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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, October 22, 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).

Pledge of allegiance.

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

Distinguished Guest.

Neha Bheemu.

There being no objection, the Chair (Ms. Rausch) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Neha Bheemu from Wrentham. Neha was recognized for her service and leadership in founding the Purple Hour initiative, which aims to support teens living with epilepsy through education, community and compassionate care. She was also recognized for having distributed over 530 care kits through pediatric hospitals and community partners across Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and California. Neeha was accompanied by her parents, Ramprasad and Deepa, and Brianna Murphy. The Senate welcomed them with applause, Neeha was presented with a Senate Citation on the Rostrum and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Communication.

Veterans Employment Opportunities commission.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator John J. Cronin (pursuant to Section 2B of Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws) to serve on the Veterans Employment Opportunities commission (received October 20, 2026),-- **was placed on file.**

Reports.

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

MassGaming,-- Gaming Revenues September 2026 report. SD4310

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues September 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 October 20, 2026);

DMH,-- JDP annual report. SD4311

Report of the Department of Mental Health (pursuant to line item 5046-0000 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of Acts of 2025) submitting its Mental Health Jail Diversion Program annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 20, 2026);

DMH,-- PACT-Y report. SD4312

Report of Department of Mental Health (pursuant to line-item 5042-5000 of Section of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Program for Assertive Community Treatment for Youth (PACT-Y) report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 20, 2026);

DMH,-- PACT-Y FY26 report. SD4313

Report of Department of Mental Health (pursuant to line-Item 5042-5000 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its fiscal year 2026 Program for Assertive

Community Treatment for Youth (PACT-Y) report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received October 20, 2026); and

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F of the General Laws) submitting its monthly September 2026 report on year-to-date net state tax revenue for the current fiscal year (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received October 21, 2026).

DOR,-- Net Tax Revenue September FY26 report. SD4314

Petition.

Ms. Howard presented a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3288) of Vanna Howard (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the retirement of police sergeant Vincent Fernandez from the city of Lowell police department,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Public Service**.

Lowell,-- Vincent Fernandez.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill relative to the establishment of a Milton means-tested property tax exemption (House, No. 5696,-- on House, No. 4094) [Local approval received on House, No. 4094],-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

Milton,-- senior property tax exemption.

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Carry Shulock-Sexton, an employee of the department of agricultural resources (see House, No. 5685), 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.

Carry Shulock-Sexton,-- sick leave.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Eldridge and Ms. Spilka) “congratulating Chris Duane on the occasion of her retirement from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metrowest, Inc.”

Chris Duane.

Reports of a 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 designating the first Wednesday in May as State Parks Day (Senate, No. 2212).

MA State Parks Day.

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

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:

Shrewsbury,-- estate abatements.

The House Bill to increase the value of estates eligible for abatements pursuant to clauses seventeenth D and forty-first C of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws in the town of Shrewsbury (House, No. 5515),-- **was read a second time and ordered to a third reading.**

Millbury,-- liquor licenses.

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Millbury to grant additional liquor licenses (Senate, No. 3234),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, it's title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- "An Act authorizing the town of Millbury to grant 6 additional liquor licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises".**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Randolph,-- charter.

The Senate Bill relative to amending the charter of the city known as the town of Randolph regarding filling of vacancies, running for multiple offices, term of office for Stetson Trustees and three-month prohibition on work for the town after service in elected office (Senate, No. 3084),--was read a third time.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Mr. Driscoll presented an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act amending the charter of the city known as the town of Randolph" (Senate, No. 3287).

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3287) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Report of a Committee.

Plymouth Memorial Park.

Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the amendment recommended by Her Excellency the Governor to the engrossed Bill authorizing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to enter into a lease with the town of Plymouth for purposes of maintaining the Pilgrim Memorial State Park in the town of Plymouth (see Senate, No. 3235) [for message, see Senate, No. 3254],-- reported, that the amendment recommended by the Governor be considered in the following form:

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, but for purposes consistent with Article 97 of the amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, the commissioner of the department of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation, may enter into a 25-year lease with the town of Plymouth for an area to include the existing bandstand from Water Street to the barrier wall on a parcel of land known as the Pilgrim Memorial State Park, which is located at 79 Water street, in the town of Plymouth. As part of the development of the lease terms, the departments shall consult the Office of the Inspector General. The departments may also hold one or more public hearings to receive input and public comment from interested parties on the development of the lease. (b) Any lease executed under this section shall be on terms, conditions and consideration acceptable to the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation with the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation, and consistent with the purposes of Article 97 of the amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution; provided, however, that any lease entered into pursuant to this section shall provide that: (i) the lease

may be extended for up to three 10-year terms upon the mutual agreement of the department of capital asset management and maintenance, in consultation with the department of conservation and recreation; (ii) the town of Plymouth shall provide general oversight for land, facilities, fields and appurtenances associated therewith during the term of the lease; (iii) the town of Plymouth shall carry comprehensive general liability insurance naming the commonwealth as a co-insured, to protect the commonwealth against all claims for personal injury or property damage arising from or on land and appurtenances associated therewith during the term of the lease; (iv) any leased portion of Pilgrim Memorial State Park shall be accessible to the general public when not in use by permittees and permits shall be limited to reasonable and necessary times and areas that protect the public's interest in access to the park; (v) the town of Plymouth shall not design or construct any capital improvements in the leased area without the prior written approval of the commissioner of the department of capital asset management and maintenance and the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation; (vi) fiscal responsibility for capital improvements is clearly described; (vii) the town of Plymouth shall be responsible for all utility costs, subject to the lease, and for the general day-to-day maintenance of the leased premises at the sole expense of the town of Plymouth; and (viii) the town of Plymouth shall have sole responsibility for the development of rules and the establishment of fees, such rules to be the subject of public hearing and public comment, for the use of the leased portion of Pilgrim Memorial Park. All fees and other revenue collected by the town of Plymouth shall be placed in a segregated special revenue fund expended solely for the operation, maintenance, repair, capital improvement or other costs attributable to activities related to the leased area.

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Fattman, and the report was considered forthwith.

The Chair (Ms. Rausch) stated that under the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, the bill was before the Senate subject to amendment and re-enactment

On motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate then adopted the Governor's amendment in the form recommended by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Sent to the House for its action.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Monica C. Murphy,-- sick leave.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5707) of Amy Mah Sangiolo and Cynthia Stone Creem for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Monica C. Murphy, an employee of the Department of Children and Families,**-- was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.**

Engrossed Bills.

Bill again laid before the Governor.

An engrossed Bill amending the charter of the city of Pittsfield (see House, No. 4716, amended) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be re-enacted and signed by the Acting President (Ms. Rausch) and again laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

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

Bills laid before the Governor.

Increasing the membership of the board of water commissioners of the Dalton fire district (see House, No. 4721); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Carry Shulock-Sexton, an employee of the department of agricultural resources (see House, No. 5685).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

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 twenty-nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.