

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, July 2, 2026.

Met at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins in the Chair).

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Ben Ruggio from Duxbury and Callahan Pierce from Marshfield. Ben and Callahan are close friends and were taking a tour of the State House learning about the different aspects of state government. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Ben Ruggio and
Callahan Pierce.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program June 1, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 2, 2026);

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly 6/1/26
report.
SD4037

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program June 15, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 2, 2026); and

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly 6/15/26
report.
SD4038

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024, Section 10 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025, and Section 88 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program June 29, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received July 2, 2026).

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly 6/29/26
report.
SD4039

Petition.

Mr. Keenan and Mr. Cusack of Braintree presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3165) of John F. Keenan and Mark J. Cusack (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Holbrook to appoint Patrick Doherty as a firefighter notwithstanding the maximum age requirement,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service.**

Patrick Doherty,--
Holbrook
firefighter.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Committees Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document numbered 1402 relative to ensuring access to addiction services (Senate, No. 3151); and

Mental Health,
Substance Use and
Recovery,-- study.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Environment and Natural Resources to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to facilitating climate resiliency (Senate, No. 3156);

Environment and
Natural Resources,--
study.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules;

Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were severally considered forthwith and accepted.

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:

The Senate Bill relative to the dissolution of the Holmes Park Water District (Senate, No. 2505),-- was read a third time.

Westminster,--
Holmes Park Water
District.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Durant presented an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3160).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3160) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill enhancing child welfare protections (House, No. 4646),-- 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 3121, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Livingstone of Boston, Garcia of Chelsea and Sullivan-Almeida of Abington had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

Child welfare,--
protections.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Comerford, Kennedy and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

The Senate Bill providing for the ownership and maintenance of the Town Line Brook and Linden Brook culverts and dams (Senate, No. 2967),-- came from the House passed to be engrossed, in concurrence *with an amendment*, striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5490.

Town Line/Linden
Brook,-- flooding.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, and the House amendment was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Milford to convert a license for the sale of wine and malt beverages into a license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be consumed on the premises (House, No. 4359, amended),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2893, *with a further amendment* by striking out section 3 and inserting in place thereof the following 3 sections:

Milford,-- liquor
licenses.

“SECTION 3. Chapter 289 of the acts of 2022 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. Section 3 shall take effect on December 31, 2027.

SECTION 5. Except as otherwise specified, this act shall take effect upon its passage.”.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and, the further House amendment was considered forthwith and adopted, in concurrence.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5554) of Leigh Davis relative to tenant representation on the Great Barrington Housing Authority board;

Great Barrington
Housing Authority
board.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5557) of Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to amend the sick leave bank for Matthew McRae, an employee of the Department of State Police;

Matthew McRae,-
sick leave.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Education until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on a current Senate document numbered 341, relative to expanding access to family, friend, and neighbor-provided childcare administered by the Department of Early Education and Care (Senate, No. 2934),-- ought to be adopted.

Education,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Education until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 321, 325, 331, 374, 398, 421, 423, 426, 427, 431, 438, 439, 458, and 459, relative to college and career readiness, rural schools, regional districts, and transportation (Senate, No. 2769),-- ought to be adopted.

Id.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Do Quang Em.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill protecting children from addictive social media feeds (Senate, No. 30) to be reported by the committee on Ways and Means with a recommended new draft (Senate, No. 3164) on Thursday, July 2, 2026, and read into the Senate Journal on Thursday, July 2, 2026, shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading for Thursday, July 9, 2026, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means new draft pending; and be it further ordered that all amendments to the proposed new draft shall be second-reading amendments, but further amendments in the third-degree to such amendments shall be in order.

Procedural order.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. O’Connor, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Report of a Committee.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill protecting children from addictive social media feeds (Senate, No. 30),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3164).

Social media,--
children.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. O'Connor,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Do Quang Em.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourns in memory of Mr. Do Quang Em.

Mr. Do Quang Em of Dorchester lived a life of sacrifice, resilience, and devotion to his family. During the Vietnam War, he worked alongside the United States as a special agent in defense of South Vietnam. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, he was imprisoned for nine years in a re-education camp because of his service and convictions, yet his spirit remained unbroken.

He later made Massachusetts his home and came to deeply love the United States for the freedom, hope, and opportunity it gave him. In 1996, he wrote to Senator John Kerry in support of refugee protections for the adult children of former Vietnamese political prisoners. Through that program, he was able to reunite all seven of his children in America. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, and generations to come, whose lives were forever shaped by his courage and sacrifice.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Do Quang Em, at twenty-eight minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. O'Connor, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
