

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, July 27, 2026.

Met at five minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Rausch in the Chair).

The Chair (Ms. Rausch), 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 Section 6B(b) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Federal Grants Fourth Quarter FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 24, 2026); and

Comptroller,-- Q4
FY26 Federal
Grants report.
SD4073

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 289 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Incentivizing Diverse and Highly Effective Educators report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received July 27, 2026).

DESE,-- Diverse
and Highly
Educators report.
SD4075

Petition.

Mr. Montigny presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3201) of Mark C. Montigny and Steven J. Ouellette (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide for the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Acushnet,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the House for concurrence.**

Acushnet,-- special
police officers.

Report of a Committee.

By Ms. Edwards, for the committee on the Judiciary, on petition, a Bill relative to dangerousness hearings (Senate, No. 1276, changed in line 49 by inserting after the word "gender," the word "income"; in line 69 by striking "July 1, 2023" and inserting in place thereof the words "July 1, 2027"; in line 89 by inserting after the words "Whoever unlawfully" the following words:- "and with the intent to cause harm to a person and/or to evade authorities"; in line 92 by striking the word "shall" and inserting in place thereof the word "may"; and in line 95 by striking the word "shall" and inserting in place thereof the word "may");

Dangerousness
hearings.

Read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Committee Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 3196), reported, in part, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the recommitted joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2907) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to

Creditable service,--
police officers and
firefighters.

establish credible service for eligible police officers and firefighters,-- and **recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public service matters (Senate, No. 3196), reported, on the residue, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the recommitted joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2939) of Kelly A. Dooner and Justin Thurber (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the appointment of retired police officers in the town of Dighton,-- **and recommending that the same be recommitted to the committee on Public Service.**

Dighton,-- special police officers.

Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5602) of Aaron L. Saunders (by vote of the town) that the town of Ludlow be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be consumed on premises in said town;

Ludlow,-- liquor license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5603) of Kate Hogan (by vote of the town) that the town of Stow be authorized to use print-free digital legal notices in said town; and

Stow,-- digital legal notices.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5604) of Aaron L. Saunders (by vote of the town) relative to the recreation department and recreation commission in the town of Ludlow;

Ludlow,-- recreation department.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Bills

Allowing "print-free" digital legal notices for the town of Wellesley (House, No. 4138, - on petition) [Local approval received];

Wellesley,-- digital legal notices.

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,-- on House, No. 5083) [Local approval received on House, No. 5083];

Westfield,-- liquor license.

Authorizing the town of Wakefield to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 5418,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Wakefield,-- senior property tax.

Modernizing financial departments in the city of Holyoke (House, No. 5448,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Holyoke,-- financial departments.

Authorizing the town of Weston to grant an additional license for sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5548,-- on House, No. 5461) [Local approval received on House, No. 5461];

Weston,-- liquor license.

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

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 validating the actions taken at the New Salem annual town election (House, No. 4224) (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.**

New Salem,-- town election.

The House Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to transfer certain parcels of land in the town of Norton (House, No. 5561),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Norton,-- land.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5609) of Danilo A. Sena relative to the retirement classification of Crystal Swinimer, an employee of the Middlesex county sheriff's office,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

Crystal Swinimer,-- retirement.

Recess.

There being no objection, at eight minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Ms. Rausch) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at nine minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Ms. Rausch in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill promoting pet equity, treatment and safety (Senate, No. 3028),— came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, *with amendments* striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 5589; and inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:

Pet safety.

"Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to promote pet equity, treatment and safety, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience."

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. O'Connor and the matter was considered forthwith.

The same Senator moved that the Senate NON-concur in the House amendments and asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and Senators Feeney, Lovely and Tarr were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

The House Bill to improve Massachusetts home care (House, No. 4706, amended),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 3183, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Stanley of Waltham, F. Moran of Lawrence and DeCoste of Norwell had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Home care.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. O'Connor and the matter was considered forthwith.

On motion of the same Senator, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Brownsberger, Jehlen and Fattman were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

The House Bill further regulating the filling of vacancies in the office of ward councilor in the city of Marlborough (House, No. 5227) (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.**

Marlborough,-- city council vacancies.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Louis Guiffre on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”; and

Louis Guiffre.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Steven Hachey on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout.”

Steven Hachey.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O’Connor,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday next at one o’clock P.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twelve minutes past one o’clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Wednesday next at one o’clock P.M.