

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, September 24, 2026.

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008 as amended in 2010) submitting FY2025 Department of Environmental Protection Home Heating Oil annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources) (received September 21, 2026);

DEP,-- Home
Heating Oil FY2025
annual report.
SD4251

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 12(c) of Chapter 12A of the General Laws and Section 64 of Chapter 6C of the General Laws) submitting its Highway Service Plazas Draft Lease Review (received September 22, 2026);

OIG,-- Highway
Service Plazas
report.
SD4252

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its July 2026 monthly report on year-to-date net state tax revenue for the current fiscal year (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received September 23, 2026);

DOR,-- Net Tax
Revenue July FY26
report.
SD4253

Report of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 205 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Charles River Task Force on Equitable River Access report of recommendations (received September 23, 2026); and

DCR,-- Charles
River Task Force
report.
SD4254

Report of Massachusetts Housing (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 121D of General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency 2026 annual report (received September 23, 2026).

MHFA FY26
annual report.
SD4255

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointments by the Speaker:

Representative Donato of Medford and Gail Williams of Boston have been re-appointed to serve as his designees (under Section 69 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) to the permanent commission on the status of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Grandparents
Raising
Grandchildren
Commission,-- appt.

Bills

Relative to increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Berlin (House, No. 4580,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Berlin,-- select
board.

To increase the value of estates eligible for abatements pursuant to clauses seventeenth D and forty-first C of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws in the town of Shrewsbury (House, No. 5515,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Shrewsbury,-- estate abatements.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Miranda, Ms. Comerford, Messrs. Oliviera, DiDomenico and Rush, Ms. Edwards and Mr. Fernandes) “congratulating the Boston (MA) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated on its seventy-fifth anniversary.”

Boston (MA)
Chapter of the
Links, Inc.

Report 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 James B. Eldridge for legislation to allow individual cities and towns to create their own laws regarding tenant protections.

Tenant protections,-
- local options.
SD2669

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

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 Patrick M. O'Connor and Colleen M. Garry for legislation to eliminate discrimination against municipalities who are unable to meet certain zoning requirements.

Municipalities,--
zoning
requirements.
SD2615

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

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Mark C. Montigny and Mark D. Sylvia for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Margaret Connolly-Masson, an employee of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Margaret Connolly-
Masson,-- sick
leave.
SD4225

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

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 Richard Carlson for legislation to require only one license plate.

License plates.
SD3760

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

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

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 authorizing the town of Medfield to utilize alternative methods for notice of public hearings (Senate, No. 3138),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Medfield,-- public
hearing notices.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill amending the charter for the town of Groton (House, No. 4795, amended),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Groton,-- charter.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (all 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. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the Dracut Water Supply District to supply and sell water to certain customers in the town of Dracut (see House, No. 4101, amended);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the select board of the town of Hull to establish a schedule of fines for parking violations (see House, No. 4247);

Amending the town of Arlington's means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 4575, amended);

Authorizing the town of Bourne to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5347);

Authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of police chief James Hicks beyond the age of 65 (see House, No. 5427);

Authorizing the town of Natick to continue the employment of deputy police chief Brian Lauzon (see House, No. 5428); and

Authorizing the town of Southborough to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5546).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

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 fourteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.