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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, October 1, 2026.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

Communication from the Honorable Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader and ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Financial Services, announcing the appointment of Tara Gregorio of MA Senior Care (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2026) to the special commission to study and report on the creation of a statewide long-term services and supports benefit program (received September 30, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

Special Commission to study statewide long-term services,-- appt.

Communication from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 9B of Chapter 128A of the General Laws) submitting proposed regulations for 205 CMR 17.00 relative to transfer of interests in a racing meeting licensing (Senate, No. 3277) (received September 29, 2026),-- **was referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure**.

MassGaming,-- 205 CMR 17.00 regulations.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports.

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

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues August 2026 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received September 28, 2026);

MassGaming,-- Gaming Revenues August 2026 report. SD4265

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its report on payments made from the settlements and judgments reserve for the accounts payable period of fiscal year 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 29, 2026);

Comptroller,-- Settlements and Judgements FY26 report. SD4268

Report of the Northwestern District Attorney (pursuant to Section 24W(e) of Chapter 90 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 OUI Deterrent Trust Fund annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 29, 2026);

Northwestern DA,-- Motor Vehicle Forfeiture FY26 report. SD4269

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its monthly August 2026 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 30, 2026);

DOR,-- Net Tax Revenue August FY26 report. SD4270

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for MCI Shirley, the Plan of Correction from the facility and the Plan of Correction acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received September 30, 2026); DPH,-- MCI Shirley Inspection report. SD4271

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8100-1004 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab third quarter 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received September 30, 2026); EOPPS,-- MSPCL Q3 2025 report. SD4272

Report of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (pursuant to Section 41 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting its Veterans Homes Council 2026 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received September 30, 2026); EOVS,-- Veterans Homes Council 2026 annual report. SD4275

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the heat audit report for Old Colony 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 30, 2026); DPH,-- Old Colony CC-Heat Audit-Complete Inspection report. SD4276

Report of Mass Biologics of the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (pursuant to Section 43(f) of Chapter 75 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 annual report (received September 30, 2026); Mass Biologics FY26 annual report. SD4277

Report of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 audited financial statements (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation) (received September 30, 2026); PVTA ,-- FY26 audited financial statements. SD4278

Report of the Northwestern District Attorney (pursuant to 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 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 30, 2026); and Northwestern DA,-- 2026 forfeiture report. SD4279

Report of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (pursuant to Section 10 of Chapter 221A of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 annual report (received September 30, 2026). MLAC,-- FY26 annual report. SD4280

Petition.

Gene John Cass presented a petition (accompanied by bill) for legislation to establish a private education innovation contribution program,-- **under Senate Rule 18, was placed on file.** Innovation program,-- private education. SD4274

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill providing for recall elections for the Freetown-Lakeville regional school district (Senate, No. 3250) [Local approval received]; Freetown-Lakeville school district,-- recall elections.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Representative Armini of Marblehead has been appointed to serve as his designee on the special commission established (under Section 2A of Chapter 71B of the General Laws) to serve as Co-Chair of the Bureau of Special Education Appeals Advisory Council, replacing Representative Lipper-Garabedian of Melrose.

Bureau of Special Education Appeals Advisory Council,-- appt.

A Bill relative to the membership of the Conservation Commission in the town of Chatham (House, No. 5524,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Chatham,-- Conservation Commission.

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 Michael D. Brady for legislation to ensure all Massachusetts litigants due process of law.

Due process,-- litigants. SD3873

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 The Judiciary.

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 Paul W. Mark for legislation relative to labor rights of chief probation officers.

Probation officers,-- labor rights. SD3878

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 Labor and Workforce Development.

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 Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the state board of retirement to grant creditable service to Joseph D. Ryan.

Joseph D. Ryan,-- creditable service. SD3814

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, Senate, No. 3042) 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 Kelly A. Dooner and Norman J. Orrall (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the state board of retirement to grant creditable service to Omar H. Ricketts.

Omar H. Ricketts,-- creditable service. SD3815

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, Senate, No. 3043) 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 William J. Driscoll, Jr. for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Christine Lovett, an employee of the department of conservation and recreation (DCR).

Christine Lovett,-- sick leave. SD4228

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 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 Jacob R. Oliveira 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

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 Public Service.

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:

Yarmouth,-- certain employees.

The Senate Bill relative to the town of Yarmouth Division of Natural Resources employees (Senate, No. 2712),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Cyr presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act providing for the retirement status of employees of the division of natural resources of the town of Yarmouth" (Senate, No. 3273).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3273) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Millis,-- senior property tax exemption.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Millis to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for school building construction projects (House, No. 4605),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Rausch presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3274.

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.

Falmouth,-- land.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Falmouth to acquire and dispose of certain land (House, No. 5108) (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.**

Oxford,-- charter.

The House Bill amending the town charter in the town of Oxford (House, No. 5261),-- **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 Oxford to remove the residency requirement for the town manager position".**

Upton,-- Michael Marchand.

The House Bill authorizing the continued employment of Michael Marchand, the fire chief in the town of Upton (House, No. 5389),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Marlborough,-- land.

A Bill validating a conveyance of land and authorizing the recording of a confirmatory deed in the city of Marlborough (House, No. 5615,-- on House, No. 5191) [Local approval received on House, No. 5191],-- was read.

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.

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

Bills laid before the Governor.

Designating a portion of state highway Route 7A in the town of Lenox as the Ross B. Dindio Memorial highway (see House, No. 3645);

Providing for violent act injury retirement benefits for retirement police officer Leo MacAskill (see House, No. 3915);

Revising the term length of certain members of the board of library trustees of the town of Williamstown (see House, No. 4347, amended);

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Chelmsford as the Ferreira Brothers bridge (see House, No. 4723); and

Authorizing the town of Petersham to continue the employment of police department members Richard D. Cooley Jr. and David A. Shoemaker (see House, No. 5110, amended).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

Time of meeting.

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

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.