

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026**

## JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Met at twelve minutes past one o'clock P.M. (Mr. Crighton in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

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The Chair (Mr. Crighton), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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Pledge of  
allegiance.

### *Communication.*

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

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the appointment of Michael Hursh (pursuant to Section 37P(b) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) to the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding (SRO MOU) Review Commission (received January 15, 2026); and

Communication from the Honorable Michael O. Moore, in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A (received Thursday, January 15, 2025 at three o'clock P.M.).

School Resource  
Officer  
Memorandum of  
Understanding,--  
appt.  
Senator Michael O.  
Moore,-- Chapter  
268A.

### *Reports.*

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

Report of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (pursuant to line item 0840-0100 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) its Victim Compensation 2025 report (received January 12, 2026);

MOVA,-- 2025  
report.  
SD3575

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to line item 1595-6153 of Section 2E of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Communications Access Trust Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 12, 2026);

A&F,-- Trust Fund  
report.  
SD3576

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 14, 2026);

A&F,-- EA  
Housing bi-weekly  
report.  
SD3577

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Jail, Ash Street Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 14, 2026);

DPH,-- Bristol  
County Jail Ash  
Street Facility  
Inspection report.  
SD3580

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 22C of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its Triennial Pension Schedule (received January 14, 2026);

A&F,-- Triennial  
Pension Schedule.  
SD3581

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its January 2026 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Quarterly Outlook report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate

DER,-- UI trust  
fund quarterly  
outlook report.  
SD3582

Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development) (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association (pursuant line item 0340-2100 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its District Attorneys' Prosecution Statistics 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 15, 2026); and

Report of the Cape and Islands District Attorney (under the provisions of Section 6 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws) submitting its Victim Witness Assistance Program Plan 2026 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 15, 2026).

MDAA,--  
Prosecution  
Statistics 2025  
report.  
SD3583  
Cape & Islands  
DA,-- Victim  
Witness Assistance  
2026 report.  
SD3584

*Petitions.*

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

Mr. Tarr presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2913) of Bruce E. Tarr and Tram T. Nguyen (by vote of the town) for legislation to extend the time for the town of Boxford to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

Boxford,-- liquor  
licenses.

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nick Collins for legislation to designate the Dorchester division of the Boston municipal court as Judge Leslie E. Harris courthouse;

Dorchester,--  
Judge Leslie E.  
Harris courthouse.  
SD3598  
Law enforcement,-  
- face coverings.  
SD3574

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Rebecca L. Rausch, James K. Hawkins, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure law enforcement identification for public safety; and

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark for legislation to amend the sewer district in the town of Colrain;

Colrain,-- sewer  
district.  
SD3596

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

*Order.*

Mr. Cronin presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 2743 and 2861, relative to public safety and homeland security matters (Senate, No. 2912);

Public Safety and  
Homeland  
Security,--  
extension order.

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

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on Senate, No. 2221, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to zero-based budgeting and budget transparency (Senate, No. 2909); and

State  
Administration and  
Regulatory  
Oversight,-- study.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate Nos. 2224, 2225 and 2226, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on State Administration and Regulatory

Id.

Oversight to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to the emergency assistance shelter system (Senate, No. 2910);

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

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Resolve, establishing a special commission to ensure the safety and sustainability of non-profit public events (Senate, No. 1664); and

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority (Senate, No. 2191);

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

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill relative to pharmacists as healthcare providers (Senate, No. 800);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to dental insurance consumer protections (Senate, No. 808);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to health purchasing cooperatives (Senate, No. 828);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to ensure access to prescription medication and community pharmacies (Senate, No. 831);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to further define medical necessity determinations (Senate, No. 835);

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill relative to newborn infant safe sleep practices (Senate, No. 1492 changed in line 1 by inserting before the word “every,” the following language:- “SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is amended by adding the following new section:- Section 249.”);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Resolve addressing EMS and health care services shortfalls in southeastern Massachusetts (Senate, No. 1536, changed in line 21 by striking out the word “work” and replacing it with the word “consult”); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1569), a Bill to improve oral health for all Massachusetts residents (Senate, No. 2854);

**Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.**

By Mr. Gómez, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on petition, a Bill to establish a downtown vitality fund to strengthen local business districts and main streets (Senate, No. 173);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting small business growth in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 175);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill encouraging the adoption of smart growth and starter home zoning districts (Senate, No. 176);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill directing capital assistance to microbusinesses and small businesses (Senate, No. 178);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill prioritizing underserved businesses (Senate, No. 179);

Non-profit events,-  
- commission.

Municipal building  
financing  
authority.

Pharmacists,--  
healthcare  
providers.  
Dental insurance,--  
protection.

Health purchasing  
cooperatives.

Prescription  
medication,--  
access.  
Mental health,--  
necessary care.

Infants,-- sleep  
practices.

Health care  
services,--  
deficiencies.

Dental therapist  
licensure.

Downtown  
vitality,-- board.

Small business,--  
rights.

Zoning districts.

Small businesses,--  
assistance.

Underserved  
business,-- priority.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving microbusiness and small business representation (Senate, No. 180);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill promoting microbusiness and small business assistance transparency (Senate, No. 184);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the MassMade Program (Senate, No. 186);

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 531), a Bill providing a local option for ranked choice voting in municipal elections (Senate, No. 2911);

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill reforming auto body labor rates (Senate, No. 797);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish the Massachusetts loan loss guarantee program for community development financial institutions (Senate, No. 815);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill including worker-owned businesses economic development programs (Senate, No. 816);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 729 and 826, a Bill relative to notifying broker prior to termination of coverage (Senate, No. 826);

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on Senate, Nos. 1611 and 1612, a Bill establishing natural organic reduction in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2851);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1597), a Bill relative to a healthier, stronger Massachusetts (Senate, No. 2852);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1596), a Bill relative to monitoring dry casks of spent nuclear fuel (Senate, No. 2853);

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Bill relative to access to community corrections (Senate, No. 1643);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to codify the Suffolk County Sheriff's authority to provide pre-arraignment care of arrestees (Senate, No. 1645);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to violation of regulation regarding hot work processes (Senate, No. 1646);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill implementing the recommendations of the Walsh-Kennedy Commission Report (Senate, No. 1647) [Senator Eldridge dissenting];

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to successful de-escalation techniques (Senate, No. 1648);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 1650, 1641, 1712, 1744, and 1780, a Bill creating a municipal and public safety building authority (Senate, No. 1650);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to postsecondary education in correctional facilities (Senate, No. 1654);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to connect veterans with earned benefits (Senate, No. 1656);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to successful transition and re-entry to tomorrow for incarcerated persons (Senate, No. 1661);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the sex offender registry (Senate, No. 1663);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill regulating access to the disclosure of certain police reports (Senate, No. 1665);

MA Development Finance Agency,-- representation. Small business,-- assistance.

MassMade program.

Municipal elections,-- local option.

Auto body,-- labor rates.

Loan loss guarantee program.

Worker-owned businesses.

Insurance,-- termination of coverage  
Natural organic reduction,-- deceased.

Healthy and active lifestyles.

Nuclear fuel,-- monitoring.

Community corrections,-- access.

Regional lockup,-- Suffolk county.

Hot work,-- certification.

Welding,-- safety regulations.

Law enforcement, - de-escalation.

Municipal,-- Public Safety Building Authority.

Postsecondary education,-- opportunities.

Veterans,-- earned benefits.

Incarcerated persons,-- re-entry.

Sex offender registry,-- police and fire.

Police reports,-- disclosure.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to motor vehicle battery storage (Senate, No. 1667);

Motor vehicle battery,-- disclosure. Privileged contact.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to establish privileged contact with members of the general court (Senate, No. 1727);

Unmanned aerial systems.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems (Senate, No. 1734);

Public Safety Fund.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the establishment of the PFAS Research and Development Public Safety Fund (Senate, No. 1735);

Impaired driving,-- commission.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a standing commission on operating under the influence and impaired driving (Senate, No. 1737);

Sex offender registry,-- oversight. Sheriffs,-- administration.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to oversight of the sex offender registry board (Senate, No. 1738);

Entrepreneurship,-- public procurement.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to sheriffs (Senate, No. 1739);

OMER,-- office.

By Mr. Collins, for the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, on petition, a Bill to promote public procurement and inclusive entrepreneurship (Senate, No. 2123);

Supplier diversity office.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the creation of the office of municipal efficiency and regionalization (OMER) (Senate, No. 2171);

Conductive concrete,-- commission.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to transparency and accountability in procurement (Senate, No. 2178);

Milton,-- intersection improvement project.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects (Senate, No. 2190); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, to grant permanent easements over certain land in the town of Milton for highway purposes (Senate, No. 2657);

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

BID Board.

By Mr. Gómez, for the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, on petition, a Bill to improve management of business improvement districts (Senate, No. 174);

Credit Unions,-- board compensation. Nuclear weapons,-- prohibition.

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill allowing fair compensation of Massachusetts credit union directors (Senate, No. 821);

By Mr. Cronin, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, on petition, a Resolutions to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and move the US back from the brink of nuclear war (Senate, No. 1649); and

Emergency service providers,-- intervention.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to strengthen critical incident stress management for emergency service providers (Senate, No. 1730);

**Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

#### PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4262) of Samantha Montañó (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to ranked choice voting in the city of Boston;

Boston,-- ranked choice voting.

**To the committee on Election Laws.**

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4924) of Christopher J. Worrell (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston be authorized to establish the Boston inspector general oversight commission;

Boston Inspector  
General Oversight  
Commission.

**To the committee on Public Service.**

**Bills**

Authorizing the city known as the town of Bridgewater to amend its charter for gender neutral language (House, No. 4781,-- on House, No. 4578) [Local approval received on House, No. 4578]; and

Bridgewater,--  
charter.

Authorizing the select board of the town of Arlington to place upon a town ballot a question to increase the number of licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4815,-- on House, No. 4473) [Local approval received on House, No. 4473];

Arlington,-- liquor  
licenses.

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

*Engrossed Bills.*

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Crighton) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Amending the charter of the town of Provincetown (see House, No. 4175); and

Bills laid before  
the Governor.

Amending the charter of the city of Greenfield (see House, No. 4379).

*Matters Take 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 House Bill amending the charter of the town of Seekonk (House, No. 4459),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Seekonk,-- charter.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Billerica to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of police officer (House, No. 4632, amended),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Billerica,-- police  
officer age.

*Reports of Committees.*

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill providing for recall elections in the town of Rutland (Senate, No. 2789) [Local approval received];

Rutland,-- recall  
elections.

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

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

The Senate Bill relative to PEG access and cable related funds (Senate, No. 1454).

Municipalities,--  
cable related funds.

The Senate Bill designating a certain bridge in the city of New Bedford in the memory of Silver Star recipient Corporal Francis J. McHugh (Senate, No. 2425).

New Bedford,--  
Corporal Francis J.  
McHugh bridge.

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, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act designating a certain bridge in the city of New Bedford as the Corporal Francis J. McHugh Memorial Bridge”.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill establishing the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day (House, No. 3306) (also based on Senate, No. 2153).

Tuskegee Airmen  
Commemoration  
Day.

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

#### PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to the purchase or lease of certain property known as Fenn Farm in the town of Stockbridge (House, No. 4648,-- on petition),-- was read.

Stockbridge,-  
Fenn Farm.

Ms. Creem in the Chair, 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.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4962) of Dennis C. Gallagher for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Sally Desrosiers, an employee of the Department of Correction,-- was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Sally Desrosiers,--  
sick leave.

#### *Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

##### Bills

Providing accidental death benefits for the surviving spouse of a former firefighter of the City of Boston (Senate, No. 2574);

Second reading  
bills.

Relative to maintenance of private roads in the city of Gloucester (Senate, No. 2596);

Granting the city of Worcester the authority to require the adoption of institutional master plans (Senate, No. 2617);

Relative to the select board of the town of Berlin (Senate, No. 2626); and

Changing the name of the board of selectmen in the town of Williamsburg to select board (House, No. 4524);

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

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

The Senate Bill to prevent property tax bill shocks (Senate, No. 1933),-- was read a second time.

Property,-- tax bill  
shocks.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment, previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2899), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Rausch and Mr. Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after the word “town”, in line 39, the following words:- “; and provided further, that a municipality may, at the time of adoption, expand the definition to a household that includes a person who is not more than 17 years old, as determined by the city or town”.

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After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Kennedy, Messrs. Collins and Montigny, Ms. Comerford and Messrs. Fernandes and Payano moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after subsection (h), the following subsection:-

4

“(i) An acceptance of this section by a city or town shall provide a 26.5 percent increase in such city or town’s allocation of unrestricted general governmental aid, lottery aid as provided by section 18C of chapter 58 of the General Laws, in fiscal year 2027.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rush, Ms. Miranda and Ms. Edwards moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

6

“Notwithstanding section 1A of chapter 58 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of revenue shall upon acceptance by the city of Boston, adjust the minimum residential factor of the City of Boston determined under said section 1A of said chapter 58 for fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029, if adoption of such factor for any such year would result in the residential property class bearing a higher percentage of the total property tax levy than the percentage of the total property tax levy imposed on the residential property class in fiscal year 2025. The new minimum residential factor for such year shall be: (a) for fiscal year 2027, 50 per cent subject to such adjustment upward as may be required to provide that the percentage of the total tax levy imposed on any class of real or personal property shall not exceed 181.5 per cent of the full and fair cash valuation of the taxable property of the class divided by the full and fair cash valuation of all taxable real and personal property in the City of Boston; (b) in fiscal year 2028, 50 per cent subject to such adjustment upward as may be required to provided that the percentage of the total tax levy imposed on any class of real or personal property shall not exceed 180 per cent of the full and fair cash valuation of the taxable property of the class divided by the full and fair cash valuation of all taxable real and personal property in the City of Boston; (c) in fiscal year 2029, 50 per cent subject to such adjustment upward as may be required to provide that the percentage of the total tax levy imposed on any class of real or personal property shall not exceed 178 per cent of the full and fair cash valuation of the taxable property of the class divided by the full and fair cash valuation of all taxable real and personal property in the City of Boston; (d) in fiscal year 2030 and thereafter, the determination of the minimum residential factor shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions detailed in section 1A of chapter 58. Payments made under section 38H of chapter 59 of the General Laws, and similar provisions of special acts, that are included in the tax levy for purposes of determining the minimum residential factor under said section 1A of said chapter 58 shall be so included in the determination of any factor under this section.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-nine minutes before three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Rush, as follows, to wit (yeas 5 – nays 33) **[Yeas and Nays No. 117]:**

**YEAS.**

DiDomenico, Sal N.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Jehlen, Patricia D.

Miranda, Liz  
Rush, Michael F. – 5.

**NAYS.**

Barrett, Michael J.  
Brady, Michael D.  
Brownsberger, William N.  
Collins, Nick  
Comerford, Joanne M.  
Creem, Cynthia Stone

Friedman, Cindy F.  
Gómez, Adam  
Keenan, John F.  
Kennedy, Robyn K.  
Lewis, Jason M.  
Lovely, Joan B.

Crighton, Brendan P.  
Cronin, John J.  
Cyr, Julian  
Dooner, Kelly A.  
Driscoll, Jr., William J.  
Durant, Peter J.  
Eldridge, James B.  
Fattman, Ryan C.  
Feeney, Paul R.  
Fernandes, Dylan A.  
Finegold, Barry R.

Mark, Paul W.  
Montigny, Mark C.  
Moore, Michael O.  
O'Connor, Patrick M.  
Oliveira, Jacob R.  
Payano, Pavel  
Rausch, Rebecca L.  
Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Spilka, Karen E.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – 33.

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-three minutes before three o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was 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 in memory of Dr. Stuart H. Altman.

Moment of silence.

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill to prevent property tax bill shocks (Senate, No. 1933),-- the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2899, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

Property,-- tax bill shocks.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at sixteen minutes before three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows to wit (yeas 37 – nays 1) **[Yeas and Nays No. 118]:**

**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.

Friedman, Cindy F.  
Gómez, Adam  
Jehlen, Patricia D.  
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.

Feeney, Paul R.  
Fernandes, Dylan A.  
Finegold, Barry R.

Spilka, Karen E.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – 37.

**NAYS.**

Keenan, John F. – 1.

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at eleven minutes before three o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2917].**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Report of a Committee.*

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

The Senate Bill relative to veteran property tax work-off (Senate, No. 1948).

Veterans,--  
property tax.

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

*Remarks of Senator Bruce E. Tarr.*

I want to thank the gentleman from the sandy cape for filing this underlying measure. It is a good measure and is pretty straightforward. My hope is that we move forward with that measure today. But it is also my hope that we tackle a much larger issue by finally recognizing the need to address the disparity between the service-connected disability and the property tax exemption. This has needed to be addressed for many session and many members of this chamber have been trying to get at this issue, which many other states have already addressed. We have been told it's complicated and we need to study it, go through the manual of delaying legislation excuses. Lo and behold, through the assistance of the Ways and Means Committee, there in fact was a study. It estimated the financial impacts and identified assumptions and limitations. The study is done. What isn't done is out enactment of what is by any objective consideration a fair way to approach the nexus between service-connected disability and property tax exemption. There is no doubt this comes with a cost. We know the commonwealth reimburses the municipalities when they provide this type of exemption, as we should for these people who sacrificed for our nation. So when we saw the bill arise, you can understand why we sought to seize the moment and go even further to address this lingering problem. So the instant amendment would enact the kind of tax exemption system where the level of service-connected disability would be reflected in the amount of the property tax exemption. Predictably, there has been concern about adopting this amendment even today. Once again, that is frustrating. And so we understand that there may be reluctance to move forward with this today but there cannot be reluctance to move this in this legislative session so the progress we have made is not lost. So, I am going to withdraw the amendment and within 24 hours we will file a new bill reflecting the substance of this amendment. We will invite co-sponsorship from anyone interested in this issue. We will work to have that bill admitted expeditiously to get it to Ways and Means and onto the floor of the Senate.

Remarks of  
Senator Bruce E.  
Tarr.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6A, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at eleven minutes past three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Cyr, as follows to wit (yeas 38 – nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 119]:

**YEAS.**

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J.       | Friedman, Cindy F.    |
| Brady, Michael D.         | Gómez, Adam           |
| 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. – 38.  |

**NAYS – 0.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at eighteen minutes past three o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed.  
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the Senate Bill relative to municipal tax relief (Senate, No. 1935),-- was read a second time.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment, previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2900), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Messrs. Collins and O'Connor moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION X. There shall be no income limit to determine eligibility for veterans for the purposes of property tax exemption.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION X. Residential valuation increases year over of 5% or more that do not involve new construction or significant rehabilitation shall be prohibited.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

Municipalities,--  
tax rebate.

3

4

5

“SECTION X. Cities or towns may provide a property tax exemption for small businesses that have ten employees or less.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Collins and Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION 2. Section 59 of said chapter 59, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 4 and 5, the words ‘on or before’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- not more than 45 days after.”

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-seven minutes past three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Collins, as follows, to wit (yeas 36 – nays 1) **[Yeas and Nays No. 120]:**

**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  
Jehlen, Patricia D.  
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. – **36.**

**NAYS.**

Keenan, John F. – **1.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-seven minutes before four o’clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION X. City or town councils, with the approval of the mayor, are authorized to expend surplus funds to provide Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to municipal employees and retirees.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Collins and Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“Section 1. (a) Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out, in line 1785, the figure ‘\$10,000’ and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$30,000”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Crighton in the Chair, Messrs. Collins and Montigny moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

“SECTION 2. Clause forty-first C of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- A city, by vote of its council and approval of its mayor, or a town, by vote of town meeting, may adjust the following factors contained in these provisions by: (i) reducing the requisite age of eligibility to any person age 65 years or older; (ii) increasing the sum contained in the first sentence of this clause from \$500 to \$1500; (iii) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (B) of the first sentence of this clause from \$13,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to, in both instances, not more than 50 per cent of the area median income as adjusted for household size, as is published annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as required by section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937, 42 USC Section 1437f, as amended; provided, however, that the relevant year of the calculation shall be the most recent figure available as of July 1 of the start of the fiscal year to which the exemption is sought; (iv) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (C) of the first sentence of this clause from \$28,000 dollars to not more than \$80,000 and from \$30,000 to not more than \$110,000; and (v) by further excluding from the determination of whole estate up to 3 dwelling units.”

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-four minutes before four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 36 – nays 1) **[Yeas and Nays No. 121]:**

**YEAS.**

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J.       | Finegold, Barry R.          |
| Brady, Michael D.         | Friedman, Cindy F.          |
| Brownsberger, William N.  | Gómez, Adam                 |
| Collins, Nick             | Jehlen, Patricia D.         |
| 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. – <b>36.</b> |

**NAYS.**

Keenan, John F. – **1.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – **1.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at eighteen minutes before four o'clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2900, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at seventeen minutes before four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Collins, as follows to wit (yeas 37 – nays 1) [**Yeas and Nays No. 122**]:

**YEAS.**

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J.       | Friedman, Cindy F.    |
| Brady, Michael D.         | Gómez, Adam           |
| Brownsberger, William N.  | Jehlen, Patricia D.   |
| Collins, Nick             | Kennedy, Robyn K.     |
| Comerford, Joanne M.      | Lewis, Jason M.       |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone      | Lovely, Joan B.       |
| Crighton, Brendan P.      | Mark, Paul W.         |
| Cronin, John J.           | Miranda, Liz          |
| Cyr, Julian               | Montigny, Mark C.     |
| DiDomenico, Sal N.        | Moore, Michael O.     |
| Dooner, Kelly A.          | O'Connor, Patrick M.  |
| Driscoll, Jr., William J. | Oliveira, Jacob R.    |
| Durant, Peter J.          | Payano, Pavel         |
| Edwards, Lydia            | Rausch, Rebecca L.    |
| Eldridge, James B.        | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Fattman, Ryan C.          | Rush, Michael F.      |
| Feeney, Paul R.           | Spilka, Karen E.      |
| Fernandes, Dylan A.       | Tarr, Bruce E. – 37.  |
| Finegold, Barry R.        |                       |

**2901NAYS.**

Keenan, John F. – 1.

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at eleven minutes before four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2915].**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

The Senate Bill relative to senior property tax deferral (Senate, No. 2713),-- was read a second time.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment, previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2901), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Collins and Eldridge and Ms. Jehlen moved that the proposed new draft be amended by adding the following sections:-

“SECTION X. Said section 5 of said chapter 59, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘or’, in line 563, the following words:- the expiration of 1 year after.

SECTION X. Said section 5 of said chapter 59, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘or’, in line 569, the following words:- the expiration of 1 year after.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Tarr, Montigny and Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section \_ the following sections:-

Senior,-- property  
tax deferral.

1

2

“SECTION \_\_. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the definition of ‘Real estate tax payment’ as appearing in lines 391 through 410, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:–

‘Real estate tax payment’, the real estate tax levied pursuant to chapter 59 on the taxpayer’s residence and actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year, including water and sewer debt service charges assessed pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, exclusive of special assessments and delinquent interest, and less any abatement granted. For owners of residential property located in communities which have not exercised the option to assess water or sewer debt service charges pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also include 50 per cent of the owner’s water and sewer charges actually paid in the taxable year for which the credit is sought, as well as 50 per cent of the owner’s home energy utility bills actually paid in the taxable year for which the credit is sought. In the case of a multi-unit dwelling, a land area in excess of one acre or a multi-purpose building or land area, the real estate tax payment, including the water and sewer charges as applicable, shall constitute that portion of the real estate tax levied and paid, and that portion of applicable water and sewer charges actually paid, on the entire building or area, which corresponds to the portion of the area or building used and occupied as the residence of the taxpayer, in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner.”

SECTION \_\_. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by striking the definition of ‘Rent constituting real estate tax payment’ as appearing in lines 411 through 414, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following:–

‘Rent constituting real estate tax payment’, 25 per cent of the rent actually paid by the taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of the residence during the taxable year or a portion thereof, as well as 50 per cent of the home energy utility bills actually paid by the taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of the residence during the taxable year or a portion thereof.”

SECTION \_\_. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of “Head of household” the following paragraph:–

‘Real estate tax payment’, the real estate tax levied pursuant to chapter 59 on the taxpayer’s residence and actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year, including water and sewer debt service charges assessed pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, exclusive of special assessments and delinquent interest, and less any abatement granted. For owners of residential property located in communities which have not exercised the option to assess water or sewer debt service charges pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also include 50 per cent of the owner’s water and sewer charges actually paid in the taxable year for which the credit is sought. In the case of a multi-unit dwelling, a land area in excess of one acre or a multi-purpose building or land area, the real estate tax payment, including the water and sewer charges as applicable, shall constitute that portion of the real estate tax levied and paid, and that portion of applicable water and sewer charges actually paid, on the entire building or area, which corresponds to the portion of the area or building used and occupied as the residence of the taxpayer, in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner.”

SECTION \_\_. Said section 6 of said chapter 62 is hereby further amended by inserting after the definition of ‘Real estate tax payment’ the following paragraph:–

‘Rent constituting real estate tax payment’, 25 per cent of the rent actually paid by the taxpayer, under a good faith rental agreement, for the right of occupancy of the residence during the taxable year or a portion thereof.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

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

*Matters 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 as follows:

The House Bill authorizing the Town of Milford Select Board to appoint a highway surveyor (House, No. 4663),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Milford,-- highway surveyor.

The House Bill regulating the appointment of the police chief in the city of Fall River (House, No. 4214) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Fall River,-- police chief.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Westwood to reissue licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises and grant licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4814),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Westwood,-- liquor licenses.

*Report of a Committee.*

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security be granted until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1681, 1776, 2635, 2680, and 2681, relative to public safety and homeland security matters (Senate, No. 2773),-- ought to be adopted.

Public Safety and Homeland Security,-- extension order.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Jehlen and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.**

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill relative to senior property tax deferral (Senate, No. 2713),-- the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Senior,-- property tax deferral.

Messrs. Tarr and Eldridge and Ms. Jehlen moved that the proposed new draft be amended by striking in line 3 the number:- “7” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “5”.

5

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr, Collins and Eldridge, Ms. Jehlen and Ms. Edwards moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section 1 the following section:-

6

“SECTION 1A. Subclause (2) of clause Forty-first A of said section 5 of said chapter 59, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Any city or town may also, by vote of its legislative body, adopt a higher maximum qualifying gross receipts amount for the purposes of this clause; provided, however, that such maximum qualifying gross receipts amount shall not exceed the amount of income determined by the commissioner of revenue for the purposes of subsection (k) of section 6 of chapter 62.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

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

15

“SECTION \_ . Section 6(k)(1) of chapter 62 as appearing in the 2024 official edition is here by amended by inserting line 391 after the word ‘actually paid’ the following:- ‘or deferred’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2901, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at one minute past five o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Jehlen, as follows to wit (yeas 37 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 123**]:

**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  
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. – **37**.

**NAYS – 0.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – **1**.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at seven minutes past five o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2914].**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

The Senate Bill authorizing the establishment of a mean tested senior citizen property tax exemption (Senate, No. 2036),-- was read a second time.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment, previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2902), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Rausch and Mr. Eldridge moved that the proposed new draft be amended by striking out, in line 25, the figure “10” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 7.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Rausch and Mr. Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by adding, in line 49, after the word “levy” the following words:- ; provided, however, that no additional amounts shall be imposed on a taxpayer who, at any time during the applicable tax year: (i) was enrolled in MassHealth or obtained a health care subsidy through the Massachusetts health connector; (ii) received unemployment for a period of not less than 12 weeks; (iii) is

Property tax  
exemption,-- senior  
citizens.

2

3

an owner of a property and whose household includes a person under the age of 18 years old; or (iv) earned less than 200 per cent of the area median income.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Cyr, Collins, Eldridge and Montigny moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

5

“SECTION X. Section 6 of chapter 62 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of ‘Real estate tax payment’ and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

‘Real estate tax payment’, the real estate tax levied pursuant to chapter 59 on the taxpayer's residence and actually paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year, including water and sewer debt service charges assessed pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, exclusive of special assessments and delinquent interest, and less any abatement granted. For owners of residential property located in communities which have not exercised the option to assess water or sewer debt service charges pursuant to subsection (n) of section 21C of chapter 59, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also include 50 per cent of the owner's water and sewer charges actually paid in the taxable year for which the credit is sought. In addition, the real estate tax payment to be considered for purposes of calculating this credit shall also include 50 percent of the owner's home owners insurance policy whether or not required by a mortgage holder, if any. In the case of a multi-unit dwelling, the real estate tax payment, including the water and sewer charges and homeowner insurance cost as applicable shall constitute that portion of the real estate tax levied and paid, and the portion of the applicable water and sewer charges and homeowners insurance charges actually paid, on the entire building or of the taxpayer in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Collins moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section \_ the following section:-

6

“SECTION\_. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after clause Fifty-Eighth the following clause:—

Fifty-ninth. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or any general or special law to the contrary, in a city or town that accepts this clause, the board of assessors shall annually reduce the property tax on the real property of a person who: (i) has attained the age of 70 before the beginning of the fiscal year for which the tax is due; (ii) has been domiciled in and has owned a home in the city or town for not less than 10 consecutive years; and (iii) occupies the property as their domicile, whether individually or jointly with a spouse.

The amount of tax due under this clause shall be the amount assessed on the property in the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the taxpayer attained age 70. The exemption shall apply each year that the taxpayer continues to meet the requirements of this clause.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

The Ways and Means amendment was then adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2902) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-seven minutes past five o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Lewis, as follows to wit (yeas 37 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 124]:**

**YEAS.**

Barrett, Michael J.

Friedman, Cindy F.

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  
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. – 37.

**NAYS – 0.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-seven minutes before six o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

The Senate Bill improving campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees (Senate, No. 507),-- was read a second time.

Ballot question committees.

After remarks, pending the question on adoption of the amendment, previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2898), and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading.

*Recess.*

At twenty minutes before six o'clock P.M., at the request of Mr. Tarr, for the purpose of a minority caucus, the Chair (Mr. Crighton) declared a recess; and, at nine minutes before six o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Crighton in the Chair.

Recess.

*Orders of the Day*

The Senate Bill improving campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees (Senate, No. 507),-- the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Ballot question committees.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section 4 the following section:-

1

“SECTION \_\_. Section 19 of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after paragraph (2) of subsection (b) the following paragraph:—

(2A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the treasurer of a political committee or ballot question committee may petition the director to redact the name or address of a contributor from public disclosure upon a written certification that disclosure would create a credible threat to the personal safety of the contributor or a member of the contributor's household. The director shall review such petition and issue a written

determination within 10 business days. A redaction granted under this paragraph shall not affect the requirement that the treasurer maintain complete internal records of all contributions and contributor information, which shall be available to the director upon request.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

2

“SECTION\_. Section 19 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after paragraph (2) of subsection (b) the following paragraph:—

(2A) The director shall promulgate uniform rules governing the valuation of in-kind contributions and the reporting of liabilities under this subsection. Such rules shall include, but not be limited to: (i) standardized methods for determining the fair-market value of goods and services; (ii) documentation requirements for treasurers; (iii) uniform categories for describing the purpose of liabilities; and (iv) a standard reporting form to ensure consistent and comparable disclosure across committees. Treasurers shall apply such valuation rules and shall maintain supporting records, which shall be available to the director upon request.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

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

3

“SECTION\_. Section 7A of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in subsection (a), clause (2), the words ‘five thousand dollars’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:— ‘ten thousand dollars’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

4

“SECTION\_. Section 7A of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in subsection (a), clause (1), each occurrence of the figure ‘\$1,000’ and inserting in place thereof, the following figure:— ‘\$2,000’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

5

“SECTION\_. Section 7A of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in subsection (a), clause (3), each occurrence of the figure ‘five hundred’ and inserting in place thereof, the following figure:— ‘one thousand’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

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

6

“SECTION\_. Chapter 55 as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting after section 22A the following new section:-

Section 22B. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall, unless a contrary intention clearly appears, have the following meanings:—

‘Municipal ballot question’, any question submitted to the voters of a city or town at a municipal election pursuant to any general or special law, including but not limited to questions authorized under chapters 43, 44, 59, 71, 94G, or any home rule charter or special act.

‘Municipal election’, any election held by a city or town at which a municipal ballot question appears.

‘Municipal clerk’, the city or town clerk responsible for administering the municipal election.

(b) Any person, corporation, association, organization, or other group of persons that has given, paid, expended, or promised to give, pay, or expend \$1,000 or more in the aggregate in order to influence or affect a municipal ballot question shall file reports on a form prescribed by the director.

Such reports shall include:

the date each expenditure was made or liability incurred;

the purpose of each expenditure or liability;

the amount of each expenditure;

the full name and address of each person to whom the expenditure was made or liability incurred;

the full name and address of the person, corporation, association, organization, or group of persons making the expenditure or incurring the liability; and

for each gift, payment, or contribution received to fund such expenditures:

the date of receipt;

the amount;

the full name and address of the contributor.

(c) Reports required under this section shall be filed with the municipal clerk as follows:

Monthly reports — on the fifth day of each month for contributions received or expenditures made during the preceding month;

Pre-election report — on the fifth day preceding the municipal election, complete as to the seventh day preceding the election;

Final report — on the thirtieth day following the municipal election.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any officer, employee, or agent of the commonwealth or its subdivisions from acting in their official or private capacity relative to a municipal ballot question.

(e) Violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.”

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at two minutes past six o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 6 – nays 31) **[Yeas and Nays No. 125]:**

**YEAS.**

Dooner, Kelly A.

Durant, Peter J.

Fattman, Ryan C.

Montigny, Mark C.

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.

Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam

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.

Feeney, Paul R.  
Fernandes, Dylan A.  
Finegold, Barry R.

Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Rush, Michael F. – 31.

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at eight minutes past six o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Rausch and Ms. Edwards moved that the proposed new draft be amended by adding the following section:-

“SECTION 4A. Subsection (f) of said section 19 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The treasurer of a statewide ballot question committee required to designate a depository under this section that receives a contribution of \$500 or more after the eighteenth day but more than 72 hours before the date of an election in which a question favored or opposed by the committee is on the ballot shall file a report to disclose the information required under this section within 72 hours of depositing the contribution.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. DiDomenico, Ms. Rausch and Mr. Payano moved that the proposed new draft be amended by adding the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 6. The treasurer of a statewide ballot question committee shall include in the first report filed with the director of campaign and political finance following the effective date of this act all information required to be reported under chapter 55 dated since the closing date of the last previous report; provided, however, that if there was no previous report by the committee, then the treasurer shall include in said first report all such information dated since January 1, 2026.

SECTION 7. Sections 1 to 5, inclusive, shall take effect 30 days after the effective date of this act.”; and

By inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:-

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to improve campaign finance reporting by statewide ballot question committees, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

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

“SECTION\_. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 109A the following section:—

Section 109B. Post-Election Audits for Statewide Elections.

Following any general election at which one or more statewide offices appear on the ballot, the state secretary shall conduct a post-election audit of voting machines and ballots in not less than 3 per cent of all precincts. The audit shall be conducted in the same manner as an audit conducted under section 109A of chapter 54, including the random selection of precincts and the hand counting of ballots.

The audit shall include all statewide offices appearing on the ballot, including but not limited to Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Treasurer, Auditor, United States Senator, and any statewide ballot questions. The state secretary may designate additional offices or questions to be included in the audit.

The results of the audit shall be reported publicly in the same form and on the same timeline as required under section 109A of chapter 54.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. DiDomenico and Payano moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting the following section:-

13

“SECTION A1. Section 1 of chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

For the purpose of this chapter, supporting, favoring, promoting or opposing a question submitted to the voters includes actions to place or oppose placing a question on a statewide election ballot; provided, however, that supporting, favoring, promoting or opposing a question to be submitted to the voters shall not include legislative lobbying as defined in section 39 of chapter 3. The director shall adopt regulations to define actions for purposes of this paragraph, including the extent to which these actions include polling, research, legal, consulting or other related services; provided, however, that contributions or expenditures for such actions need not be disclosed as provided for in this chapter until such time as petitions in support of a statewide ballot question are made available by the state secretary pursuant to section 22A of chapter 53.”

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Finegold, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Montigny and Cyr, Ms. Creem, Ms. Comerford and Mr. Payano moved that the proposed new draft be amended by adding the following sections:-

14

“SECTION A1. Section 22A of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

Blank forms provided for the collection of signatures for an initiative petition or referendum petition, which will be circulated by a person receiving compensation for the collection of signatures, shall include a disclosure, in a manner to be determined by the state secretary, which clearly informs potential signatories that the form is being distributed by a paid signature gatherer.

SECTION B1. Said chapter 53 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 22A the following section:-

Section 22A1/2. No person shall provide anything of value contingent upon the number of signatures collected for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition, provide, but not limited to, payments on a fee-per-signature basis; provided, however, that the payment of incentive bonuses for obtaining a certain number of signatures shall be prohibited.

A violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$10,000; provided, however, that each signature collected in violation of this section shall be a separate offense.”

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-three minutes past six o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Fattman, as follows, to wit (yeas 34 – nays 3) **[Yeas and Nays No. 126]:**

**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.  
Driscoll, Jr., William J.

Friedman, Cindy F.  
Gómez, Adam  
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.

Durant, Peter J.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Eldridge, James B.  
Feeney, Paul R.  
Fernandes, Dylan A.  
Finegold, Barry R.

O'Connor, Patrick M.  
Oliveira, Jacob R.  
Payano, Pavel  
Rausch, Rebecca L.  
Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Rush, Michael F. – 34.

**NAYS.**

Dooner, Kelly A.  
Fattman, Ryan C.

Tarr, Bruce E. – 3.

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-nine minutes past six o'clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

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

“SECTION \_ . Section 1 of chapter 55 as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting line 9 after the word, ‘amendment’ the following:- ‘provided, that no incorporated or tax exempt organizations shall serve as a ballot question committee’.

SECTION \_ . Section 1 of chapter 55 as appearing in the 20024 is hereby further amended by inserting in line 83 after the word, ‘contribution’ the following:- ‘(7) staff time, research, communication development and sponsorship, or other material assistance’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 2, by inserting after the words “subsection (a)”, in line 8, the following word:- of; and

By inserting after section 2 the following section:-

“SECTION 2A. Said subsection (a) of said section 18 of said chapter 55, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 12 and 13, the words ‘appears on ballots at a state election’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- is a statewide ballot question.”.

The amendment was adopted.

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

The bill (Senate, No. 2898, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-nine minutes before seven o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. DiDomenico, as follows to wit (yeas 38 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 127**]:

**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.

Friedman, Cindy F.  
Gómez, Adam  
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.

Durant, Peter J.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Eldridge, James B.  
Fattman, Ryan C.  
Feeney, Paul R.  
Fernandes, Dylan A.  
Finegold, Barry R.

Oliveira, Jacob R.  
Payano, Pavel  
Rausch, Rebecca L.  
Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Rush, Michael F.  
Spilka, Karen E.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – 38.

**NAYS – 0.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-four minutes before seven o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act improving campaign finance reporting for statewide ballot questions” [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2916].**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

The Senate Bill honoring Blue Star Families (Senate, No. 2903),-- was read a second time, and, after remarks, was ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

Blue Star families.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at sixteen minutes before seven o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows to wit (yeas 38 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 128**]:

**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  
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.  
Spilka, Karen E.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – 38.

**NAYS – 0.**

**ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.**

Velis, John C. – 1.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at eleven minutes before seven o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Reports of a Committees.*

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Aging and Independence be granted until March 10, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 469, 478, 479 and 486, relative to aging and independence matters) Senate, No. 2760),-- ought to be adopted.

Aging and  
Independence,--  
extension order.

**Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Jehlen and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Education be granted until February 2, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 341, 359, 368, 376, 380, and 387, relative to targeted student issues and student discipline; EEC (Senate, No. 2770),-- ought to be adopted.

Education,--  
extension order.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Lewis and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Public Service be granted until March 17, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1786, 1787, 1789, 1798, 1803, 1804, 1816, 1817, 1819, 1823, 1826, 1827, 1837, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1846, 1853, 1856, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1871, 1876, 1886, 1888, 1894, 1897, 1906, 1908, 1920, 1921, 2582, and 2712, relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 2768),-- ought to be adopted.

Public Service,--  
extension order.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Brady and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.**

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies be granted until March 6, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 299, 300, 302, 305, 307, and 308, relative to economic development and emerging technologies matters (Senate, No. 2767),-- ought to be adopted.

Economic  
Development and  
Emerging  
Technologies,--  
extension order.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Brady and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.**

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Brady,--

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

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of Dr. Stuart H. Altman.*

The Senator from Fourth Middlesex, Ms. Friedman, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in the memory of Dr. Stuart H. Altman.

Dr. Stuart H. Altman, 88, an internationally recognized leader in health policy and economics, beloved teacher, loving patriarch, and inaugural chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Dr. Altman was an advisor in health policy to five U.S. presidential administrations, congressional leaders, governors and state officials. Dr. Altman served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/Health at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) from 1971 to 1976; as Chairman of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission (ProPac) from 1984 to 1996; and in 1997 as an appointed member of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare.

Dr. Altman was the Sol C. Chaikin Professor of National Health Policy, Emeritus, at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Over five decades at Brandeis, Dr. Altman embraced many roles, including as interim president in 1990-91. Dr. Altman was a dean of the Heller School, and was founder and co-director of the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy and Research. Dr. Altman retired in spring 2025, but continued to work on behalf of Heller and Brandeis, hosting a successful health policy conference and lecturing in several courses.

In 2012, Dr. Altman accepted the appointment from Governor Deval Patrick to become the inaugural Chair of the Board for the Health Policy Commission. Dr. Altman served in this role for ten years, helping guide the establishment, growth, and success of this first-in-the-nation independent agency focused on moderating health care cost growth and promoting health care affordability in Massachusetts, always with the goal of putting patients first and at the center of healthcare decisions. Dr. Altman was reappointed to this post by Governor Charles Baker, in 2016, and served until 2022.

Dr. Altman is predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years, Diane, and is survived by his three daughters, Beth Marcus and her husband Scott, Renee Nefussy and her husband David, and Heather Altman and her husband James Shortbridge, and his five granddaughters, Allison and Rachel Marcus, Sydney and Leah Shortridge, and Taylor Nefussy. Dr. Altman is also survived by his brother Edward Altman, and his wife Elaine, and his sister, Ellen Stein.

Dr. Altman will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Dr. Stuart H. Altman, at two minutes past seven o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

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