

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026

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Monday, October 5, 2026.

Met at nineteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Jehlen 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 (Ms. Jehlen), 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 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7061-9408 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its fiscal year 2025 Targeted Assistance and Intervention 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 Education) (received October 1, 2026); and

DESE,-- Targeted
Assistance FY25
report.
SD4281

Report of the Massachusetts Health Connector (pursuant to Section 3(s) of Chapter 176Q of the General Laws) submitting proposed amendments to the regulations defining minimum creditable coverage (956 CMR 5.00) (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Public Health) (received October 2, 2026).

Health Connector,--
CMR amendments.
SD4281

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Millbury to grant additional liquor licenses (Senate, No. 3234) [Local approval received]; and

Millbury,-- liquor
licenses.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing the city of Greenfield to grant an additional liquor license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 3261) [Local approval received];

Greenfield,-- liquor
license.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill amending the charter of the town of Middleton (House, No. 5684,-- on House, No. 5462) [Local approval received on House, No. 5462],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Middleton,--
charter.

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 James B. Eldridge for legislation to authorize the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to supply water to the town of Wayland.

Wayland,-- MWRA.
SD4240

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 Environment and Natural Resources.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5685) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carry Shulock-Sexton, an employee of the Department of Agricultural Resources,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

Carry Shulock-Sexton,-- sick leave.

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (the first of which originated in the Senate), 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 (Ms. Jehlen) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the town of Holbrook to appoint Patrick Doherty as a firefighter notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (see Senate, No. 3165);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Authorizing the town of Falmouth to acquire and dispose of certain land (see House, No. 5108);

Amending the charter of the town of Oxford to remove the residency requirement for the town manager position (see House, No. 5261); and

Authorizing the continued employment of Michael Marchand, the fire chief in the town of Upton (see House, No. 5389).

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 regulating the terms of the select board of the town of Berlin (Senate, No. 2626) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Berlin,-- select board.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate relative to the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Dighton,-- was read a second time.

Dighton,-- special police officers.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mrs. Dooner presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act authorizing the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the town of Dighton" (Senate, No. 3275).

The bill (Senate, No. 3275) 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 designating a certain bridge in the town of Hopkinton as the Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge (House, No. 3608),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Hopkinton,-- Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge.

The House Bill providing for recall elections in the town of Berlin (House, No. 3896),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Berlin,-- recall elections.

The House Bill expanding small property tax abatements in the town of Auburn (House, No. 4754) (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.**

Auburn,-- property tax abatements.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Grafton to establish a means tested senior tax exemption (House, No. 5035) (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.**

Grafton,-- senior tax exemption.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

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

Time of meeting.

Moments of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Jehlen), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memories of Mr. Lawrence Arthur Dwyer, Jr. and Mr. Joseph A. Lee, Sr.

Moment of silence.

Adjournment in Memory of Lawrence Arthur Dwyer, Jr.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Lawrence Arthur (Larry) Dwyer, Jr. of South Boston.

Larry Dwyer passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on September 28, 2026. Beloved husband and best friend of the late Ann Theresa Dwyer. Adored father of Kaitlyn Weafer and her husband, Jason, of South Boston. Loving Papa Larry to Emma and Grace Elizabeth. Devoted son of the late Lawrence and Eileen Dwyer. Treasured brother of Mary Ellen Sinkiewicz and her husband, Kenneth; Gerard Dwyer and his wife, Cynthia Strout; Kathleen Dwyer; Daniel Dwyer and his wife, Anne; Suzanne Dwyer and her fiancé, Eric Carlyle; and Brian Dwyer and his wife, Janis. Predeceased by his brother Kevin Dwyer, mother-in-law Anna Viani, sister-in-law Donna McIntosh, brother-in-law Jack McDonough, and niece Catherine McDonough. Dear uncle of John and Ellen McDonough, Colin, Kelsey, Joseph, Francis, Matthew, Michael, Timothy, Declan and John Dwyer. Also survived by his brother-in-law Robert McIntosh.

Larry started his career as a youth worker at the D Street Multi Service Center. Former Boston Parks Commissioner and Commissioner of Health and Hospitals in the Flynn Administration. A career public servant, he loved to regale his family and friends with his many exploits at the city and in Washington, D.C. Family was at the center of his life, which began with the deep and abiding love that his parents showed him and his siblings on East Eighth St. He and Ann Theresa shared a marriage of uncommon love, devotion, and friendship, and nothing brought them greater joy than their daughter. His favorite job was that of big brother. Coach of the St. Brigid CYO Girls' Softball Team. Drummer and founding member of the legendary South Boston band, Good Friends. He loved to spend time in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. He was happiest on the golf course or in the garden. The Dubliner in Washington, D.C. was his longtime local. A born animal whisperer, he had many faithful companions throughout his life, including Bilbo, Sandy and Ava. Billy Stoddard and Marcus DeFlorimonte were among his steadfast friends.

Larry's legacy will live on through his family and the positive impact his lifetime of public service continues to have on the people of Boston, the District of Columbia and

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Lawrence Arthur (Larry) Dwyer, Jr., at a half past eleven o'clock A.M on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Joseph A. Lee, Sr.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mr. Joseph (Joe) A. Lee, Sr. of South Boston.

Joseph A. Lee, Sr. passed peacefully at home on September 30, 2026. He leaves behind a family he adored, a community he proudly called home, and generations of Boston students who knew him as a teacher, principal, and mentor.

A Dorchester native, Joe spent much of his adult life in South Boston, where he and his wife, Nancy, raised their family. Married for 55 years, Joe and Nancy built a full and busy life around their seven children: Joseph (Laura), Megan, Andrew (Erin), Courtney (Donald), Patrick (Katherine), Brendan (Connie), and Kevin (Janet). Their home and family were always at the heart of Joe's life.

Joe devoted his professional life to the Boston Public Schools. He began his career as a teacher and eventually became a principal, retiring from the Patrick F. Gavin Middle School in 2003. He cared deeply about the students he served and the South Boston community. Even long after he retired, former students would recognize Mr. Lee and share memories and stories from their school days, something that meant a great deal to him.

Joe was also a man of strong Catholic faith and a longtime parishioner of Gate of Heaven Church. His faith remained an important part of his life and provided a foundation for the way he approached family, community, and service to others.

Retirement gave Joe more time for the role he treasured most: being a grandfather. He loved having his family around him, keeping up with his children and grandchildren, and watching the next generation grow. With seven children and fourteen grandchildren, there was rarely a shortage of family gatherings, stories, and laughter.

Joe is survived by his brothers, Christopher Lee (Peggy) of Holliston and Bob Lee (the late Jean) of Dorchester, and his grandchildren: Andrew and Matthew Fumarola; Catherine, Andrew, Mary, and Martin Lee; Donny, Eamon, and Christopher Holmes; Cecilia and James Lee; Joseph Lee; and Kevin and Annie Lee.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Nancy, and his parents, Christopher and Mary Lee.

Joe leaves behind a life defined not by any one role, but by the many people who knew and loved him. The lessons, stories, humor, faith, and love he shared will remain a lasting part of Joe's legacy. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and his legacy will live on through his family and the enduring impact his lifetime of public service has had on the people of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Joseph (Joe) A. Lee, Sr., at a half past eleven o'clock A.M on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
