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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Met at twenty-one 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).

Pledge of allegiance.

The Chair (Mr. DiDomenico), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Distiguished Guests.

There being no objection the following guests were introduced:

Dedham Council on Aging and Lt. John Connolly.

The Chair (Mr. DiDomenico) introduced, in the Senate Gallery, a group of seniors from the Dedham Council on Aging, Lieutenant John Connolly of the Dedham Police Department, his son, Aidan and a group of students taking a tour of the State House. Among the group were: Ryder, Jackson, Evangeline, Alexis and Brady. They were guests of Senator Rush and accompanied by Representative McMurtry of Dedham. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Gallery.

Matthew Lyons.

The Chair (Ms. Lovely) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Director of the Council of State Governments East (CSG East) Matthew Lyons. Director Lyons was visiting the State House to meet legislators, hear about their priorities and welcome newer senators to the CSG East family. The Senate welcomed him with applause and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Hannah Mori.

The Chair (Ms. Lovely) handed the gavel to Mr. Tarr for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Tarr then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, his staffer Hannah Mori. Hannah was recognized for having been sworn in to the Massachusetts Bar. She was accompanied by her father, Richard, a retired district court judge, her sister-in-law, Christal and her niece, Madelyn. The Senate applauded her accomplishments and Hannah, along with her family, withdrew from the Chamber.

Communications.

OVA,-- written support. SD4323

Communication from the Office of Veteran Advocate (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 115B of the General Laws) submitting written support for the supplemental budget H.5699 (received October 27, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Senate Rule 13C, and was placed on file, to wit:

Senate Audit for Fiscal Year 2025.

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Senate with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at twenty-one minutes before eleven o'clock A.M., on Wednesday, October 28, 2026).

The following communication was received, under the provisions of Joint Rule 24, and was placed on file, to wit:

Joint Accounts Audit for the Fiscal Year 2025.

Communication from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, on an audit of the Joint Accounts of the Massachusetts Legislature with State of available resources and expenditures – statutory basis – and additional information for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate at twenty-one minutes before eleven o'clock A.M., on Wednesday, October 28, 2026).

Reports.

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

MassHealth,-- CMSP Q4 2026 report. SD4321

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 10F of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP) fourth quarter fiscal year 2026 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 October 26, 2026);

DPH,-- Boston Pre-Release Center Inspection report. SD4322

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Boston Pre-Release Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received October 26, 2026);

EOPPS,-- MSPCL Q4 2025 report. SD4324

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to line Item 8100-1004 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab fourth quarter 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 28, 2026); and

OCA,-- Child Fatality FY25 report. SD4329

Report of the Office of the Child Advocate (pursuant to Section 2A of Chapter 38 of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 Child Fatality Review annual report (received October 29, 2026).

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

Brockton,-- land surplus.

By Mr. Brady and Mrs. Mendes of Brockton, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3292) of Michael D. Brady and Rita A. Mendes (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the school committee of the city of Brockton and the Brockton city council to declare certain land as surplus on land known as "Keith Field" in the city of Brockton [Local approval received];

Scituate,-- moderator.

By Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Kearney of Scituate, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3293) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) for legislation to change the term of the elected office of moderator in the town of Scituate [Local approval received];

Marshfield,-- town charter.

By Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Kearney of Scituate, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3294) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the Marshfield town charter [Local approval received]; and

Marshfield,-- select board.

By Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Kearney of Scituate, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3295) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) for legislation to expand the Marshfield select board [Local approval received];

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

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5709) of Todd M. Smola and Peter J. Durant (by vote of the town) that the town of Ware be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Ware,-- liquor license.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5711) of Kate Donaghue and James B. Eldridge (by vote of the select board) that the town of Southborough be authorized to appoint a town clerk;

Southborough,-- town clerk.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

A Bill relative to noise report data and good neighbor policy at Beverly Regional Airport (House, No. 5708,-- on House, No. 3713),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Beverly Regional Airport,-- noise report.

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:

Authorizing the town of Westford to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 5345); and

Amending the town charter for the town of Plymouth (see House, No. 5497).

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 Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Carina Gangi on her elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout";

Carina Gangi.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Sonia Gangi on her elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout"; and

Sonia Gangi.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Velis) "commending the Doctor I.R. Calkins Assembly of the Society of American Magicians on their observance of National Magic Week from October 25 to October 31, 2026."

National Magic Week.

Reports of Committee.

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The Senate Bill relative to Massachusetts time zones and sunshine protection (Senate, No. 2157).

Atlantic standard time.

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

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

The Senate Bill designating a certain bridge in the town of Princeton as the Captain Christopher J. Sullivan memorial bridge (Senate, No. 2383).

Princeton,-- Captain Christopher J. Sullivan bridge.

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

Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules, reported that the following matter be placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session:

Okur-Chung Awareness Day.

The House Bill designating April 5 as Okur-Chung Neurodevelopmental Syndrome Awareness Day (House, No. 3366).

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

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:

Timothy Cluett,-- sick leave.

The Senate Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Timothy Cluett, an employee of the Worcester county sheriff's office (Senate, No. 3263),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Moore presented an amendment by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:-

"*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith a sick leave bank for a certain employee of the Worcester county sheriff's office, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.".

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3263, amended) was then passed to be engrossed. [For text of Senate bill printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3296]

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Carla Johnson,-- sick leave.

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carla Johnson, an employee of the department of unemployment assistance (House, No. 5399),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Quincy,-- public safety personnel.

The House Bill regulating the maintenance of pre-employment physical examination records for public safety personnel in the city of Quincy (House, No. 4890) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Keenan presented an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3289.

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.

Reports of a Committee.

Chelmsford,-- Nicholas Spinale.

Ms. Lovely in the Chair, By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill providing injured on duty compensation to Chelmsford firefighter Nicholas Spinale (House, No. 5698),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3291.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Tarr and the bill was read a second time and was amended, as recommended by the committee on Ways and Means.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5700),-- ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3290 (Direct Appropriations: $2,476,841,267.00.) [In fiscal year 2026 with a net cost to the commonwealth of $1,704,997,592. This legislation also adds $84,580,989 in net new spending to the fiscal year 2027 general appropriations act.]. Supplemental appropriations.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That, the Senate shall meet in formal session on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at one o'clock P.M. for the purpose of considering matters authorized for consideration under Joint Rule 12A, including House, No. 5700, with the recommended Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 3290); and be it further ordered, that all amendments to the proposed Senate Ways and Means new text (Senate, No. 3290) shall be offered as second-reading amendments, and amendments in the third degree thereto shall be in order. Procedural order. SD4330

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

Pursuant to the order, the bill, will be considered on Thursday, November 5, 2026, for a second reading with the amendment pending.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5713) of David M. Rogers for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Julia Matthews, an employee of the Department of Public Health**,-- was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.** Julia Matthews,-- sick leave.

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. Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at eleven minutes past twelve o’clock noon, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.