

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, October 8, 2026.

Met at thirteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins 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. Collins), 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 Mental Health (pursuant to Section 26 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its Annual Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admission (EPIA) Advisory Council 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received October 5, 2026);

DMH,-- EPIA
Advisory Council
2025 report.
SD4283

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Section 26 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its Annual Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admission (EPIA) Advisory Council 2024 report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received October 5, 2026);

DMH,-- EPIA
Advisory Council
2024 report.
SD4284

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Middlesex County Jail and House of Corrections, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received October 5, 2026);

DPH,-- Middlesex
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD4285

Report of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (pursuant to Section 8(g) of Chapter 161B of the General Laws) submitting its audited financial statements and supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2026 (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 October 5, 2026);

BRTA,-- FY26
audited financial
statements.
SD4286

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 September 17, 2026 biweekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 5, 2026); and

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly 9/17/26
report.
SD4287

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 October 1, 2026 bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 5, 2026).

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly 10/1/26
report.
SD4288

Motion to Reconsider.

Mr. Fattman moved that the Senate reconsider the vote by which, at the previous session it had passed to be engrossed and read a third time the Senate Bill regulating the terms of the select board of the town of Berlin (Senate, No. 2626); and, there being no objection, the motion prevailed.

Berlin,-- select board.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Feeney) "congratulating Gladys S. Driscoll on her one hundredth birthday."

Gladys S. Driscoll.

Report 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 Edward Joseph Kennedy for legislation to amend the eligibility date for annuities for blind veterans, paraplegic veterans or veterans with disabilities.

Disabled veterans,-- annuities.

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 Veterans and Federal Affairs.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

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 (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing a certain employment contract for the town of Boylston (see Senate, No. 3088);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Designating a certain bridge in the town of Hopkinton as the Major General Frank D. Merrill memorial bridge (see House, No. 3608);

Providing for recall elections in the town of Berlin (see House, No. 3896);

Expanding small property tax abatements in the town of Auburn (see House, No. 4754); and

Authorizing the town of Grafton to establish a means tested senior tax exemption (see House, No. 5035).

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 extending the timeframe for the issuance of licenses granted pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2020 in the city of Easthampton (House, No. 5547),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Easthampton,-- liquor licenses.

The House Bill authorizing the Provincetown Year-round Market Rate Rental Housing Trust to acquire year-round housing occupancy restrictions (House, No. 3909) (its title

Provincetown,-- year-round housing.

having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

The House Bill allowing “print-free” digital legal notices for the town of Wellesley (House, No. 4138),-- was read a second time.

Wellesley,-- digital legal notices.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Ms. Creem presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3272.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act authorizing print-free digital legal notices in the town of Wellesley”.

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

The House Bill relative to increasing the membership of the select board of the town of Berlin (House, No. 4580),-- was read a second time, ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

Berlin,-- select board.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, recommending that the same be consolidated with the Senate Bill regulating the terms of the select board of the town of Berlin (Senate, No. 2626) likewise referred to said committee, and that, when doing so, it will be correctly drawn.

The report was accepted.

The bill was then passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5686) of Dawne Shand and Barry R. Finegold for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Gina Dellagatta, an employee of the Department of Mental Health;

Gina Dellagatta,-- sick leave.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5687) of Rob Consalvo relative to school bus safety technology;

School bus,-- safety.

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.