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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

[27]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, March 30, 2026.

Met at twenty-nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Collins 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 (Mr. Collins), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the following appointments and changes to various committees that have been ratified by the Democratic Caucus:

Committee assignments. SD3799

Vanna Howard
Emergency Preparedness and Management, *Chair*
Higher Education, *Vice Chair*
Environment and Natural Resources, *member*
Municipalities and Regional Government, *member*
Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development, *member*

John Cronin
Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, *Chair*,-- **was placed on file.**

Reports.

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

Report of the Health Policy Commission (pursuant to Section 145 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) summitting its Emergency Department Boarding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 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 Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received March 25, 2026);

HPC,-- ED Boarding FY26 report. SD3790

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its corrected Settlements and Judgements report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 26, 2026);

Comptroller,-- Settlements and Judgements Q1 FY26 report. SD3793

Report of the Cannabis Control Commission (pursuant to Section 18 of Chapter 94G of the General Laws) submitting the status to the number, summary and costs of performed audits for fiscal year 2026. As of this date, the Commission has not conducted such audits because the Commission requires additional funding to procure and/or pay the vendor with the relevant expertise and experience in directing the specific audit allowed under current statute (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 26, 2026);

CCC,-- status of 2026 Audit report. SD3795

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for North Central Correctional Institution, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received March 27, 2026); and

DPH,-- NCCI Complete Inspection report. SD3796

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant Section 35T(b) of Chapter 10 the General Laws) submitting its April 2026 Certification of MBTA Dedicated Sales Tax Revenues for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received March 27, 2026).

Comptroller,-- April FY26 MBTA Certification Dedicated Sales Tax. SD3798

Special Commission Report.

Report of the Special Commission on Public Health Effects of Xylazine (pursuant to Section 36 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its recommendations and final report on ways to address the public health and safety concerns posed by the proliferation of xylazine as an additive to illicit drugs including, but not limited to, fentanyl,-- **was placed on file.**

Xylazine Special Commission,-- final report. SD3797

Order.

Ms. Friedman presented an Order relative to granting the committee on Health Care Financing until May 1, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 691, 819, 889 and 2623, relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 3035);

Health Care Financing,-- study.

Referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Resolve further regulating town elections in the town of Canton (Senate, No. 2937) [Local approval received],-- ought to pass;

Canton,-- elections.

Referred, under Senate Rule 27, to the committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on recommitted petition, a Bill relative to city of Boston certified emergency telecommunicators (Senate, No. 2750) [Local approval received];

Boston,-- emergency telecommunicators .

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill designating a certain intersection in the town of Pembroke as the Lavina A. Hatch corner (House, No. 3790,-- on petition),-- **was read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

Pembroke,-- Lavina A. Hatch corner.

Bills

Relative to the maximum age requirement for police officers in the city of Newton (House, No. 4718,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Newton,-- police officers.

Authorizing Jonathan Gagne to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4879,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Haverhill,-- Jonathan Gagne.

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 (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 (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the Governor.

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for Pierre Charles Darius (see House, No. 3925);

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Doumy Pamera (see House, No. 4572); and

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Ryan Cazeau (see House, No. 4740).

Resolutions.

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

Noah Boudreau.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Noah Boudreau on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout";

Joseph McManus.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Joseph McManus on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout";

Doctor Linda Saris.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Doctor Linda Saris on her retirement from Learn Explore Aspire Pursue (LEAP) for Education, Inc."; and

Ben Walsh.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Lovely) "congratulating Ben Walsh on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout."

Reports of Committees.

The Judiciary,-- extension order.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on The Judiciary until June 30, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 1035, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1101, 1122, 1127, 1134, 1143, 1177, 1178, 1184, 1186, 1203, 1205, 1221, 1236, 1244, 1245, 1247, 1267, 1276, 1282, 1284, 2975 and 2976, relative to judiciary matters (Senate, No. 3032).

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

Hearing impaired,-- term.

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 removing the term hearing impaired from the general laws (Senate, No. 2120).

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

Moment of Silence.

Moment of silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Collins), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.

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:

Andover,-- special town meetings.

The Senate Bill regulating the number of registered voters who may petition for a special town meeting in the town of Andover (Senate, No. 2544) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Haverhill,-- Stephen Justice.

The House Bill exempting Stephen Justice from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2985)-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Haverhill,-- Javier Vargas.

The House Bill exempting Javier Vargas from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2986)-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Haverhill,-- Brittany Sproule.

The House Bill exempting Brittany Sproule from the maximum age requirement for the position of firefighter in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2987) (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.**

Haverhill,-- Freddy Castaneda.

The House Bill exempting Freddy Castaneda from the maximum age requirement for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill (House, No. 2988) (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.**

Williamsburg,-- select board.

The House Bill changing the name of the board of selectmen in the town of Williamsburg to select board (House, No. 4524),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Chicopee,-- charter.

The House Bill making the charter of the city of Chicopee gender neutral (House, No. 4542) (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.**

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Fattman,--

Time of meeting.

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Wednesday next at ten o'clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.

The Senators from First Suffolk, Mr. Collins, the Senator from Third Suffolk, Ms. Edwards and the Senator from Worcester and Hampden, Mr. Fattman, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile.

Teresa (Rago) Basile of East Boston passed away on March 26, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved wife of the late Anselmo Basile. Treasured Mother of Alex Basile and wife Kelli of Rowley, Anthony Basile and his wife Diana of Revere, Paul Basile and his wife Lucy of Middleton and Carlo Basile and his partner Lindsey Smith of East Boston. Cherished Grandmother of Sophia, Teresa, Alessandra, Cristina, Arianna, Isabella, Carlo Jr., Christian and Olivia.

She is survived by her brother, Pasquale Rago and his wife Michelina of Revere, as well as many loving nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by sisters, Nicolina Leone and her husband Nicola, and Giovanna Tecce and husband Michele.

Teresa and Anselmo emigrated from Italy and made their home in East Boston where she would spend the rest of her life. Teresa lost Anselmo at a young age and honored his legacy by raising their four boys on her own. She worked as a seamstress and did whatever she could to provide for them. She was devoted to God, family and food and dedicated her life to the teachings of the church and to helping others. She was a faithful communicant of the Sacred Heart Church. Her greatest joy was spending time with family, especially her beloved grandchildren.

Mrs. Teresa Basile will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mrs. Teresa Basile, at ten minutes before twelve o’clock noon, on motion of Mr. Fattman, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Wednesday next at ten o’clock A.M.