

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

[52]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, June 11, 2026.

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There beign no objection, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Cronin) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of students from the Duxbury High School girls track team. The team was recognized for winning the 2026 MIAA Division 4 State Championship. They were accompanied by their coaches Katherine Earle and Elizabeth Murphy. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Duxbury High
School girls track
team.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Payano for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Payano then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Central Catholic High School wrestling team. The team was recognized for winning the 2026 MIAA Division 1 State Championship and the 2026 MIAA All-State Mixed Gender Wrestling Championship. The Raiders secured a historic record-setting 224 points at the D1 tournament. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Central Catholic
High School
wrestling team.

Communication.

Communication from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 9B of Chapter 128A of the General Laws and Section 222 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting proposed regulations changes to 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing (2026) (Senate, No. 3096) (received May 21, 2026),-- **was referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

MassGaming,-- 205
CMR 3.00.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 170 of the Acts of 2004) submitting its 2023 annual report on Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts (received June 8, 2026);

EOPSS,-- 2023
ECW annual report.
SD3970

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 370(k) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) submitting its Bullying Data FY24 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 Education and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received June 8, 2026);

Bullying Data FY24
report.
SD3971

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8000-0655 of Section 2 Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Emerging Adult Reentry Initiative FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 8, 2026);

EOPSS,-- Emerging Adult Reentry FY26 report.
SD3972

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 1599-0026 of Section 2 Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Municipal Public Safety Staffing Grant Program FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 8, 2026);

EOPPS,-- Staffing Grant Program FY26 report.
SD3973

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to item 8000-1127 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program FY26 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 8, 2026);

EOPPS,-- Nonprofit security grant FY26 report.
SD3974

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8100-0111 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative Fiscal Year 2026 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 8, 2026);

EOPSS,-- Shannon CSI FY25 report.
SD3976

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to item 1595-0605 of Section 2A of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Sports and Entertainment Events Fund March 2026 monthly 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 Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received June 8, 2026);

EOED,-- March FY26 SEEFF report.
SD3977

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to item 1595-0605 of Section 2A of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Sports and Entertainment Events Fund April 2026 monthly 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 Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received June 8, 2026);

EOED,-- April FY26 SEEFF report.
SD3978

Report of the Executive Office of Economic Development (pursuant to item 1595-0605 of Section 2A of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Sports and Entertainment Events Fund May 2026 monthly 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 Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development) (received June 8, 2026);

EOED,-- May FY26 SEEFF report.
SD3979

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2WWW(e) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Non-Acute Care Hospital Assessment Trust Fund Accounting FY24 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,-- Non Acute Trust FY24 report.
SD3980

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Pharmaceutical Utilization 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 Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,-- Pharmaceutical Utilization report.
SD3981

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 12A of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its report on pharmaceutical drugs negotiation of supplemental rebate agreements (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

Mental Health,-- Direct Negotiations report.
SD3982

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2SSSS of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its MassHealth Delivery System Reform (DSRIP) quarter four FY25 trust fund report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and

MassHealth,-- DSRIP Q4 FY25 trust fund report.
SD3983

Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0300 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the General Laws) submitting its MassHealth One Care FY26 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 Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth F26
One Care report.
SD3984

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan second quarter FY25 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 Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
CMSP Q2 FY25
report.
SD3985

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan third quarter FY25 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 Health Care Financing) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
CMSP Q3 FY25
report.
SD3986

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2SSSS of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its MassHealth Delivery System Reform (DSRIP) third quarter FY25 trust fund report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
DSRIP Q3 FY25
trust fund report.
SD3987

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2WWWW of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Intervention (BHACI) FY24 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 Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
BHACI FY24
report.
SD3988

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 1599-2026 of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program (PMHNP) FY25 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 Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
PMHNP FY25
report.
SD3989

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 1599-2026 of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Fellowship Program (PMHNP) FY26 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 Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
PMHNP FY26
report.
SD3990

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 1599-2027 of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Human Service & Home Health Workers Student Loan Repayment Initiative FY24 & FY25 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 Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on the Higher Education) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
HSHHW FY24 &
FY25 report.
SD3991

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 1599-2027 of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Human Service & Home Health Workers Student Loan Repayment Initiative FY26 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 Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on the Higher Education) (received June 9, 2026);

MassHealth,--
HSHHW FY26
report.
SD3992

Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (pursuant to 25C(g) of Chapter 54 of the General Laws) submitting its report to the Joint Committee on Election Laws on jail-based voting in the 2024 State primary and State election (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws) (received June 9, 2026); and

SOC,-- Jail Based
Voting FY24 report.
SD3993

Report of the Massachusetts Capital Resource Company (pursuant to Section 18 of Chapter 816 of the Acts of 1977) submitting its FY25 annual report and statement of financial condition (received June 9, 2026).

MCRC,-- FY25
annual report.
SD3995

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Tarr and Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3117) of Bruce E. Tarr, Barry R. Finegold, and Adrienne Pusateri Ramos (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of North Andover to ban SGARs and FGARs [Local approval received];

North Andover,--
SGARs and
FGARs.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

By Ms. Howard, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3118) of Vanna Howard (by vote of the town) for legislation to provide for the filling of a vacancy on the Groton-Dunstable School Committee [Local approval received];

Groton-Dunstable
School Committee,-
- vacancy.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Severally 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 Financial Services to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to relative to credit unions (Senate, No. 3113);

Financial Services,--
study.

And recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Rules.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Paula Zandbergs of Woburn (under the provisions of Section 37P of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) to the model school resource officer memorandum of understanding review commission to develop and review the model memorandum of understanding and make recommendations for changes to the model memorandum of understanding as the commission deems appropriate.

Model school
resource officer
memorandum of
understanding
review commission.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5481) of David Paul Linsky (by vote of the town) that the town of Wayland be authorized to grant 10 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Wayland,-- liquor
license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5483) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) that the town of Williamstown be authorized to ban second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in said town; and

Williamstown,--
anticoagulant
rodenticides.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5484) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) for legislation to prohibit the application of fertilizer in the town of Eastham;

Eastham,--
fertilizer.

Severally to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5485) of David Paul Linsky (by vote of the town) relative to permissions to use land for green burials in the town of Wayland; and

Wayland,-- green
burials.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5486) of David Paul Linsky (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize print free digital legal notices in the town of Wayland;

Wayland,-- digital legal notices.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5487) of Michelle L. Ciccolo and Cindy F. Friedman (by vote of the town) that the town of Lexington be authorized to establish a surcharge on certain residential development activities for the purpose of funding the creation of community housing;

Lexington,-- community housing surcharge.

To the committee on Revenue.

Bills

Implementing the recommendations of the Walsh-Kennedy Commission Report (House, No. 5491,-- on House, No. 2692); and

Welding,-- safety regulations.

Making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5496,-- on House, No. 5377, in part);

Supplemental appropriations.

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Bills

Authorizing the town of South Hadley to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages (House, No. 5343,-- on House, No. 4964) [Local approval received on House, No. 4964];

South Hadley,-- liquor license.

Authorizing the town of Westford to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk off the premises (House, No. 5345,-- on House, No. 5075) [Local approval received on House, No. 5075]; and

Westford,-- liquor license.

Authorizing the transfer of a certain parcel of land in the town of Marion from the Open Space Acquisition Commission to the Select Board (House, No. 5388,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Marion,-- land.

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

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

Further regulating special meetings of the Holyoke city council (see House, No. 4738);

Bills laid before the Governor.

Amending the charter of the town of Reading (see House, No. 5102); and

Authorizing the city known as the town of North Attleborough to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (see House, No. 5392).

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Brownsberger and Mark, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Crighton, Cyr, DiDomenico, Durant and Driscoll, Ms. Edwards, Messrs. Eldridge, Fernandes and Finegold, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Howard, Ms. Jehlen, Messrs. Keenan and Lewis, Ms. Lovely, Ms. Miranda, Messrs. Montigny, Moore, O'Connor, Oliveira and Payano, Ms. Rausch, Messrs. Rush and Tarr, Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Velis) "commending the

Massachusetts Historical Society.

Massachusetts Historical Society on its efforts to honor the memory of Elizabeth Freeman and her historic contribution to the Massachusetts Constitution”;

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Jehlen) “congratulating Regina Bertholdo on her retirement from Somerville Public Schools”; and

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) “congratulating Cynthia ‘Cyndi’ Napierkowski on her retirement from Salem Public Schools.”

Regina Bertholdo.

Cynthia ‘Cyndi’
Napierkowski.

Matters Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The House Bill validating certain actions taken at the special town meeting held in the town of Stow (House, No. 5129) (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.**

Stow,-- town
meeting.

The House bill authorizing the town of Wayland to establish a millennium fund of the Wayland Free Public Library (House, No. 4137) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Wayland Free
Public Library.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Eldridge offered an amendment striking out, in their entirety, sections 3 and 4 and inserting in the place thereof the following sections:-

“SECTION 3. Notwithstanding sections 45 through 47, inclusive, of chapter 41 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the treasurer of the town of Wayland shall be the custodian of the fund and shall maintain the fund as a separate revenue account. The town treasurer shall invest and reinvest the fund pursuant to chapter 203C of the General Laws as directed by the board of commissioners of trust funds. The town treasurer shall expend therefrom monies as directed by the board of library trustees. The books and records of the fund shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices. A copy of the audit shall be provided annually to the board of library trustees and the select board.

SECTION 4. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act, the board of commissioners of trust funds shall inspect the records of the town treasurer and the board of library trustees and determine what existing monies of the town were intended by donors to be a part of the fund and vote to transfer such monies into the fund. Such monies shall thereafter be subject to this act.”

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.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Reading to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 5103),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Reading,-- senior
property tax
exemption.

The House Bill relative to the charter and the town clerk in the town of Falmouth (House, No. 5412),-- **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 providing for the appointed position of town clerk in the town of Falmouth”.**

Falmouth,-- charter.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk by Mr. Collins) were considered forthwith, as follows:-

Resolutions “designating August 8 and 9, 2026 as the sales tax holiday.”

Sales tax holiday.

After remarks, the resolutions (Senate, No. 3119) were adopted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill relative to facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder (Senate, No. 2565),-- 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 5438.

Police officer interactions,-- ASD.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Comerford, and the 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. 5498) of Mark J. Cusack relative to creditable service for Thomas Brooks; and

Thomas Brooks,-- creditable service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5499) of Bud L. Williams and Alice Hanlon Peisch for legislation to authorize teachers employed by the Springfield Empowerment Zone to become members of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System;

Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership,-- retirement.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5503) of Jonathan D. Zlotnik that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation be authorized to designate a certain bridge over state highway Route 140 in the city of Gardner as the Representative Robert L. Rice, Jr. bridge; and

Gardner,-- Robert L. Rice, Jr. Bridge.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5504) of Joan Meschino (by vote of the town) that the town of Hingham be authorized to grant certain parcels of land in said town to the Commonwealth for highway purposes;

Hingham,-- land.

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

Orders of the Day.

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

Bills

Authorizing the city known as the town of Barnstable to use red lights on certain emergency response vehicles (Senate, No. 2635);

Second reading bills.

Establishing a board of election commissioners in the city of Salem (House, No. 3907);

Authorizing the Provincetown year-round market rate rental housing trust to acquire year-round housing occupancy restrictions (House, No. 3909);

Authorizing the city of North Adams to appoint retired North Adams police officers as special police officers within said city for paid detail assignments (House, No. 4141, amended);

Relative to changing the two-year elected term for the Mayor of Chicopee to a four-year elected term (House, No. 4201, amended);

Providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4203);

Providing for the election of candidates in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 4204);

Authorizing the town of Wrentham to exempt from taxation certain real estate owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of Wrentham Deputy Chief George C. Labonte (House, No. 4269);

Providing for recall elections in the town of Charlemont (House, No. 4434);

Regulating elections in the town of Conway (House, No. 4498);

Relative to excise upon the transfer of parking spaces in the city of Salem (House, No. 4547, amended);

Authorizing the town of Millis to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption for school building construction projects (House, No. 4605);

Exempting the positions of police lieutenant and police sergeant in the city of Leominster from the civil service law (House, No. 4702);

Authorizing the town of Plymouth to establish a special revenue account for land acquisition (House, No. 4887);

Establishing a charter for the town of Orange (House, No. 5053);

Authorizing the town of Falmouth to expend funds to offset certain costs associated with the installation of low pressure pumps on private property in future sewer service areas (House, No. 5109);

Authorizing the city of Salem to convert seasonal licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises to annual licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5097); and

Regarding the disability pension for Misael Rodriguez administered by the Springfield retirement board (House, No. 5391).

Were severally read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Longmeadow (House, No. 4312) (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.**

Longmeadow,--
charter.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered as follows:

Reports of a Committee.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill relative to certain affordable housing and cultural space in the Brighton section of the city of Boston (House, No. 5442),-- ought to pass.

Brighton,--
affordable housing.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Rausch, and the bill was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to primary care for you (Senate, No. 867),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3116).

Primary care.

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 relative to primary care for you (Senate, No. 867) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, June 18, 2026, for immediate consideration with the Ways and Means amendment (Senate, No. 3116) 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.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Cyr, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

The matter will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, June 18, 2026 for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill enhancing child welfare protections (House, No. 4646),-- was read a second time.

Child welfare,--
protections.

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After remarks, and pending the question on adoption of the Ways and Means amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3111 and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading Mr. Cyr moved that the proposed new text be amended by adding the following section:-

“SECTION XX. Section 25 of chapter 209C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(d) Proceedings commenced under this section in the probate and family court and the juvenile court shall be governed by the Massachusetts Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure and the Massachusetts Juvenile Court Rules for the Care and Protection of Children, respectively.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Feeney and Ms. Lovely moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 10 the following section:-

1

“SECTION 10A. Section 1 of chapter 18C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of ‘Child advocate’ the following 2 definitions:-

‘Child-serving individual’, an individual who, in their professional role, has consistent access to children and is often alone with children under the age of 18 or responsible for their care; provided, however, that a “child-serving individual” may be an employee, a contractor or temporary employee at a public or private organization.

‘Child-serving volunteer’, an individual who, without compensation or expectation of compensation, provides services or supports in a capacity that involves direct contact with, supervision of or responsibility for the care, education, treatment or welfare of children under the age of 18 at a public or private organization, including, but not limited to, volunteers in schools, childcare programs, youth-serving organizations, recreational or athletic programs, faith-based programs, mentoring or tutoring services and residential or congregate care settings.”; and

In section 16, by striking out proposed subsection (h) of section 2 of chapter 18C and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

‘(h) maintain a publicly available website that shall make materials available for mandated reporters, child-serving individuals and child-serving volunteers, including, but not limited to trainings and online certification of completion of said trainings, guidance, statutory references, resources for individuals and families and best practices; provided, however, that such materials shall include information about recognizing the signs of child neglect or abuse; preventing, identifying and reporting child sexual abuse and problematic sexual behaviors between minors; the ways in which the behavioral and verbal cues for sexual abuse differ from those of other forms of abuse and neglect; bias and cultural considerations; how to address concerns with families and children when concerns do not rise to the level maltreatment; connecting families with needed supports and resources; how to understand what may qualify as neglect; and options for voluntary or mandatory reporting.’”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Payano and Ms. Howard moved that the proposed new text be amended section 10, by striking out, in line 312, the word “and”; and

2

In said section 10, in proposed paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of section 26 of chapter 18B, by striking out, in line 323, the word “Laws” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

“Laws; and (iv) support and stabilization services, including, but not limited to: (A) the total number of families who receive support and stabilization services; (B) the total number of service referrals for support and stabilization services; (C) the total number of families who receive more than 1 type of support and stabilization service; (D) the total number of referrals for intact families; (E) the total number of referrals for children in out-of-home placements; (F) the average length of time that support and stabilization services are provided; (G) the total number of provider agencies with support and stabilization services contracts; and (H) the total dollars expended on an annual basis for support and stabilization services, broken down by region.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Lovely, Ms. Howard and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 14, in section 1 of chapter 18C, by adding the following definition:-

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“Sudden unexplained pediatric death”, the sudden and unexpected death of an infant or child under the age of 3, where the cause of death cannot be determined before an investigation.”;

In section 16, by striking out, in line 495, the word “and”;

In said section 16, by inserting after the word “practices”, in line 498, the following words:- “; and

(i) create and maintain information and a list of publicly available resources for parents who have experienced a sudden unexplained pediatric death; provided, however, that such information shall include, but not be limited to, resources to obtain genetic testing, ongoing bereavement support, counseling and grief support”;

By inserting after section 23 the following section:-

“SECTION 23A. Said section 5 of said chapter 18C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘services’ in lines 43 and 44 the following words:- , access to support for parents of a child who have experienced a sudden unexplained pediatric death.”; and

In section 34, in proposed section 16 of chapter 18C, by adding the following subsection:-

“(h) In the case of a sudden unexplained pediatric death, the office shall provide the caregivers of the deceased with information and a list of publicly available resources for those who have experienced a sudden unexplained pediatric death in accordance with clause (i) of the first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 18C. The office shall provide such information and list as close to the time of incident as practicable.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Keenan and Montigny moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 2, in line 47, by striking out the word “abuse”, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “use disorder or gambling disorder”.

11

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan and Ms. Howard moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 42, in line 787, by inserting, after the word “themselves”, the following words:- “; provided, however, that the exercise of the right may be subject to limitations necessary to protect the wellbeing, health or safety of the child”.

12

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Moore and Velis, Ms. Rausch and Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by striking out subsection (d) of section 34I, and inserting in place thereof following subsection:-

17

(d) There shall be a multi-agency foster student educational achievement working group. The working group shall coordinate efforts to implement the provisions of this section, including but not limited to, specific timelines and processes for the transfer of education records for students in the custody of the department of children and families. The working group shall be co-chaired by the house and senate chair of the committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, families and shall also consist of: (i) a member of the board of elementary and secondary education designated by its chair; (ii) a member of the Massachusetts Governor's Council, appointed by the governor; (iii) a member of the attorney general civil rights unit designated by the attorney general; (iv) a member of the safe and supportive schools commission designated by its chair; (v) a district superintendent appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; (vi) a teacher appointed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association; (vii) a member appointed the Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium; (viii) a member appointed by the bryt team of the Brookline Center for Community Mental Health; (ix) a member appointed by the Citizens for Juvenile Justice; (x) a member appointed by the Foster Children Evaluation Services Clinic at UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center; (xi) and a member appointed by the parent professional advocacy league. The working group shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this section no later than December 1, 2026. For the first academic year this section is implemented, the working group shall meet at least quarterly to identify areas of improvement, create and implement recommendations to fix delays or problems regarding the system. For sequential academic years, all parties shall meet at least bi-annually.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Miranda and Ms. Howard moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting the following:-

18

“SECTION X. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 23E the following section:-

‘Section 23F. Family Rights Notice During Department Investigations.

(a) At the commencement of an investigation pursuant to section 51B, the department shall make reasonable efforts to provide a parent, legal guardian or custodian with a written notice in a language understood by such parent, legal guardian or custodian.

(b) The notice shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) a general description of the allegations under investigation, consistent with applicable confidentiality requirements and child safety considerations;

(ii) a description of the department's investigative process, including anticipated timelines and potential outcomes;

(iii) notice that the parent, legal guardian or custodian may consult with legal counsel at any stage of the investigation;

(iv) notice that participation in interviews is voluntary except as otherwise required by law or court order;

(v) information that, except as otherwise authorized by law, court order or circumstances involving an immediate threat to a child's safety, entry into a residence requires consent;

(vi) information regarding available advocacy, legal assistance, family resource centers and community-based support services; and

(vii) contact information for the office of the child advocate and any applicable departmental complaint or grievance process.

(c) The department shall develop standardized forms to implement this section and shall make such forms publicly available on its website in the most commonly spoken languages in the commonwealth.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the department to take immediate action necessary to protect a child from abuse or neglect or to comply with any state or federal law.’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Moore and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section __ the following section:-

19

“SECTION __. Section 3 of chapter 209A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

‘(h) ordering the defendant to refrain from abusing or contacting the plaintiff’s child, or child in plaintiff’s care or custody, unless authorized by the court, which shall survive the death of the plaintiff until such order expires or is vacated by the court;’.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 209 by inserting after the word “contributions” the following words:- “; provided, that no entity providing grants, bequests, gifts or contributions shall be eligible to be a vendor or provide goods or services to the department”.

22

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 612 by inserting after the word “fatalities” the second time it appears the following words:- “or serious bodily injury or emotional injury of a child or the indecent assault and battery of a child pursuant to sections 13B to 13B¾ of chapter 265, inclusive, or the rape and abuse of a child pursuant to sections 23 to 23B, inclusive, and sections 26 to 26D, inclusive, of said chapter 265”.

23

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the proposed new text be amended in line 436 by inserting after the word “inclusive,” the first time that it appears, the following words:- “or the kidnapping or enticement of a child pursuant to sections 26 to 26D, inclusive, of said chapter 265,”.

24

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Moore and Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 36 the following section:-

28

“SECTION 36A. Section 57 of said chapter 71, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘personnel’, in line 52, the following words:- and the children’s vision registry established in section 250 of chapter 111.

SECTION 36B. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 249 the following section:-

Section 250. (a) The department shall establish, maintain and operate a computerized registry of children’s vision screening and eye care to support the early identification of vision and eye health conditions in children, promote referrals and follow-up care and monitor access to and equity in children’s vision care in the commonwealth. The registry shall collect and maintain information concerning children’s vision and eye health screenings, referrals, eye examinations and follow-up eye care, including information reported pursuant to section 57.

(b) The department, in consultation with the board of elementary and secondary education, shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section. The regulations shall establish: (i) the persons and entities required or permitted to report information to the registry; (ii) the data to be reported; (iii) the form, manner and frequency of reporting; (iv) standards for security, confidentiality, user authentication and access control; (v) procedures by which an individual or, if the individual is a minor, the individual’s parent or guardian, may object to the disclosure of personally identifiable information; (vi) procedures to correct inaccurate information; and (vii) any other requirements necessary to implement this section.

(c) Licensed healthcare providers who administer children's vision or eye health screenings, conduct children's eye examinations or provide follow-up eye care to children and any other person or entity designated by the department by regulation shall report to the registry such information as the department determines is necessary for the purposes of this section in accordance with the department's regulations.

(d) The department shall develop appropriate safeguards to protect the security of the registry and the privacy of information contained within the registry. Personally identifiable information in the registry shall not be disclosed except as provided in this section or in regulations promulgated pursuant to this section. Unless the individual or, if the individual is a minor, the individual's parent or guardian, objects in the form and manner prescribed by the department, personally identifiable information may be released to: (i) licensed healthcare providers providing direct care to the child; (ii) school nurses and other school personnel responsible for screening, referral or follow-up for the child; (iii) employees or contractors of the department or staff of state agencies or state programs whose duties include case management, outreach, quality improvement or program evaluation related to children's vision care; and (iv) the individual or, if the individual is a minor, the individual's parent or guardian.

(e) Persons authorized by the commissioner may conduct research studies using information in the registry; provided, however, that the researcher submits a written request for information and executes a data use or research agreement that protects the confidentiality of the information provided.

(f) Information contained in the children's vision registry shall be confidential, shall not constitute a public record and shall not otherwise be disclosed, except in accordance with this section.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Miranda and Ms. Edwards moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 42, in subsection (6), by inserting after the word “opportunities” the following:-

“(vi) access to the federal Foster Youth to Independence voucher program or any other federally-funded housing assistance shall not serve as a basis for, or be considered in the determination of, a youth's readiness for case closure, and the department shall not close or reduce services to a young adult solely or in part because such housing assistance is or may become available to that young adult.’

(vii) Not less than 90 days prior to the closure of a young adult's case or the termination of services provided by the department, the department shall provide written notice to the young adult and to the young adult's assigned social worker of the department's intent to close the case. Such notice shall be written in clear and developmentally appropriate language and shall include, but not be limited to: (A) the anticipated date of case closure; (B) the reasons for the proposed case closure; (C) a description of the young adult's right to continue receiving services pursuant to this section, if eligible; (D) information regarding the process for re-engaging with the department under a voluntary placement agreement; (E) information regarding available housing, educational, employment, health care and supportive service resources; and (F) information regarding any federal, state or local benefits or programs for which the young adult may be eligible.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Brady and Payano moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting, after SECTION X, the following section:—

“SECTION X(a). Section 23 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:—

(p)(1) In administering the rights of children in foster care, the department shall ensure the right of a child whose primary language is other than English to linguistically continuous care. At the time of initial intake or assessment pursuant to sections 51A and 51B, the

department shall document the primary language spoken by the child and the child's parents or guardians.

(2) The department shall establish a placement preference hierarchy for any child whose primary language is other than English, prioritizing: (i) kinship placements with individuals fluent in the child's primary language; and (ii) licensed foster homes with at least one adult resident fluent in the child's primary language.

(3) If a language-matched placement under paragraph (2) is unavailable at the time of placement, the department shall execute and file in the child's case record, within 7 business days, a written language accommodation plan. Said plan shall detail the specific measures the department shall take to mitigate linguistic isolation, including, but not limited to: (i) the provision of certified interpreters for all family visitations, administrative reviews, and clinical evaluations; and (ii) a schedule for prospective transition to a language-matched placement if such transition is determined to be in the best interest of the child.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Brady and Payano moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting, after SECTION X, the following section:—

40

“SECTION X(a). Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 16BB the following section:—

Section 16CC. (a) Any family resource center receiving funding, administration, or support from the executive office of health and human services or the department of children and families, which operates within a catchment area where 10 per cent or more of the population speaks a primary language other than English, according to the most recent United States Census data, shall maintain staffing and programming parity reflective of such community demographics. Such centers shall employ full-time, dual-language staff fluent in the primary languages represented within the service area.

(b) Each family resource center subject to subsection (a) shall enter into a formal memorandum of understanding or contract with at least 1 community-based, culturally specific non-profit organization operating within its service area. Said partnerships shall provide for the co-location of services, community-led outreach, and culturally tailored navigation services for families undergoing the child requiring assistance process pursuant to sections 39E to 39I, inclusive, of chapter 119.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Brady and Payano moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in place thereof the following text:—

43

“The department shall file a consolidated annual report on its operations with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with disabilities, and the Office of the Child Advocate. Said report shall include a distinct section entitled 'Language and Cultural Equity Metrics' which shall contain aggregated, non-identifying data concerning:

(i) the total number and percentage of children under the care or custody of the department whose primary language is other than English, disaggregated by specific language spoken and by area office;

(ii) the total number and percentage of non-English speaking children who have been successfully placed in language-matched kinship or foster care settings;

(iii) the total number of bilingual caseworkers actively employed by the department, disaggregated by language proficiency and assigned area office, including the ratio of bilingual caseworkers to non-English speaking families within each area office; and

(iv) a comprehensive, data-driven recruitment and retention plan designed to eliminate any identified gaps between the linguistic needs of children in care and the available foster home and staff capacities within each region.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Recess.

At ten minutes before two o'clock P.M, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and at two minutes before three o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Cronin in the Chair.

Recess.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Cronin), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of John Edwards.

Moment of silence.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Cronin), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Hadley J. Boucher.

Moment of silence.

Orders of the Day.

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, the Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The House Bill enhancing child welfare protections (House, No. 4646),-- was again considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Child welfare,--
protections.

Ms. Rausch moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 36, in subsection (b) of proposed new section 34I of chapter 71, by adding the following sentence:- Immediate enrollment shall not preclude the new school district from requiring or from working to obtain outstanding records normally required for enrollment, or from requiring records normally required for ongoing enrollment.

49

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Rausch moved that the proposed new text be amended , in section 2, by striking out, in lines 105 and 106, the words “all other community-based service options have been exhausted” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “the family has exhausted all relevant community-based service options that are reasonably available to them”;

52

In said section 2, by inserting after the word “options”, in line 108, the following words:- “reasonably available to them”;

In section 44, by striking out, in proposed subsection (c) of section 39E of chapter 119 of the General Laws, the second to fourth sentences, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following 2 sentences:- “The application for assistance shall also set forth: (i) whether and when the child and the child's caregivers have been referred to a family resource center; (ii) the specific steps taken by the school district to support the child's attendance, if applicable; (iii) the specific court intervention that the school district is seeking to support the child in returning to school or improving the child's conduct; and (iv) if the application for assistance states that a child has repeatedly failed to obey the lawful and reasonable regulations of the school and a statement of the specific steps taken by the school to attempt to improve the child's conduct. An application that indicates that the school district has not made the caregiver referral to a family resource center required under subsection (f) of section 16U of chapter 6A shall not be scheduled for a hearing.”;

In said section 44, in the second paragraph of said proposed subsection (c) of said section 39E of said chapter 119 of the General Laws, by inserting after the third sentence the following sentence:- “The family resource center shall also report in writing if the child's family has failed to contact the family resource center following referral, or if the family has declined to engage with offered services.”;

In said section 44, by striking out, in lines 1125 and 1126, the words “have not been exhausted” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “reasonably available to the

family have not been exhausted, that the family has engaged with the family resource center and with offered services”; and

In said section 44, by striking out, in line 1132, the words “probation officer agrees with the family resource center’s determination” and inserting in place the following words:- “family resource center indicates that the family has not engaged with the family resource center or with offered services or”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Fattman and Tarr and Mrs. Dooner moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 36, in subsection (d) of proposed section 34I of chapter 71 of the General Laws, by adding the following sentence:- “When promulgating regulations under this section, the board shall consider the use of electronic repositories to facilitate the transfer of students’ educational records.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section 32 the following section:-

“SECTION 32A. Said section 12 of chapter 18C is hereby amended by inserting clause (e) the following:-

(f) If the child advocate, or the office of the child advocate, elects to withhold a report or components of a report, it shall provide any requesting party with the reasons therefore in writing, which reasons shall also be recorded and available for public inspection; provided further, that nothing in this subsection shall require any action by office which would compromise any investigation or protective measures that could be, or are being, undertaken by the office of the child advocate or the department of children and families.”;

By inserting after the word “outcomes”, in line 306, the following words:- “including, but not limited to, maltreatment in foster care and supported allegations of abuse and neglect for children in foster care by placement type.”; and

In section 34, by inserting after proposed section 17 of chapter 18C the following new proposed section:

Section 18. (a) There shall be within the office of the child advocate a youth engagement program, to ensure that the voices and experiences of youth in congregate care and other out-of-home placements inform statewide policy, oversight, and program improvement.

(b) The youth engagement program shall conduct not less than 4 youth listening sessions annually in congregate care settings, including but not limited to group homes, residential schools, community-based acute treatment programs, and other placements serving children in the care or custody of the commonwealth. Sessions shall be facilitated in a trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate manner and shall ensure confidentiality consistent with applicable law.

(c) The office of the child advocate shall annually compile and publish a youth engagement report summarizing any findings and recommendations. The report shall be submitted to the clerks of the senate and house, the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, and the department of children and families, and shall be posted publicly in accordance with section 19 of chapter 66.

(d) The office may consult with youth-serving agencies, including the department of children and families, the department of mental health, the department of youth services, the department of elementary and secondary education, and the department of early education and care, to facilitate participation and ensure that youth feedback is incorporated into agency oversight and improvement efforts.”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

“SECTION_. Section 39E of chapter 119 of the general laws as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting in line 41 after the word, “conduct” the following:-“No school district shall file a petition under this section unless it has first documented, in writing, that it has complied with all obligations under federal and state law, including but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state attendance and truancy statutes.

Such documentation shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) evidence that the school has conducted all required evaluations for special education or Section 504 eligibility, including any reevaluations warranted by new concerns or changes in the student’s functioning;

(2) evidence that the school has implemented appropriate academic, behavioral, and attendance interventions, including tiered supports, functional behavioral assessments, behavior intervention plans, and other evidence-based strategies;

(3) documentation of meaningful and timely family engagement efforts, including meetings, outreach attempts, language-accessible communication, and opportunities for the family to participate in problem-solving;

(4) documentation that the school has identified and addressed potential causes of absenteeism or school refusal, including bullying, harassment, unmet disability-related needs, behavioral health concerns, or transportation barriers;

(5) evidence that the school has referred the student and family to a Family Resource Center and participated in any multidisciplinary team process required under section 16U of chapter 6A; and

(6) a written explanation of why the school believes that all legally required interventions have been exhausted and why a CRA petition is necessary to support the student’s needs.

A school district shall submit this documentation to the juvenile court at the time of filing and shall provide a copy to the parent or guardian. The court shall not accept a petition for filing unless the documentation required under this paragraph is complete.’.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting in line 1075 after the word, “county” the following:-“; provided further no probation officer shall accept a petition under this section unless the probation department has first certified, in writing, that all appropriate community-based service options have been exhausted. The certification shall be filed with the court at the time the petition is submitted. The certification shall include, but not be limited to, (1) confirmation that the child and family were referred to and engaged with a Family Resource Center pursuant to section 16U of chapter 6A, including the outcome of any multidisciplinary team process; (2) documentation of school-based interventions, including attendance supports, behavioral interventions, special education evaluations, Section 504 accommodations, and family engagement efforts, where applicable; (3) documentation of any behavioral health supports offered or accessed, including crisis services, outpatient therapy, care coordination, or community-based behavioral health programs; (4) confirmation that all relevant service providers — including schools, clinicians, and community agencies — have attempted to address the child’s needs through voluntary, non-court interventions; and (5) a written explanation of why community-based services were insufficient to meet the child’s needs and why court involvement is necessary as a last resort.”.

39

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

45

“SECTION_. Chapter 69 of the general laws as appearing in the 2024 official edition is hereby amended by inserting after section 39 the following new section:- 40. (a) The

department of elementary and secondary education shall develop and issue statewide standards for truancy intervention, student engagement practices, and alternatives to filing a petition under section 39E of chapter 119. The standards shall be evidence-based and designed to reduce unnecessary court involvement by ensuring that schools address the root causes of absenteeism and disengagement.

(b) The statewide standards shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) required timelines for school-based interventions in response to early warning indicators of chronic absenteeism;

(2) minimum requirements for family engagement, including outreach attempts, language-accessible communication, and opportunities for collaborative problem-solving;

(3) guidance on identifying and addressing underlying causes of absenteeism, including unmet special education needs, bullying or harassment, behavioral health concerns, transportation barriers, and disability-related accommodations;

(4) required documentation of all interventions attempted prior to any referral to a Family Resource Center or consideration of a child requiring assistance petition;

(5) standards for coordination with Family Resource Centers and community-based service providers;

(6) guidance on culturally responsive and trauma-informed engagement practices; and

(7) model policies and procedures for school districts to adopt or adapt.

(c) Each school district shall adopt policies consistent with the statewide standards and shall annually submit its truancy and engagement policies to the department. The department shall review district policies for compliance and may require corrective action where necessary.

(d) The department shall publish all district policies submitted under this section on its website and shall annually report to the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities, and the office of the child advocate on:

(1) district compliance with statewide standards;

(2) trends in chronic absenteeism and school disengagement; and

(3) the impact of the standards on referrals to Family Resource Centers and CRA filings.”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new text be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

46

“SECTION_. Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 51A the following section:—

Section 51A½. (a) The executive office of health and human services, in consultation with the office of the child advocate, the department of children and families, the department of early education and care, the department of elementary and secondary education, shall update and modernize the definition of “mandated reporter” to reflect contemporary child-serving roles and settings.

(b) The executive office shall promulgate uniform regulations establishing a comprehensive and current list of mandated reporters. The regulations shall include, but not be limited to, individuals who, in the course of their professional duties or employment, regularly interact with children, including:

(1) coaches, athletic trainers, and extracurricular program staff;

(2) after-school and out-of-school-time program staff;

(3) transportation workers, including school bus drivers and monitors;

(4) contracted service providers working in schools, early education programs, residential programs, or child-serving agencies;

(5) behavioral health providers, including those employed by private agencies serving children in state custody; and

(6) any other category of individuals whose professional responsibilities involve regular contact with children.

(c) The executive office shall review and update the mandated reporter regulations not less than once every 3 years, or more frequently as needed to reflect changes in child-serving systems, workforce structures, or professional roles.

(d) The executive office shall publish the updated list of mandated reporters on its website and shall provide guidance to employers, licensing entities, and training providers to ensure statewide compliance.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new text be amended in section 34, by striking out, in line 577, the word “shall” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- may;

27

In said section 34, in proposed section 16 of chapter 18C, by striking out subsection (h) as inserted by amendment 31;

By inserting after section 35 the following section:-

“SECTION 35A. Said chapter 38 is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

Section 17. (a) In all cases of sudden unexpected pediatric death, the office shall provide the caregivers of the deceased with information from the office of the child advocate, including a list of publicly available services for sudden unexpected pediatric death as well as information about how to receive support from the office of the child advocate in accordance with clause (i) of the first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 18C. The office of the chief medical examiner shall provide this list to the caregivers of the deceased not more than 3 days after receipt of the decedent.

(b) The office, in coordination with the department of public health, shall provide, as close to the time of incident as practicable, information provided by the office of the child advocate, including a list of publicly available services and information about accessing support from the office of the child advocate pursuant to subsection (d) of section 5 of chapter 18C.”;

In section 36, by striking out, in line 720, the words “subsection (j)” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- subsection (k);

In section 41, by striking out, in lines 762 and 763, the words “subsection: (j)” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- subsection: (k);

In section 42, by striking out, in line 769, the words “section 23C” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- section 23D;

In said section 42, by striking out, in line 771, the word “has” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- shall have; In section 44, by striking out, in lines 1165 and 1183, the words “fact finding”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- fact-finding; and

In section 52, by striking out the words “Section 44” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Sections 2, 37, 38, 43, 44 and 45.

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended was then adopted.

The bill, as amended, was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed, was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at seventeen minutes before four o'clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Kennedy, as follows, to wit (yeas 39 to nays 0) [Yeas and Nays 192]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.

Gómez, Adam

Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at nine minutes before four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with the amendment [For text of Senate amendment, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3121].

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Cronin), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Barney Frank.

Moment of Silence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The Senate Bill establishing the Massachusetts data privacy act (Senate, No. 2619),-- 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 of House document numbered 5479.

Data privacy.

Mr. Feeney moved that the Senate NON-concur in the House amendment and ask for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches.

Senators Creem, Finegold and O'Connor were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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 John Edwards.

The Senator from Worcester and Middlesex, Mr. Cronin, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in the memory of John Edwards.

On May 31st, 2026 Correction Officer John Edwards, a 56-year-old longtime Correction Officer from Ashby, unexpectedly passed away after suffering a medical emergency while serving on duty at NCCI Gardner.

John was born on July 29th, 1969 in Wareham. He leaves behind his beloved wife Jana Edwards and their four daughters, Jacquelyn, Julianna, Jaymi, and Jenny.

John was a 28-year veteran of the Department of Correction and worked in the North Central Correctional Institution in Gardner. Edwards was a dedicated public servant. The Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union remarked that John “left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of working alongside him.” He was a leader his colleagues looked up to because of his unwavering professionalism and dedication to service.

John enjoyed spending time with family, the outdoors, hunting and fishing, listening to music and playing the guitar. His happy place was his cabin in Maine.

Both Worcester County and the entire Commonwealth are better places due to John Edwards’ public service. While Edwards’ time on earth was too short, his life was marked by a love for his work, community, and family. Our region takes solace in Edwards’ legacy and commits to honor him through our own work.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of John Edwards, at one minute past four o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Hadley J. Boucher.

The Senator from Worcester and Middlesex, Mr. Cronin, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in the memory of Hadley J. Boucher.

On May 27th, Haddie passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family. Haddie fought a courageous battle after being diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

Haddie was born on September 5, 2018 in Lunenburg. She leaves behind her loving parents, Derek and Alyssa Boucher, and her devoted big sisters, Olivia and Peyton. She is survived by countless family members, friends, classmates, teammates, and supporters who loved her dearly.

Haddie brought people together without even trying. She filled every room with light and her energy was contagious. For such a young individual, Haddie displayed remarkable character and strength that inspired our entire Commonwealth. She had a heart far bigger than her seven years. To know Haddie was to love her.

Haddie was a proud first grader at Lunenburg Primary School, where she was loved by her classmates, teachers, and entire community. Superintendent Fortuna remarked, “In her short time with us, Haddie brought our entire community together in extraordinary ways.” She enjoyed playing dek hockey and basketball, cheering loudly for the Boston Bruins and Red Sox, and laughing with her sisters and friends. She had a special love for animals, especially her beloved pups Mack, Harley, and Cooper. Haddie loved the beach, making arts and crafts, coloring for hours, and leaving thoughtful notes and drawings for the people she loved. Even in the smallest moments, Haddie found ways to make others smile.

Throughout her illness, Haddie showed a level of courage and strength that inspired the entire community. She faced each day with resilience and grace. Her courageous spirit brought people together in love, prayer, and support. Even in Haddie’s hardest moments, she

persevered with a smile on her face, teaching everyone around her what true bravery looks like.

She will be remembered as an amazing daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece, cousin, friend, and classmate. We take solace in Haddie's legacy and work to honor her through our own work in our everyday lives.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Hadley J. Boucher, at one minute past four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of Barney Frank.

The Senator from Middlesex and Norfolk, Ms. Spilka, the Senator from Norfolk and Middlesex, Ms. Creem, the Senator from Suffolk and Middlesex, Mr. Brownsberger, the Senator from First Bristol and Plymouth, Mr. Rodrigues, and the Senator from Cape and Islands, Mr. Cyr moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourns in memory of Barney Frank.

Barney Frank passed away on Tuesday, May 19th at the age of 86.

Barney was the former U.S. Representative of Massachusetts' 4th Congressional District where he served from 1981 to 2013. Significantly, he was the first openly gay person to serve in Congress. Through his acceptance of his own identity and comfort in its visibility, he helped normalize being gay in the public sphere and trailblazed a path for future LGBTQ people to serve in public office.

In addition to these contributions, Barney was also well known and beloved for his one-liners, blunt delivery, and acerbic wit. He did not mince words and conveyed his thoughts clearly, but with humor, and was widely quoted throughout his career in public service.

Barney was born on March 31, 1940, in Bayonne, New Jersey to Elsie and Samuel Frank. His family was Jewish and his grandparents emigrated from Poland and Russia. Notably, his mother, Elsie was also a force and began a career as an elder rights advocate at age 70. She worked 23 years in this capacity, continuing to advance and ultimately become President of the Massachusetts Association for Older Americans.

Barney attended college at Harvard University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1962. A longstanding civil rights advocate, Barney served as a volunteer in Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964. This experience helped inform his future ideology and underpinned his ongoing commitment to advancing civil rights. In 1968, he left a Ph.D. program in political science to become Boston mayor Kevin White's chief assistant, where he remained for three years.

In 1970, he departed the White administration and was soon hired as an assistant to U.S. Rep. Michael Harrington, who represented Massachusetts' 6th Congressional District.

Subsequently, in 1972, Barney decided to pursue elected office and won a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives where he served four terms. Notably, during his tenure in the House, he introduced legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which was the first legislation introduced in Massachusetts to protect the rights of individuals based on their sexual orientation. During his time serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, he also earned his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School.

In 1980, Barney ran for Congress and was elected to serve Massachusetts' 4th Congressional District. During his time in Congress, he was a tenacious advocate for civil rights as well as the rights of consumers. In 1987, Frank voluntarily came out as a gay while serving in Congress, becoming one of the highest-ranking elected officials in the nation to

do so. In 2007, he became chair of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services and held this position throughout the mortgage lending crisis and the Great Recession.

During this period, he advanced many reforms to increase oversight of the banking industry and fight economic inequality through consumer empowerment. His most widely recognized legislative achievement in Congress was the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which he sponsored alongside U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut. This legislation created critical guardrails on financial institutions to help address the underlying causes of the 2008 mortgage lending crisis.

This legislation also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an independent federal agency specifically dedicated to protecting consumers from businesses engaging in unfair and predatory tactics.

Barney continued to be a trailblazer and in 2012, he married his partner, Jim Ready, and became the first member of Congress to marry a same-sex partner while in office. Subsequently, in January 2013, after serving over 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, he decided to retire from Congress.

Barney will be greatly missed for his tremendous contributions to public life and discourse by all whose lives he touched. He is survived by his husband Jim Ready, as well as his brother, David, and two sisters, Doris Breay and Ann Lewis.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Barney Frank, at one minute past four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
