

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

[45]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, May 18, 2026.

Met at four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger 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. Brownsberger), 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. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Diane Tock. Diane was recognized for her 30 years of service working in dispatch at the South Shore Regional Emergency Communications Center in Hingham and Hull. She was accompanied by her son and other members of the South Shore Regional Emergency Communications Center. The Senate welcomed them with applause, Diane was congratulated on her retirement, and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Diane Tock.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 2UUUU of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Facility Quality Improvement Fund FY22 annual 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 Aging and Independence) (received May 14, 2026);

DPH,-- LTCF FY22
report.
SD3916

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 2UUUU of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Facility Quality Improvement Fund FY21 annual 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 Aging and Independence) (received May 14, 2026);

DPH,-- LTCF FY21
report.
SD3917

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 2UUUU of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Facility Quality Improvement Fund FY23 annual 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 Aging and Independence) (received May 14, 2026);

DPH,-- LTCF FY23
report.
SD3918

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 2UUUU of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Facility Quality Improvement Fund FY24 annual 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 Aging and Independence) (received May 14, 2026);

DPH,-- LTCF FY24
report.
SD3919

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to Section 2UUUU of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Long-Term Care Facility Quality Improvement Fund FY25 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on

DPH,-- LTCF FY25
report.
SD3920

Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence) (received May 14, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2025 through April 2026 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received May 15, 2026); and

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund data for May 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 Labor and Workforce Development) (received May 15, 2026).

EOTC,-- rental
protections April
2026 report.
SD3921

DER,--
Unemployment
Trust Fund May
FY26 report.
SD3922

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bills Prohibiting discrimination against 340b drug discount program participants (Senate, No. 819) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000]; and

Relative to removing barriers to care for physician assistants (Senate, No. 1502) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Severally ought to pass;

Severally referred, under Senate Rule 27, to the committee on Ways and Means.

340b Drug discount.

Physicians
assistants,-- patient
care.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bill ensuring access to healthcare and medically necessary food for children (Senate, No. 691),-- ought to pass with an amendment, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3069) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000]; and

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, that the Senate Bill promoting community immunity (Senate, No. 2623),-- ought to pass with an amendment, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 3070) [Estimated cost: greater than \$100,000];

Severally referred, under Senate Rule 27, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Medically necessary
food.

Community
Immunity Act.

By Mr. Oliveira, for the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1303), a Bill providing opportunities for apprentices to complete their training and ensuring for a skilled workforce in the commonwealth of Massachusetts (Senate No. 3076);

Read, and under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Apprentice training

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Dr. William Keough has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 241 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) to the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

Rare Disease
Advisory Council,--
appointment.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing injured on duty compensation to Chelmsford firefighter Nicholas Spinale (House, No. 5429),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.**

Chelmsford,--
Nicholas Spinale.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5425) of Kate Donaghue and James B. Eldridge (by vote of the town) that the town of Southborough be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Southborough,--
liquor licenses.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5426) of Adam J. Scanlon and Paul R. Feeney (with the approval of the town council) relative to amending the charter of the town of North Attleborough;

North
Attleborough,--
charter.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5427) of David Paul Linsky (by vote of the town) that the town of Natick be authorized to continue the employment of James Hicks, police chief in said town, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Natick,-- James
Hicks.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5428) of David Paul Linsky (by vote of the town) that the town of Natick be authorized to continue the employment of Brian Lauzon, deputy police chief of said town, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Natick,-- Brian
Lauzon.

Severally to the committee on Public Service

Bills

Validating the New Salem annual town election (House, No. 4224,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

New Salem,--
elections.

Relative to expanded small property tax abatements in the Town of Auburn (House, No. 4754,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Auburn,-- property
tax abatements.

Relative to the acquisition and disposition of certain land in the town of Falmouth (House, No. 5108,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Falmouth,-- land.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes) “commending the Plympton Historical Society, Inc. on its recognition of Deborah Sampson Day”; and

Plympton Historical
Society, Inc.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Velis) “commending Megan’s Light, Inc. on its recognition of the month of May 2026 as Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.”

Megan’s Light, Inc

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5436) of Michael S. Day for legislation to establish quantum investment and tax incentive programs for certain quantum science research, development, manufacturing or commercialization;

Massachusetts
Quantum Center.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5437) of Homar Gómez relative to reports of crimes to law enforcement officials;

Crime reports,-- law
enforcement.

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

Recess.

There being no objection, at six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at a quarter before two o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (both 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. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Authorizing the town of Dartmouth to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4006); and

Relative to the charter of the town of Westwood (see House, No. 4753).

Bills laid before the Governor.

Remarks on the General Appropriations Bill.

There being no objection, several members offered remarks relative to the pending House bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2027 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (House, No. 5501) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 4).

General Appropriations bill.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316),-- 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 3086, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Cahill of Lynn, Vargas of Haverhill and Vaughn of Wrentham had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

PROTECT Act.

On motion of Mr. Payano, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Friedman, Payano and Fattman were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, That, pursuant to an order previously adopted, and, under the provisions of Senate Rule 38B, when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at ten o'clock A.M., in a full formal session and that the only matter to be placed on the calendar will be the general appropriation bill.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at nine minutes before four o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at ten o'clock A.M.