

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

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

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Settlements and Judgements quarter four FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 28, 2026); and

Comptroller,--
Settlements and
Judgements Q4
FY26 report.
SD4076
Comptroller,--
Prior Year
Deficiencies Q4
FY26 report.
SD4077

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 Prior Year Deficiencies fourth quarter 2026 report) (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 28, 2026).

Petition.

Mr. Crighton and Mr. Wong of Saugus presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Brendan P. Crighton and Donald H. Wong for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Jessica Lynlee Ayala, an employee of the department of corrections,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Shannon Manning,--
sick leave.
SD3744

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A communication from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (see Section 50 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting amendments to the rules and regulations governing Massachusetts public employee retirement (House, No. 5608),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.**

PERAC,-- MA
public employee
retirement.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5605) of David F. DeCoste and John F. Keenan (by vote of the town) relative to liquor license extensions in the town of Hanover;

Hanover,-- liquor
license extensions.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5606) of Erika Uytterhoeven (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Somerville be authorized to appoint special police officers in said city;

Somerville,--
special police
officers.

To the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5607) of Marjorie C. Decker (with the approval of the city council) that the city of Cambridge be authorized to allow for a personal property tax exemption of certain personal property;

Cambridge,--
property tax
exemption.

To the committee on Revenue.

A Bill relative to amending the traffic commission in the city of Westfield (House, No. 5449,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Westfield,-- traffic
commission.

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to transfer certain parcels of land in the town of Norton (see House, No. 5561), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 2 to 0.

Norton,-- land.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and sent to the House for enactment.

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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Amending the charter of the town of Millis (see House, No. 3911, amended);

Bills laid before the
Governor.

Validating the actions taken at the New Salem annual town election (see House, No. 4224); and

Further regulating the filling of vacancies in the office of ward councilor in the city of Marlborough (see House, No. 5227).

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 House Bill authorizing the Barnstable county and the town of Bourne to convey certain parcels of land and certain interests in land in the town of Bourne (House, No. 4992).

Bourne,-- land.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the bill 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 Bill sin the Third Reading to read as follows: "An Act providing for the conveyance of certain parcels of land in the town of Bourne".

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 Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take easements over certain land located in the city of Woburn and the town of Burlington held in trust by the city of Boston for the Mary P. C. Cummings Testamentary Trust (Senate, No. 3169),-- was read a third time.

Woburn/Burlington,
-- land.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Friedman presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No 3229).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3229) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill releasing or excluding certain portions of land from a conservation restriction in the town of Middleton (House, No. 5463) (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.**

Middleton,--
conservation
restriction.

The House Bill authorizing the transfer of certain parcels of land in the town of Weston from the Weston conservation commission to the Weston select board (House, No. 5467) (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.**

Weston,-- land.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land in the town of Billerica for the Yankee Doodle Bike Path (House, No. 5492),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Billerica,-- land.

The House Bill authorizing the division of capital asset management and maintenance to take by eminent domain certain land in the town of Norwood (House, No. 5553),-- was read a third time.

Norwood,-- land.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Rush presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3231.

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.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill prioritizing patient access to care (House, No. 5595,-- on House, No. 2370),-- was read.

Patient care,--
access.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Brady, and the bill was referred to the committee on Senate Rules.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Brady, at twenty-three minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.