in the commonwealth (House, No. 5576),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3178.

Economic
Development.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill relative to economic development in the commonwealth (House, No. 5576) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3178) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

Procedural order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 2:30 P.M. on Monday, July 20, 2026. All such amendments shall be second reading amendments to the proposed Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 3178), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill as amended is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Lovely, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The matter will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Wednesday, July 22, 2026 for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence (House, No. 4767),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Workplace
violence,--
prevention.

Ms. Friedman and Ms. Comerford moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, by striking out, in line 26, the words "or (ix)" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "(ix) a federally qualified health center receiving funding pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 254b; or (x)".

7

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Friedman, Ms. Comerford, Mr. Barrett, Ms. Howard, Mr. Keenan, Ms. Creem, Ms. Edwards and Messrs. Payano, O'Connor, Tarr, Collins and Rush moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after the words "chapter 111", in line 198, the following words:- "; provided, said officer shall use de-escalation tactics and diversion strategies and, where available, community-based behavioral health crisis response resources. Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the requirements established in section 14 of chapter 6E, including but not limited to requirements regarding de-escalation tactics, or to create any exemptions from said requirements".

8

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Montigny, O'Connor and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting, in line 112, after the word "injury" the following words:- " , including but not limited to an acute mental health or behavioral health need directly related to said injury". 14

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Comerford and Messrs. O'Connor and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 6 the following section:- 6

"SECTION 6A. Subsection (c) of section 4 of chapter 276A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the figure '13A', in line 22, the first time that it appears, the following words:- 'or section 13I'."

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Gómez, Payano and Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting the following sections:- 16

"SECTION X. Section 1 of chapter 151B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 138, the word 'handicap' and inserting in place thereof the following word:- 'disability'.

SECTION X. Section 4 of said chapter 151B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

20. (a) As used in this subsection, the following words shall have the following meaning unless the context clearly requires others:

'Disability', shall have the same meaning as defined in section 1 of chapter 151B.

'Short-term survival', an individual's assessed probability of surviving an acute illness from which they are presently suffering and being successfully discharged from a hospital or other inpatient medical facility.

(b) It shall be an unlawful practice:

(i) For any public or private entity or agency of the commonwealth, to approve or implement a plan for the distribution of scarce healthcare resources during a crisis, including, but not limited to, crisis standards of care implemented during a public health emergency, that deny an individual lifesaving treatment or place an individual at reduced priority for lifesaving treatment if such a determination is based on: (A) a presumption that an individual has a reduced quality of life due to a disability or chronic health condition; (B) a presumption that an individual's life is less worth saving due to a disability or chronic health condition; or (C) any measure, metric, or third party analysis which has the effect of setting a value for the life of an individual or individuals with a specific disability or medical diagnosis that is less than the value given to the life of an individual or individuals without a disability; provided however that this subsection shall not prohibit such a plan from considering an individual's prospects for short-term survival in determining whether they are prioritized for care.

(ii) For any public or private entity or agency of the commonwealth, to withhold any medical treatment to an individual based on: (A) a presumption that an individual has a reduced quality of life due to a disability or chronic health condition; (B) a presumption that an individual's life is less worth saving due to a disability or chronic health condition; or (C) any measure, metric, or third party analysis which has the effect of setting a value for the life of an individual or individuals with a specific disability or medical diagnosis that is less than the value given to the life of an individual or individuals without a disability.

(iii) For any public or private entity or agency of the commonwealth, when determining whether a healthcare treatment should be available within a formulary, or determining the value of a healthcare treatment, to employ a measure or metric which assigns a reduced value to the life extension provided by a treatment based on a pre-existing disability or chronic health condition of the individuals whom the treatment would benefit.

(iv) For a hospital or other entity engaged in the provision of healthcare to: (A) condition the provision of treatment on an individual having an order to not resuscitate,

advance directive or any instruction relating to the administration, withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining procedures or artificially administered nutrition and hydration; (B) communicate to any individual or person acting on behalf of the individual, before or after admission to the hospital, that treatment is conditioned on the individual having an order to not resuscitate, an advance directive or any instruction relating to the administration, withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining procedures or artificially administered nutrition and hydration; (C) suggest to any individual, or person acting on behalf of the individual, who contacts the hospital regarding treatment for the individual that admission or treatment is conditioned on the individual having an order to not resuscitate, an advance directive or any instruction relating to the administration, withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining procedures or artificially administered nutrition and hydration; or (D) discriminate in any other way against an individual based on whether the individual has an order to not resuscitate, an advance directive or any instruction relating to the administration, withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining procedures or artificially administered nutrition and hydration.

(c) This subsection shall not prohibit a hospital from providing written materials and information about advance directives to an individual or prohibit a licensed health care professional from engaging in a discussion with an individual about the written materials and information, so long as the professional does not disproportionately advise an individual to sign an advanced directive based on the race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or disability status of said individual.

(d) Nothing in this subsection shall prevent healthcare practitioners, hospitals or other healthcare entities from providing a medically appropriate course of treatment to an individual that they believe will extend that individual's life, improve their symptoms or alleviate pain and suffering.

(e) The secretary of health and human services shall promulgate regulations to implement this subsection.

SECTION X. The secretary of health and human services shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of subsection 20 of section 4 of chapter 151B not later than 60 days after the effective date of this act."

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding at the end of line 198 the following:- " ; provided further that a second subsequent offense in violation of Section 13A or Section 13I of Chapter 265 against an employee, as defined in section 250 of chapter 111, while the employee was in the line of duty at a health care facility, as defined in said section 250 of said chapter 111 shall be considered a felony offense and not a misdemeanor."

17

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

18

"SECTION _____. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this act shall be found to be consistent with any requirements or regulations as enacted under the Federal Elder Justice Act as codified in 42 U.S.C. § 1397(j) - (m)(5)."

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

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

Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Dighton to use a portion of conservation land for public way purposes (Senate, No. 3052),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Dighton,--
conservation land.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Milton to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4813),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Milton,-- liquor
licenses.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land in the town of Billerica for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path (House, No. 5492,-- on House, No. 4440) [Local approval received on House, No. 4440],-- was read.

Billerica,-- land.

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

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill to improve Massachusetts home care (House, No. 4706),-- was read a second time.

Home care,--
improvement.

After remarks, and pending the question on adoption of 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 3170, and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Moore moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section __ the following section:-

“SECTION __. (a) There shall be a task force to evaluate current best practices and make recommendations to strengthen medication administration in rest homes, as defined in Section 71 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws. The task force shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following: (i) a review of the current practice of utilizing responsible persons, as defined in 105 CMR 150.001, for medication administration to residents who cannot self-administer medications; (ii) review of other models of medication administration that may be currently in use at rest homes in Massachusetts or other states; (iii) review of other models of medication administration that may be in place in other residential or day programs, including the Medication Administration Program authorized by Section 7 of Chapter 94C of the General Laws that is used in community programs, as defined in 105 CMR 700.001; and (iv) to the extent possible, a review of all operational and financial factors relative to implementing a new system for administering medications in a rest home.

(b) The task force shall consist of the secretary of health and human services, or their designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of public health, or their designee; the chairs of the joint committee on aging and independence, or their designees; and 5 members, 3 of whom shall be representatives from the Massachusetts Association of Residential Care Homes, Inc., 2 of whom shall be representatives of LeadingAge Massachusetts, Inc.

(c) The task force shall submit a report of its findings, including any recommendations or proposed legislative or regulatory language necessary to carry out its recommendations, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on aging and independence not later than December 31, 2026.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

1

Messrs. Moore, O'Connor and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 3, by inserting after the word "Union", in line 249, the following words:- " , 1 of whom shall be a representative of MassPACE, Inc.,".

3

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Keenan and Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, in line 136, by striking the word "recommend", and inserting in place thereof the following word:- "require".

5

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Friedman, Messrs. O'Connor, Tarr and Collins and Ms. Lovely moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 3, by striking out, in line 241, the figure "17" and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- "1"; and

4

In said section 3, by inserting after the word "Advisors", in line 253, the following words:- " , 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts chapter of the Alzheimer's Association".

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

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

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Creem, the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Charlene M. Naylor.

Moment of silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill relative to energy affordability, clean power and economic competitiveness (House, No. 5175),-- 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 3166, and striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: "An Act to save people money, repair the climate and grow the economy"; and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Cusak of Natick, Michlewitz of Boston and Jones of North Reading had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Clean energy.

On motion of Ms. Lovely, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Barrett, Creem and Tarr were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to grant easements to NSTAR electric company d/b/a Eversource Energy in return for NSTAR releasing or modifying easements for the benefit of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2922),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft, with the same title (Senate, No. 3180).

NSTAR easements.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Keenan, 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.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence (House, No. 4767),-- was considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Workplace
violence,--
prevention.

5

Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Comerford, Mr. Barrett, Ms. Howard and Ms. Creem moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 6 by striking out, in line 197 and 198, the words “health care facility, as defined in said section 250 of said chapter 111” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “hospital licensed under section 51 of said chapter 111 or the teaching hospital of the University of Massachusetts medical school established under section 34 of chapter 75”;

By inserting after section 6 the following section:-

“SECTION 6A. Said section 28 of said chapter 276, as amended by section 6, is hereby further amended by striking out the words ‘hospital licensed under section 51 of said chapter 111 or the teaching hospital of the University of Massachusetts medical school established under section 34 of chapter 75’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘health care facility, as defined in said section 250 of said chapter 111’.”;

In section 7, by inserting after the word “diagnosis”, in line 207, the following words:- “or an intellectual or developmental disability including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder”;

In said section 7 by striking out, in line 215 and 216, the words “and (iv)” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “(iv) identifying best practices and staff training standards to de-escalate violent or threatening conduct and to minimize reliance on law enforcement intervention in group home settings operated, funded or subject to oversight by the department of developmental services; and (v)”;

By adding the following section:-

“SECTION 8. Section 6A shall take effect 1 year after the effective date of this act.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, by striking out, in line 7, the words “at, volunteering” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “at a health care facility, or an individual volunteering”.

15

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, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence with the amendment [For text of Senate amendment printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3184].

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the House Bill to improve Massachusetts home care (House, No. 4706),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Home care,--
improvement.

18

Messrs. Tarr and O'Connor moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 1, by inserting after the word “techniques”, in line 180, the following words:- “including but not limited to, techniques to assist with home care consumers with neurocognitive disorders”;

In said section 1, by inserting after the word “complaints”, in line 99, the following words:- “including, but not limited to, safe evacuation protocols and emergency back up care for such evacuations to avoid disciplinary actions”;

In said section 1, by inserting after the word “chairs”, in line 144, the following words:- “and ranking minority members”;

In said section 1, by inserting after the word “chairs”, in line 193, the following words:- “and ranking minority members”; and

In said section 3, by inserting after the word “chairs”, in line 240, the following words:- “and ranking minority members”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 3, by inserting after the word “independence”, in line 266, the following words:- “, the joint committee on health care financing”.

6

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, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment [For text of Senate amendment printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3183].

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Jane Yolen.

The Senator from Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester, Ms. Comerford moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Jane Yolen,

Jane Yolen, the prolific and beloved author whose stories reshaped children's literature and gave voice to myth, history, folklore, and imagination, died peacefully in June, at home with her family by her side.

Jane was born on February 11, 1939 in New York City, the first child of Isabel Berlin Yolen and Will Hyatt Yolen. A couple of years later she was joined by her brother Steve.

In New York City, she excelled in school, dancing, piano, and, of course, writing. She studied ballet at Balanchine's school. During this time, she and Steve created a newspaper for their apartment building. Their mother typed and Xeroxed the papers which they sold for five cents each to the neighbors they'd interviewed.

In her 13th year, the family moved to Westport, Connecticut where she sang in the choir, was captain of the girls' basketball team, won debate awards, was News Editor of the school paper, and was vice president of the Spanish and Latin Clubs. She matriculated to Smith College where, by senior year, she was president of the Press Board and had won poetry and journalism awards.

After college, she moved back to New York City and became an assistant editor at Knopf—writing during lunch breaks, evenings, and weekends. At work, she wrote copy for many books, including CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. While she considered herself a poet and journalist, on her 22nd birthday, she sold her first children's book—called PIRATES IN PETTICOATS. Shortly after, she sold her first picture book, SEE THIS LITTLE LINE illustrated by Kathleen Elgin.

It was there, in the Village, that she met David Stemple, whom she married several years later. For the better part of a year, they toured Europe and Israel, camping in their van and working on kibbutzes. They returned pregnant with their daughter Heidi. They settled in Massachusetts and had two boys. They bought a 15-acre farm in Hatfield with four barns—one of which they opened up for artisans including potters and leather workers, silversmiths, and instrument makers.

Jane was passionate about community—she was the second person to join the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and established its first regional conference in

New England. She started the Western Massachusetts Illustrator's Guild. She taught children's literature at Smith College and lectured all over the country.

OWL MOON, illustrated by John Schoenherr, was published in 1988 and won the Caldecott metal.

Jane championed free speech, book access for all, our connection with the natural world, children confronting injustice, and trusted readers of all ages to take in the truth.

Her novel BRIAR ROSE was burned on the steps of the Kansas City Courthouse. She mentored other writers and wrote books to showcase new illustrators. Her books won many awards including The Christopher Medal, the Golden Kite Award, The Nebula, The World Fantasy Award, The Mythopoeic Award, The Sophie Brodie Medal, The Anne Izzard Storytelling Award, The Association of Jewish Libraries Award, and the Catholic Libraries Medal, as well as many awards for her full body-of-work. She has been honored many times by the Massachusetts Book Award committee, most notably in 2019 for MAPPING THE BONES. More importantly, she received mail from readers almost daily telling her what a difference her books had made in their lives.

Her husband David died in 2006 after 44 years of marriage and a hard-fought battle with cancer. During his treatment, she wrote a series of sonnets, one each day. THE RADIATION SONNETS was published, and it helped countless readers through their own medical crises.

In 2018 Jane published her 365th and 366th book on the same day. And in 2026, she published her 450th book.

It's hard to overstate the role Jane played in the field of children's literature. She believed that books for children were one of the most important building blocks of childhood and she refused to talk down to readers of any age. That said, she never took herself too seriously. She loved a pun and any kind of world play. She was known to climb atop a piano and belt out a song. And she loved to remind writers that the magic word for all writing was BIC which was short for "Butt In Chair." Scholarships in her name will continue to support writers into the future.

She was predeceased by her parents, Will and Isabel Yolen and her husband David Stemple. She is survived by her brother Steven Yolen, her children, Heidi E.Y. Stemple, Adam Stemple, and Jason Stemple, her daughters-in-laws Elizabeth and Joanne, as well as her grandchildren, Maddison, Ariel, David, Caroline, and Amelia, her grandson-in-law Richard, her son-out-law Dennis, and her partner Peter.

Beyond that, she will be missed deeply by her wider creative family of authors, illustrators, and readers. Thankfully, her legacy of story will live on in her books.

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

Adjournment in Memory of Charlene M. Naylor.

The Senator from Hampden, Mr. Gomez, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Charlene M. Naylor.

Overseer Charlene M. Naylor of Springfield passed from this life on June 25, 2026, at the age of seventy.

Overseer Charlene Naylor was born on March 9, 1956, the seventh of ten children raised in the Winchester Square neighborhood of our city. As a young woman she gave her heart to her childhood sweetheart, Archbishop Leonard Naylor, Sr., and not long after gave her

life to her faith. Together they built a marriage, a ministry, and a family that this city has come to know and love as Naylor Nation, ten children, thirty-eight grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, every one of them shaped by her example.

In 1987, Holy Redeemer Church began in the basement of her own home, and Charlene Naylor rose with it, as First Lady, and in time as Overseer. She served her congregation in nearly every capacity a church can name, as choir director, Sunday School superintendent, counselor, prayer warrior, and faithful worker, and she never once treated a title as more important than the people it was meant to serve. To her, the goal was always greater than the role.

She was, in the truest sense, a builder. She founded the Deborah Transitional House to shelter and restore women and young mothers in crisis. She opened Charlene's Boutique, a place where women across this country came not only to shop, but to find prayer, counsel, and encouragement. She served on the national stage as President of the Women's Department of the National Fellowship Council of Churches. And in the final season of her life, she was honored as a 2026 Commonwealth Heroine here at this State House and named Abbess of the The New England Province by The Holy Communion of Churches, a mother, at last in title, to the community she had already mothered for decades.

Springfield has lost one of its finest, and Heaven has gained a faithful servant. Overseer Charlene Naylor leaves behind her beloved husband, her ten children, and generations who will carry her faith forward. She will be deeply missed by all who had the honor of knowing her.

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