

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Met at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Lovely 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. Lovely), 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 Betsy Lehman Center (pursuant to Section 15 (d) and (h) of Chapter 12C of the General Laws) submitting its Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety 2025 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received April 27, 2026);

BLC 2025 annual
report.
SD3871

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues March 2026 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 Revenue) (received April 28, 2026);

MassGaming,--
Gaming Revenues
March 2026 report.
SD3872

Report of Division of Occupational Licensure (pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 147 of the General Laws) submitting its FY24 annual report (received April 29, 2026);

DOL,-- FY24
annual report.
SD3875

Report of Division of Occupational Licensure (pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 147 of the General Laws) submitting its FY25 annual report (received April 29, 2026); and

DOL,-- FY25
annual report.
SD3876

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 1P(g) of Chapter 69 of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 Safe and Supportive Schools Commission tenth 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 Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, the Joint Committee on Education and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received April 29, 2026).

DESE,-- SSS
Commission 10th
annual report.
SD3877

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Brady, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael D. Brady for legislation to ensure all Massachusetts litigants due process of law; and

Due process,--
litigants.
SD3873

By Mr. Mark, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul W. Mark for legislation relative to labor rights of chief probation officers;

Probation officers,-
- labor rights.
SD3878

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

Report of a Committee.

By Ms. Friedman, for the committee on Health Care Financing, on Senate, Nos. 687, 734, 831, 1232, 1390, 1534 and 2992 relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 3067) [Senator Feeney dissenting in so much as relates to Senate, No. 1534];

Health Care
Financing,-- study.

Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

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 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to consumer protection and professional licensure matters (Senate, No. 3063);

Consumer
Protection and
Professional
Licensure,-- study.

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.

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

Representative Worrell of Boston has been appointed to serve as his designee on the special working group on youth sports established (under Section 305 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to conduct an investigation and study of the current state of youth sports; and

Youth sports
working group,--
appointment.

David Ashwell of West Boylston has been appointed to serve as his designee on the Commission on PILOT for State Owned Land established (under Executive Order 645) charged with advising the Governor on potential reforms to the PILOT program.

Commission on
PILOT for State
Owned Land,--
appointment.

A Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316,-- on House, No. 5158), -- **was read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

PROTECT Act.

Bills

Further defining a quorum of the Worcester Regional Retirement System Board Advisory Council (House, No. 2926,-- on petition); and

Worcester Retirement
System Board
Advisory Council.
Bill Russell and Bob
Cousy Highway.

Naming "The Bill Russell and Bob Cousy Highway" (House, No. 5390,-- on House, No. 3727);

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.

Bills

Authorizing the Provincetown year-round market rate rental housing trust to acquire year-round housing occupancy restrictions (House, No. 3909,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Provincetown,--
year-round
housing.

To clarify the organization of the Lexington Housing Assistance Board (House, No. 4842,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Lexington Housing
Assistance Board.

Providing for the exchange of certain park land in the town of Lexington (House, No. 4843,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Lexington,-- land.

Authorizing the town of Plymouth to establish a special revenue account for land acquisition (House, No. 4887,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Plymouth,--
revenue account.

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 (the first two of which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Ms. Lovely) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Providing for the retirement of Walter L. Guertin, a former member of the fire department in the city of Attleboro (see Senate, No. 1859, amended);

Enabling the maintenance of private roads in the city of Gloucester (see Senate, No. 2596);

Increasing the membership of the Haverhill board of health from 3 members to 5 members (see House, No. 4057); and

Amending the charter of the town of Middleton (see House, No. 4399, amended).

Bills laid before
the Governor.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Harrison Abber on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Milo James Angel Burke on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Liam La Croix on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Charles Goodman on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Jack Goodwin on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout”; and

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rush) “congratulating Keziah Jane Reed on her elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout.”

Harrison Abber.

Milo James Angel
Burke.

Liam La Croix.

Charles Goodman.

Jack Goodwin.

Keziah Jane Reed.

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 Senate Bill allowing the town of Somerset to prohibit water fluoridation (Senate, No. 2627),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Somerset,-- water
fluoridation.

The House Bill relative to the charter of the town of Fairhaven (House, No. 4232),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Montigny presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3059.

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.

Fairhaven,--
charter.

The House Bill authorizing the city of Boston to grant easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (House, No. 5317) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Boston,-- land.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, reported, recommending that the same be consolidated with the Senate Bill authorizing the grant of easements in or takings of certain parcels of land to the city of Boston (Senate, No. 3033) likewise referred to said committee, and that, when doing so, it will be correctly drawn.

The report was accepted.

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

The House Bill authorizing the town of Lancaster to dissolve its animal control commission (House, No. 4212),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Lancaster,-- animal control commission.

The House Bill setting a date for the annual town meeting for the town of Orange (House, No. 4717, amended) (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.**

Orange,-- annual town meeting.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Labor and Workforce Development until July 30, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1303, 1307, 1311, 1320, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1367, and 1376, relative to unemployment insurance, workplace safety, collective bargaining rights, paid leave and workforce safety matters (Senate, No. 2979),-- ought to be adopted.

Labor and Workforce Development,-- extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Durant and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Transportation until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 2347, 2363, 2372, 2373, 2379, 2380, 2393, 2398, 2429, 2432, and 2905, relative to transportation matters (Senate, No. 3037),-- ought to be adopted.

Transportation,-- extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Durant and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to employees of the Dedham Westwood Water District (House, No. 2917, amended,-- on petition),-- was read.

Dedham-Westwood Water District.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant and the bill 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 further regulating creditable service for employees of the Dedham-Westwood Water district."

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5399) of Rodney M. Elliott for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Carla Johnson, an employee of the Department of Unemployment Assistance;

Carla Johnson,-- sick leave.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5400) of Richard M. Haggerty, Kenneth I. Gordon and Michelle L. Ciccolo that the city of Boston be authorized to grant permanent easements over certain land in the city of Woburn and town of Burlington to the Commonwealth for highway purposes;

Boston,-- highway easement.

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

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on recommitted petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Greg Pinkerton, an employee of the department of corrections (Senate, No. 2942);

Greg Pinkerton,-- sick leave.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Stephanie Rivera, an employee of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office (Senate, No. 3031);

Stephanie Rivera,-- sick leave.

The bill was read. There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, the bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Lovely), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Dorothy Ann Bonfani.

Moment of silence.

Recess.

There being no objection, at eleven minutes past twelve o'clock noon, the Chair (Ms. Lovely) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and, at four minutes past three o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Ms. Lovely in the Chair.

Recess.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316), - ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3072 [also based on Senate, Nos. 1059, 1122, 1127 and 2665].

PROTECT Act.

Order Adopted.

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill promoting rule of law, oversight, trust and equal constitutional treatment (House, No. 5316) (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 3072) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Procedural order.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 3:00 P.M. on Monday, May 4, 2026. All such amendments shall be second reading-amendments to the Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 3072), but further amendments in the third degree to such amendments shall be in order. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

After the bill as amended is ordered to a third reading, it shall immediately be read a third time and the question shall then immediately be on passing it to be engrossed, and no

amendments shall be in order at the third reading of the bill unless recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Friedman. Senator Durant, requested that the adoption of the order be determined by a standing vote, and the order was adopted by a vote of 3 to 1.

The bill will be placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, May 7, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Friedman,--

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 Dorothy Ann Bonfanti.

The Senator from Essex, Ms. Lovely, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Dorothy Ann Bonfanti.

Dorothy (Duchene) Bonfanti, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away on Sunday December 7, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at the Brudnick Center, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease and its complications. Born on February 22, 1948, in Salem, Massachusetts, to Roland C and Eleanor (Buckley) Duchene. Dorothy lived in Salem until her marriage to the love of her life, Michael J. Bonfanti, in 1970.

Dorothy and Mike shared a marriage rooted in devotion, humor, and resilience. Their love story began on the historic day of Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination, when their first date was postponed amid the nation's turmoil. They became engaged on Election Day in 1969, a fitting symbol of the life they would share, one filled with service, community involvement, and mutual support. Their personalities complemented each other perfectly: Mike's extroverted nature and Dorothy's quiet strength formed an unshakable bond.

A devoted partner in both life and purpose, Dorothy stood alongside Mike throughout his years in public service, from library trustee to light plant commissioner to Mayor of Peabody. She was deeply engaged in her community, whether volunteering with the Scouts, teaching CCD at St. Adelaide's, running children's programs for the mayor's office, or working at the senior center. She also enjoyed a career in medical billing, earning the respect and affection of local doctors and colleagues.

Dorothy's greatest joy was her family. She poured her heart into supporting her children and grandchildren in their activities, creating a home filled with love and encouragement. Her kindness, gentle spirit, and unwavering loyalty touched everyone who knew her. She cherished friendships that began in grammar school and maintained strong bonds with her Salem/St. James friends throughout her life. After moving to Peabody, she built another circle of treasured friendships that enriched her days.

Dorothy is survived by her devoted husband, Michael, her adoring children, Leah Gagnon and her husband Christopher of Billerica, and David Bonfanti and his wife Krystal of Peabody; and her beloved grandchildren, Michaela "Kayla," Anthony, and Christopher Bonfanti and Charlie and Nathan "Nate" Gagnon. She is also survived by her loving sister, Nancy Beirne, and her family, as well as her cherished extended family; Leonard and Mary Bonfanti, Charles and Deborah Bonfanti, Gerri Kay, Carol and Michael Bagharmean, and many nieces and nephews.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Dorothy Ann Bonfanti, at thirteen minutes past three o'clock P.M, on motion of Ms. Friedman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
