

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

[5]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Met at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Rausch 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 (Ms. Rausch), 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 Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 27 1/2 of Chapter 23B Section of the General Laws) submitting its HousingWorks Infrastructure Program 2024-2025 annual 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 Housing and the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight) (received January 15, 2026);

EOHLC,-- 2024-
2025 HWIP report.
SD3585

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 35EEE(c) of Chapter 10 pf the General Laws) submitting its Municipal Police Training Fund 2023 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 15, 2026);

EOPSS,-- MPTF
FY23 report.
SD3587

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2006) submitting its Data Collection for Government Assisted Housing in Massachusetts 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 Housing) (received January 15, 2026);

EOHLC,-- Data
collection FY25
report.
SD3588

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 2024 through December 2025 (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 January 15, 2026);

EOTC,-- rental
protections
December 2025
report.
SD3589

Report of Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line item 8200-0222 of Section 2 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Municipal Police Training Committee 2024 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 15, 2026);

EOPSS,-- MPTC
FY24 report.
SD3590

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to Section 35 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of facilities other than the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Bridgewater being used for treatment of certain males and the number of persons so committed to such facilities for calendar year 2024 (received January 15, 2026);

MASAC,-- 2024
annual report.
SD3591

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the MCI Framingham, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the

DPH,-- MCI
Framingham
Inspection report.
SD3592

facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Suffolk County Jail, 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 15, 2026);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Suffolk County House of Correction, 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 15, 2026);

Report of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its Unemployment Trust Fund Quarterly 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 Labor and Workforce Development) (received January 16, 2026);

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (under the provisions of Section 23 of Chapter 32 of the General Laws) submitting its report relative to its divestment from certain tobacco securities (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant to Section 6 of Chapter 232 of the Acts 2010) submitting its annual 2025 divestment from Iran restricted securities report (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant Section 64(f) to Chapter 42 acts of 2022) submitting its annual 2025 divestment from Russia restricted securities report (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant to Chapter 151 of the Acts of 2007) submitting its annual 2025 divestment from Sudan restricted securities report (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Cape and Islands District Attorney (pursuant to Section 99 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of wiretap interceptions for the 2025 calendar year (received January 15, 2026);

Report of the Office of the Attorney General (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 16, 2026); and

Report of the Norfolk District Attorney (Section 6 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws) submitting its Victim Witness Advocate 2025 Program Plan (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 15, 2026).

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Brownsberger and Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, a joint petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William M. Brownsberger and David M. Rogers for legislation relative to consumer connected devices; and

By Ms. Edwards, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Lydia Edwards for legislation to protect access to justice;

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

DPH,-- Suffolk
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD3594

DPH,-- Suffolk
County HOC
Inspection report.
SD3595

EOLD,-- UITF
Quarterly report.
SD3597

PRIM Board,--
Tobacco 2025
report.
SD3599

PRIM Board,--
Iran 2025 report.
SD3600

PRIM Board,--
Russia 2024 report.
SD3601

PRIM Board,--
Sudan 2025 report.
SD3602

Cape and Islands,--
wiretaps.
SD3603

AGO 2025
Wiretap report.
SD3604

Norfolk DA,--
Victim Witness
Advocate Plan.
SD3605

Consumers,--
connected devices.
SD3606

Protections,--
judicial security.
SD3607

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 State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to zero-based budgeting and budget transparency (Senate, No. 2909); and

State
Administration and
Regulatory
Oversight,-- study.
Id.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to the emergency assistance shelter system (Senate, No. 2910);

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4964) of Homar Gómez (by vote of the town) that the town of South Hadley be authorized to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages in said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

South Hadley,--
liquor licenses.

A Bill relative to the board of water commissioners of the Dalton fire district (House, No. 4721,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Dalton fire district.

Bills

Relative to the annual town meeting for the town of Orange (House, No. 4717, amended,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Orange,-- annual
town meeting.

Authorizing the town of Milton to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4813,-- on House, No. 4089) [Local approval received on House, No. 4089];

Milton,-- liquor
licenses.

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

Order Adopted.

Ms. Creem presented the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That a convention of the two branches be held at six o'clock P.M., on Thursday, January 22, 2026, for the purpose of receiving such communication as the Governor, Maura T. Healey may be pleased to make to them relating to the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Joint convention.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

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 establishing the position of appointed town clerk in the town of Avon (House, No. 4556) (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.**

Avon,-- town
clerk.

The House Bill amending the charter of the town of Provincetown (House, No. 4176) (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.

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 Joan B. Lovely for legislation relative to students accessing food and nutritional information.

Nutritional info, --
student access.
SD3544

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Higher Education.

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 Joan B. Lovely for legislation to establish a celiac disease screening pilot program.

Celiac disease,--
pilot program.
SD3545

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Health.

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 Kelly A. Dooner and Steven S. Howitt for legislation relative to retirement benefits for Alec Ciminello.

Alec Ciminello,--
retirement benefits.
SD3273

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Rausch), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection in memory of William Richard Lynch.

Moment of silence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Wellesley (see House, No. 4363, amended), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage and containing an emergency preamble,-- was laid before the Senate; and, a separate vote being taken in accordance with the requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted in concurrence, by a vote of 2 to 0.

Wellesley,-- land.

The bill was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Rausch) and sent to the House for enactment.

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 (Ms. Rausch) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Establishing the fourth Thursday in March as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day (see House, No. 3306);

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Regulating the appointment of the police chief in the city of Fall River (see House, No. 4214);

Authorizing the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance to convey a certain parcel of land in the town of Wellesley (see House, No. 4363, amended);

Amending the charter of the town of Seekonk (see House, No. 4459); and

Authorizing the town of Billerica to establish an age limit for original appointment to the position of police officer (see House, No. 4632, amended).

Orders Adopted.

On motion of Mrs. Dooner,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday 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 Mr. William Richard Lynch.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins presented a request that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourns in memory of Mr. William Richard Lynch.

Mr. William Richard "Butch" Lynch, of South Boston passed peacefully on December 31, 2025 with family by his side.

He leaves his loving wife of 54 years, Denise (Kenney) Lynch and his beloved sons, Shawn and his daughter-in-law Becky, and Daniel. Butch was the much-loved brother of John "Guy" Lynch, Jacqueline "Sissy" Lynch, Margaret "Margie" Goodine, and the late James Lynch and Joseph Lynch. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Butch loved traveling, spending time with family, friends and good food. He was very talented and enjoyed working on home remodeling projects, solving complex mathematical equations, and was always ready to help family, friends and neighbors. Butch was known for his sense of humor, wit and fun, his eclectic taste in music and he loved to sing, especially his Motown favorites. As his nephew Patrick observed, Butch was a source of common sense, logic and good values, or just the right amount of silliness, depending on what the situation needed.

Butch's family remembers him as the cornerstone of their family and will be missed forever. Butch now joins his lifelong friends, Joe Kenneally, Warren MacDonald and Fred Croake. It gives us comfort to know that they are together again.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. William Richard Lynch, at twenty-four minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mrs. Dooner, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
