

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, September 14, 2026.

Met at eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Keenan 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. Keenan), 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 appointments of Senators Lydia Edwards and Pavel M. Payano (pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 163 of the Acts of 2026) to commission on immigration matters in the commonwealth (received Thursday, September 10, 2026);

Commission on
immigration
matters.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Superintendent Armand Pires (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 70 of the General Laws) to the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget Review Commission (received Thursday, September 10, 2026);

Foundation Budget
Review
Commission.

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Peter Durant (pursuant to Section 64 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to the Chapter 70 Foundation Budget Review Commission (received Monday, September 14, 2026); and

Id.

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Patrick O'Connor (pursuant to Section 109 of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2026) to the special commission to: (i) review current practices and gaps in transitional planning services; (ii) prepare a comprehensive plan to address the complex and growing number and needs of persons with disabilities whose entitlement to services under special education programs has terminated or will terminate as a result of such person's graduation from high school or attainment of age 22, hereafter referred to as transition-age youth; and (iii) recommend solutions to improve transition planning services and outcomes for transition-age youth and their families or guardians (received Monday, September 14, 2026).

Special Commission
to Review
Transitional
Planning Services.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting its heat audit report of the Health Services Unit at Massachusetts Correctional Institution Framingham (received September 11, 2026);

DPH,-- MCI
Framingham heat
audit report.
SD4231
DOI,-- Mental
Health Parity
Summary 2024
report.
SD4232

Report of the Division of Insurance (pursuant to Section 8M(d) of Chapter 26 of the General Laws) submitting its Mental Health Parity Summary 2024 report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received September 11, 2026);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting its heat audit report for Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received September 11, 2026);

DPH,-- SBCC-heat audit-complete inspection report. SD4233

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting its heat audit report of the Health Services Unit at Bridgewater State Hospital (received September 11, 2026);

DPH,-- Bridgewater State Hospital heat audit report. SD4234
OVA,-- FY26 annual report. SD4235

Report of the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received September 11, 2026); and

Report of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure from the Norfolk County Registers Technological Fund report (copies having been forwarded to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight) (received September 14, 2026).

Norfolk ROD Technological Fund report. SD4236

Petition.

Mr. Driscoll presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William J. Driscoll for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Christine Lovett, an employee of the department of conservation and recreation (DCR),-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Christine Lovett,-- sick leave. SD4228

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were severally considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Durant) “commending the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration for its recognition of the week of September 27, 2026 as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week”;

Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Ilene Simons on her retirement from the City of Salem”; and

Ilene Simons.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Brendan Dale Nolan on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout.”

Brendan Dale Nolan.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the city of Salem to convert seasonal licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises to annual licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5097) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Keenan) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the Governor.

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 Senate Bill relative to a certain retirement benefit to be paid to the surviving spouse of fallen officer, Stephen LaPorta, of the police department of the town of Uxbridge (Senate, No. 3051),-- was read a second time.

Uxbridge,-- LaPorta retirement.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Fattman presented an amendment striking out, in line 6, the number “8” and inserting in the place thereof the following figure:- “7”.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3051, amended), was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill amending the means tested senior citizen property tax exemption in the town of Sudbury (House, No. 4755),-- was read a third time.

Sudbury,-- senior property tax.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Eldridge presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3270.

The amendment was adopted.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Westfield to convert a seasonal license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off premises to an annual license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off premises (House, No. 5346) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Westfield,-- liquor license.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Velis presented an amendment striking out in section 2 “license for the sale of wine and malt” and inserting in the place thereof the following words:- “seasonal license for the sale of all alcoholic”.

The amendment was adopted.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Beverly to continue the employment of John G. LeLacheur as police chief (House, No. 5248),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Beverly,-- John G. LeLacheur.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Bellingham to allow the Director of Finance to serve as the Town Accountant (House, No. 5564),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows: “An Act amending the charter of the town of Bellingham to allow the director of finance to serve as the town accountant”.**

Bellingham,-- town accountant.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Julian Cyr for legislation relative to designating September 25th as 9 to 5 Day in honor of Dolly Parton.

Dolly Parton,-- 9 to 5 Day.
SD4203

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of police chief James Hicks beyond the age of 65 (House, No. 5427,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Natick,-- James Hicks.

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

A Bill authorizing the town of Topsfield to continue to employment of police chief Neal Hovey (House, No. 5435,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Topsfield,-- Neal Hovey.

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

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Keenan), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Joseph F. Clifford.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

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

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Joseph F. Clifford.

The Senator from Norfolk and Plymouth, Mr. Keenan, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Joseph F. Clifford, who passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on June 18, 2026.

Joe was born in the Savin Hill neighborhood of Dorchester to Frank J. Clifford and Mary T. Clifford, the 7th of their 10 children. Upon graduating from Boston Tech High School in 1954, Joe enlisted in the US Army in 1955, where he served in the elite 3rd US Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard, the oldest active-duty infantry in the Army. Joe remained deeply proud of his military service throughout his life, maintaining ties with the members of his unit and receiving the distinct honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the regiment's 2019 reunion.

Prior to and during his time in the Army, Joe courted the love of his life, Joan. They married in 1958 and moved over the bridge to Quincy, where they raised their 8 children.

Throughout his life, Joe fostered a sense of community wherever he went. Having grown up in the close-knit neighborhood of Savin Hill, he carried that same spirit with him to Quincy's Lakin Square, where he and Joan always had their door open to friends and family. Whether through his 42-year career at Boston Edison Local 369, his active participation in Quincy's parades, civic, and sporting events, or through his family's commitment to Saint Agatha's parish and school, Joe treasured the friendships he formed within the many communities to which he belonged.

Upon their youngest son Brian's graduation, Joe and Joan purchased a home in Dennis, where they found yet another close-knit community. At Mayflower Beach, there were, to

Joe, no strangers—only friends. Whether in Quincy or Dennis, Joe and Joan’s homes were filled with family, especially their 19 beloved grandchildren, who benefited from Joe’s guidance, humility, sense of humor, and unwavering love.

Joe demonstrated a zest for life even in the most ordinary events. He is survived by his beloved wife Joan, his 8 children Marie Murray, Jean Bryant, Donna Rogantino, William Clifford, David Clifford, Julie Healy, Maureen Quill, and Brian Clifford, and their spouses, and his grandchildren Sarah, Nicole, Michael, Andrew, Molly, Mike, Luke, Juliana, Brenden, Sean, Tara, Taryn, Angelica, Charlie, Lucy, Dylan, Joe, Connor, and Kaelynn, his great grandchildren, his brother Dan, and many nieces and nephews. He leaves his brother Dan Clifford and was predeceased by his eight siblings: Anna, Mamie, Helen, Jack, Richie, Frankie, Jim, and Mike.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Joseph F. Clifford, at twenty-two minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Durant, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o’clock A.M.
