

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

[82]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 17, 2026.

Met at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock A.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).

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Communications.

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

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Joanne Comerford (pursuant to Section 109 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to serve on the Special Commission to Review Transitional Planning Services (received Monday, September 14, 2026); and

Special Commission
to Review
Transitional
Planning Services.

Communication from the Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, accepting his appointment (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws) to the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget Review Commission (received Monday, September 14, 2026).

Chapter 70
Foundation Budget
Review
Commission.

Reports.

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

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 August 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 Judiciary) (received September 14, 2026);

EOTC,-- rental
protections August
2026 report.
SD4239

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

DER,-- UI trust
fund report.
SD4242

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-2040 of Section 2B of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Paid Prior Year Deficiency Report on prior year deficiencies (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 15, 2026);

Comptroller,-- Prior
Year Deficiency
FY26 report.
SD4243

Report of the Berkshire District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 OUI Deterrent Trust Fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 16, 2026); and

Berkshire DA,--
OUI Trust Fund
FY26 report.
SD4244

Report of the Berkshire District Attorney (under the provisions of Section 47(d) of Chapter 94C of the General Laws) submitting its 2026 report relative to the use of monies in the law enforcement trust fund for the purposes of drug rehabilitation, drug education, and

Berkshire DA,--
2026 forfeiture
report.
SD4245

other anti-drug or neighborhood crime watch programs (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 16, 2026).

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James B. Eldridge for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply water to the town of Wayland; and

Wayland,-- MWRA
water supply.
SD4240

By Mr. Oliveira and Mr. Ashe of Longmeadow, a joint petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jacob R. Oliveria and Brian M. Ashe for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Ann Marie Basile, an employee of the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office;

Ann Marie Basile,--
sick leave.
SD4248

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

Order.

Mr. Keenan presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Election Laws until November 3, 2026, within which time to make its final report on a current Senate document numbered 3186, relative to faithful presidential electors (Senate, No. 3271);

Election Laws,--
extension order.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Minority Leader:

Melissa J. King of Billerica has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 4 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws) on the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Foundation Budget
Review
Commission,-- appt.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5668) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize employees in the shellfish, aquaculture, marine fisheries, and health care sectors as preferred vocations for affordable and attainable housing preference in the town of Wellfleet;

Wellfleet,--
affordable housing
vocations.

To the committee on Housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5669) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to city council procedures in the city of Holyoke; and

Holyoke,-- city
council procedures.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5670) of Patricia A. Duffy (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the laying out of streets, ways, and highways in the city of Holyoke;

Holyoke,-- street
layouts.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5671) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) that the town of Eastham be authorized to expand the residential tax exemption in said town to cover properties used as year-round housing;

Eastham,--
residential tax
exemption.

To the committee on Revenue.

Recess.

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

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The engrossed Bill amending the charter of the city of Pittsfield (see House, No. 4719),-- came from the House *with an amendment* adding the following section:

Pittsfield,-- charter.

“SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 shall be placed on the ballot for acceptance by the voters of the city of Pittsfield at the next city election. The city clerk shall prepare and include a summary of the question to be printed on the ballot.”

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

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:

Authorizing the city of Beverly to continue the employment of John G. LeLacheur as police chief (see House, No. 5248); and

Bills laid before the Governor.

Amending the charter of the town of Bellingham to allow the director of finance to serve as the town accountant (see House, No. 5564).

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The House Bill authorizing the town of Monterey to continue the employment of police officer Jennifer O. Brown (House, No. 4862),-- was read a third time.

Monterey,-- Jennifer O. Brown.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Mark presented an amendment in section 1, by inserting after the word “service.”, in line 8, the following words:- “While continuing to serve as a police officer in the town of Monterey, Jennifer O. Brown shall comply with all requirements of chapter 6E of the General Laws, including: (i) maintaining certification and good standing with the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; and (ii) complying with all in-service and other training requirements mandated by the municipal police training committee.”

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 further authorizing the Edgartown Affordable Housing Trust Fund to expend funds for certain community housing purposes (House, No. 4186) (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.**

Edgartown,-- Affordable Housing Trust.

The House Bill enabling expenditures from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund of the town of West Tisbury (House, No. 4378) (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.**

West Tisbury,-- affordable housing trust.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Nantucket (House, No. 4441, changed) (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.**

Nantucket,-- charter.

The House Bill authorizing the county of Nantucket to convey School street in the town and county of Nantucket (House, No. 4505) (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.**

Nantucket,-- land.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of deputy police chief Brian Lauzon (House, No. 5428,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Natick,-- Brian Lauzon.

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

A Bill authorizing the town of Middleton to continue the employment of police officer Richard Kassiotis (House, No. 5513,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Middleton,-- Richard Kassiotis.

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

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Patrick Nelligan, an employee of the Department of Correction (House, No. 5657, amended,-- on petition),-- was read.

Patrick Nelligan,-- sick leave.

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

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5677) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for David Gilman, an employee of the Department of Correction,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

David Gilman,-- sick leave.

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.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at eight minutes before one o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.