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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

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# JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, October 26, 2026.

Met at sixteen 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).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

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*Reports.*

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

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 6B(b) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Federal Grants first quarter fiscal year 2027 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 22, 2026);

Comptroller,-- FY27 Q1Federal Grants report. SD4316

Report of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (pursuant to line item 1107-2501 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its DPPC fiscal year 2026 fourth quarterly report for the period of April to June 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 23, 2026);

CPPD,-- FY2026 Q4 quarterly report. SD4317

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Section 2TT of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its Liability Management and Reduction Fund (LMRF) fiscal year 2027 financial plan (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 23, 2026);

Comptroller,-- LMRF FY27 financial plan. SD4318

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B)(r) of Chapter 18 of the General Laws) submitting its fiscal year 2026 annual report on Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) eligible noncitizen status clients (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received October 23, 2026); and

DTA,-- noncitizen FY26 report. SD4319

Report of the Department of Transitional Assistance (pursuant to Section 2(B) of Chapter 18 and Section 3C(d) of Chapter 118 of the General Laws) submitting its Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program updates through calendar year 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities) (received October 23, 2026).

DTA ,-- TAFDC program updates FY26 report. SD4320

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Keenan, for the committee on Election Laws, on petition, a Bill conforming with the electoral count reform act of 2022 and ensuring uniform faithful presidential electors (Senate, No. 3186);

Electoral reform,-- faithful electors.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5701) of Patrick Joseph Kearney (by vote of the town) that the town of Scituate be authorized to dispose of a portion of the Cushing Elementary School property in said town to the Scituate Food Pantry, Inc.; Scituate,-- property transfer.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5702) of Joseph D. McKenna and Ryan C. Fattman (by vote of the town) that the town of Oxford be authorized to change the name of the board of selectmen to select board; Oxford,-- board of selectmen.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5703) of Rita A. Mendes and Bridget Plouffe (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to property owned by the Boys and Girls Club of Brockton, Inc. in the city of Brockton; and Brockton,-- land.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5704) of Rita A. Mendes (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the school committee and city council of the city of Brockton to declare certain land known as Keith Field to be surplus; Id.

**Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5705) of Christopher J. Worrell (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Boston police department be authorized to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Melvin Casseus; Boston,-- Melvin Casseus.

**To the committee on Public Service.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5706) of Hadley Luddy (by vote of the town) relative to tax title and tax deferment accounts in the town of Chatham; Chatham,-- tax title/deferment accounts.

**To the committee on Revenue.**

Bills

Relative to firefighter retirement benefits (House, No. 5697,-- on House, No. 2753); Firefighters,-- cancer screenings.

Providing injured on duty compensation to Chelmsford firefighter Nicholas Spinale (House, No. 5698,-- on House, No. 5429); and Chelmsford,-- Nicholas Spinale.

Making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 5700,-- on House, No. 5679, in part); Supplemental appropriations.

**Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

*Engrossed Bill.*

An engrossed Bill amending the Waterways Capital Improvement Fund in the town of Dennis (see Senate, No. 3097) (which originated in the Senate), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.** Bill laid before the Governor.

*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 authorizing the town of Westford to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5345) (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.** Westford,-- liquor license.

The House Bill authorizing the town of Topsfield to continue the employment of police chief Neal Hovey (House, No. 5435) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- was read a third time. Topsfield,-- Neal Hovey.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Tarr offered an amendment in section 1, by inserting after the second sentence, the following sentence:- "While continuing to serve as police chief in the town of Topsfield, Neal Hovey shall comply with all requirements of chapter 6E of the General Laws, including: (i) maintaining certification and good standing with the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission; and (ii) complying with all in-service and other training requirements mandated by the municipal police training committee."

**The amendment was adopted.**

**The bill, as amended, was then passed to be engrossed, with the amendment.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence in the amendment.**

Plymouth,-- charter.

The House Bill amending the town charter for the town of Plymouth (House, No. 5497),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

Kimberly Gervais,-- sick leave.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5710) of Alan Silvia for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Kimberly Gervais, an employee of the Department of Mental Health,**-- was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Time of meeting.

*Ordered*, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

On motion of the same Senator, at nineteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.