

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Met at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. DiDomenico in the Chair).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

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

Communication from the Honorable James B. Eldridge, announcing the appointment of Senator Michael O. Moore as his designee (pursuant to Section 148 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) to the special commission to investigate and study emerging firearm technology (received February 4, 2025);

Emerging firearm technology commission,-- appts. SD2640

Communication from the Honorable Michael O. Moore, in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at two o'clock P.M.); and

Senator Michael O. Moore,-- Chapter 268A.

Communication from the Honorable Michael O. Moore, in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 268A (received in the Office of the Clerk of the Senate on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at two o'clock P.M.).

Senator Michael O. Moore,-- Chapter 268A.

Reports.

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

Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (pursuant to line item 0521-0001 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its 2025 report on Voter Registration Activity (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 3, 2025);

Secretary,-- Voter Registration Activity 2025. SD2637

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1599-3384 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Settlements and Judgements Quarter 2 Fiscal Year 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received January 31, 2025); (received February 3, 2025);

Comptroller,-- Settlements and Judgements Q2 FY25 report. SD2638

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant of Section 2E of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024 and Section 128 of Chapter 248 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Medical Assistance Fund Transfer Schedule 2025 update (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received February 4, 2025); and

Comptroller,-- MAF Transfer Schedule 2025 update. SD2642

Report of the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK(a) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure from the County Registers Technological Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (a copy will be forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Committee on Post Audit and Oversight) (received February 4, 2025).

Plymouth ROD,-- tech fund report. SD2643

Report of a Committee.

By Ms. Lovely, for the Temporary Committee on Rules, a Report recommending proposed Senate Rules to be adopted as the permanent rules of the Senate for 2025- 2026 legislative session (Senate, No. 14).

Proposed Senate Rules.

Order Adopted.

Ms. Lovely offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Report of the Temporary Committee on Rules relative to the Rules of the Senate for 2025-2026 (Senate, No. 14), shall be placed in the Orders of the Day on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The question will be on acceptance of the report.

Procedural order,--
Senate Rules.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M., on Monday, February 10, 2025. the Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

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

The report (Senate, No. 14) was placed in the Orders of the Day for Wednesday, February 12th.

Report of a Committee.

By Ms. Lovely, for the temporary committee on Rules, a Report recommending proposed Joint Rules to be adopted as the permanent Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives for 2025-2026 legislative session (Senate, No. 15).

Proposed Joint Rules.

Order Adopted.

Ms. Lovely offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, that notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Report of the Temporary Committee on Rules recommending proposed Joint Rules to be adopted as permanent rules of the Senate and House of Representatives for 2025-2026 (Senate, No. 15), shall be placed in the Orders of the Day on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. The question will be on acceptance of the report.

Procedural order,--
Joint Rules.

All amendments shall be filed electronically in the office of the Clerk of the Senate by 5:00 P.M., on Monday, February 10, 2025. The Clerk shall further specify the procedure and format for filing all amendments, consistent with this order.

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

The report (Senate, No. 15) was placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, February 12th.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. DiDomenico), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Francis Xavier Bellotti.

Moment of Silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Keenan,--

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

Time of meeting.

Adjournment in Memory of Francis Xavier Bellotti.

The Senator from Norfolk and Plymouth, Mr. Keenan, joined by all members of the Massachusetts State Senate, move that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Francis Xavier Bellotti.

Francis Xavier Bellotti passed away peacefully at the age of 101 in his home on December 17, 2024, with his family at his side.

Frank Bellotti was raised by his mother in Roxbury. He was just 14 when his father was killed in World War I.

In 1940, Frank graduated from Boston English High School and then served as a Navy Intelligence Officer during World War II in the Scouts and Raiders, a precursor to the U.S. Navy Seals. He was present on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He received the European-African Theatre Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon (1 Star), a Presidential Unit Citation, and Victory Ribbon WWII.

Following his time in the military, Frank graduated from Tufts University and Boston College Law School, which propelled him to an illustrious career.

From 1963-1965 he served as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

In 1974, he was elected as the Massachusetts Attorney General and served three terms in this role. Where he fought for the expansion of civil rights and environmental protections. He was president of the National Association of Attorneys General from 1985-1985, was honored with the Louis C. Wyman award as the most outstanding attorney general in the United States, and later had an award named after him, presented to a member whose work furthered the mission of the Association.

After leaving office, Frank worked in private practice and helped found the Arbella Insurance Group in the 1980s. He also served as chairman of the Arbella Insurance Group.

In 2012, the Quincy District Court was renamed the Francis X. Bellotti courthouse in his honor, and in 2024 his hometown of Quincy honored him with a bronze plaque in Navy Park at Squantum Point in Quincy.

Frank and his beloved wife Maggie, to whom he was married for seventy-three years, lived and raised their twelve children in Quincy's Wollaston neighborhood before moving to Hingham several years ago. Maggie passed away in December 2022 at the age of 98.

Frank Bellotti is survived by 11 children, 25 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

By example, Frank encouraged and inspired countless people to enter public service, leaving a towering legacy of courageous leadership and moral guidance.

The Massachusetts State Senate offers its condolences to his loved ones.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Francis Xavier Bellotti, at twenty-seven minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Keenan, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.