

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

[3]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, January 12, 2026.

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Essex County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 9, 2026);

DPH,-- Essex
County Facility
inspection report.
SD3569

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Worcester County Jail and House of Correction, the Plan of Correction from the facility and the Plan of Correction acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 9, 2026);

DPH,-- Worcester
County Jail
inspection report.
SD3570

Report of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the calendar year 2025 (received January 9, 2026); and

Norfolk DA,--
wiretaps.
SD3571

Report of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office (pursuant to Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2025 calendar year (received January 12, 2026).

Middlesex DA,--
wiretaps.
SD3572

Special Commission Report.

Report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024, as amended by Section 70 of Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its Massachusetts Assisted Living Residence (ALR) Commission 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 December 31, 2025),--**was placed on file.**

EOHHS,-- ALR
Commission
report.
SD3525

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Bills

Promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2134);

American
Muslims,-- civil
rights.
Poland Trade
Commission.
Individuals with
service animals,--
commission.

Relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission (Senate, No. 2196);

Studying discrimination in public accommodation for individuals with service animals (Senate, No. 2714); and

Establishing a commission on the status of transgender people (Senate, No. 2725); and

Transgender,--
commission.
VFW Parkway,--
commission.

The Senate Resolve relative to a VFW Parkway master plan special commission (Senate, No. 2439);

Severally ought to pass;

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

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill related to comprehensive clinical and extended support services (Senate, No. 772);

Clinical services.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill expanding access to mental health services (Senate, No. 773);

Mental health
services,-- barriers.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to increase enrollment in affordable health plan networks (Senate, No. 775);

Health plans,--
enrollment.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to help patients and reduce healthcare costs by ensuring patient adherence to medications (Senate, No. 781);

Medication
synchronization.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to increase health insurer reporting transparency (Senate, No. 782);

Health insurer,--
transparency.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on petition, a Bill relative to access to psychiatric collaborative care reform (Senate, No. 1390);

Psychiatric care,--
access.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to preventing overdose deaths and increasing access to treatment (Senate, No. 1393) [Senator Collins dissenting];

Injection sites,--
pilot program.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring efficient and effective implementation of behavioral health reform (Senate, No. 1394);

Behavioral health
reform.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the prescription monitoring program (Senate, No. 1406);

Opioid,--
treatment program.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the administration of anti-psychotic or other psychotropic substances to nursing home residents (Senate, No. 1420); and

Medication
administration,--
nursing homes.

By Mr. Driscoll, for the committee on Public Health, on petition, a Bill to address conflicts of interest in the use of temporary nursing agencies at skilled nursing facilities (Senate, No. 1539, changed in line 16 by inserting after the words “consult with” the following phrase: “stakeholders, such as”);

Nursing care,--
conflicts of
interest.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill creating a climate bank in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 786);

Climate bank,--
establish..

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill ensuring timely insurance loss-draft payouts for homeowners (Senate, No. 787);

Homeowners,--
insurance payouts.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the fiduciary responsibility of lenders for non-payment of insurance premiums from escrowed accounts (Senate, No. 794);

Lenders non-
payment,--
insurance
premiums.
Fundamental
rights.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, on petition, a Bill modernizing the 6 fundamental rights (Senate, No. 1389); and

Suicide,--
prevention signage.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to suicide prevention signage at certain facilities (Senate, No. 1395);

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill erecting Clara Barton signs in the town of Oxford (Senate, No. 2387);

Oxford,-- erect
Clara Barton signs.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to improve pedestrian safety (Senate, No. 2419);

Pedestrian safety,--
crosswalks.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill removing the fee for veteran license plates (Senate, No. 2424); and

Veterans,-- license
plates.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill electrifying Regional Transit Authorities (Senate, No. 2433);

RTA,--
electrifying.

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

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation, on petition, a Bill improving oversight and operations of the Steamship Authority (Senate, No. 2395);

Steamship
Authority,--
oversight.

Read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Representative Galvin of Canton has been appointed to serve as his designee on the special legislative commission (under Section 112 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) to conduct a comprehensive investigation and study into the future of the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children, as designated in chapter 87 of the acts of 2016, formerly known as the Massachusetts hospital school.

Pappas
Rehabilitation
Hospital for
Children
Commission,--
appointment.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4916) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize ranked choice voting in the town of Bedford;

Bedford,-- ranked
choice voting.

To the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4917) of Kenneth I. Gordon (by vote of the town) relative to banning the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides in the town of Bedford;

Bedford,--
rodenticides.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4890) of Tackey Chan and Bruce J. Ayers (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Quincy;

Quincy,-- public
safety personnel.

To the committee on Public Service.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Comerford) "recognizing Russell "Russ" Carrier's 44 years of service to the Forbes Library."

Russell Carrier.

Matters Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4175) (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.**

Provincetown,--
charter.

The House Bill amending the charter of the city of Greenfield (House, No. 4379),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Greenfield,--
charter.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Brendan P. Crighton for legislation to update Massachusetts student transportation.

Students,--
transportation
safety.
SD3482

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Fernandes, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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

Increasing the age limit for retired police officers serving as special police officers in the town of Weston (see House, No. 4031, amended); and

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Dissolving a certain special fund in the town of Athol (see House, No. 4401, amended).

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4927) of James J. O'Day relative to access to applied behavior analysis services in schools,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Education.**

Schools,-- ABA
services.

Orders Adopted.

On motion of Mrs. Dooner,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at one o'clock P.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Mr. Fernandes presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries until January 23, 2026 within which time to make its final report on a certain current Senate document numbered 58 relative to oyster shell recycling (Senate, No. 2906).

Agriculture and
Fisheries,--
extension order.

Mr. Collins in the Chair, the rules were suspended on motion of Mrs. Dooner and, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of Manuel B. Barros.

Moment of silence.

Adjournment in Memory of Mr. Manuel B. Barros.

The Senator from First Suffolk, Mr. Collins, and the Senator from Second Suffolk, Ms. Miranda moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Manuel B. Barros.

Manuel B. Barros, lovingly known as “Boboy,” was born in Mira Mira, Fogo, Cabo Verde, in 1937 to Claudina Barbosa Barros “Nhanhanha” and Fidel Riberio. His journey took him through São Tomé and Angola before he immigrated to the United States in 1976, carrying with him resilience, faith, and a deep love for family.

In 1987, Manuel met Luisa “Lia,” the woman with whom he would build a life rooted in love and devotion. In 1988, they welcomed their daughter Claudina, named after his cherished mother, and later that year they were married. Soon after, Manuel opened his heart and home by bringing Luisa’s children—Maria, John, Silvina, Silvino, Samira, and Manuel—to America in 1993, creating a blended family bound by care, guidance, and unconditional love.

Manuel was a devoted and steady father figure who led by example. He offered constant encouragement, support, and wisdom, grounding his children in faith, discipline, and strong values that will live on through them.

Faith was the center of Manuel’s life. He and Luisa renewed their vows fifteen years later at St. Patrick’s Church, a place that held deep meaning for him—the church where he proudly walked Maria down the aisle, baptized his daughter Claudina and two grandchildren, and faithfully attended Mass every Sunday, always sitting at the start of the third pew. His generosity was quiet but consistent, shown through regular donations to the church, charities, and foundations.

In 2005, Manuel and Luisa built a home in Cabo Verde, joyfully traveling back and forth for many years. As his health declined and required greater medical care, he remained at home, lovingly cared for by his daughter—whom he had proudly supported through nursing school—and his stepdaughter Samira.

Though he longed to attend church in person, his faith never wavered. Manuel prayed the rosary twice each day and watched Sunday Mass on television, holding close the faith that guided his life. He was a God-fearing man of integrity—hardworking, devoted to family, and deeply rooted in love and belief.

Manuel will be deeply missed by the stepchildren whose lives he helped shape, his many siblings he supported after immigrating, his beloved wife with whom he shared a lifetime of love, his daughter who carries his spirit, and the many family members and friends whose lives were touched by his kindness.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Manuel B. Barros, at twenty-five minutes before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at one o’clock P.M.