
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025.

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

Thursday, April 3, 2025.

Met at twelve minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Ms. Edwards in the Chair).

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Ms. Edwards) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, two NCSL liaisons to the Massachusetts General Court, Mark Quiner, Director, Center for Ethics in Government and Colleen Becker, Project Manager, Health Program. Mark and Colleen have been visiting the State House this week meeting with legislators and staff about various topics. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Mark Quiner and
Colleen Becker.

The Chair (Ms. Edwards) handed the gavel to Mr. Fattman for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Fattman then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Molly Gahan of Northbridge. Molly is a senior captain on the Northbridge High School Rams girls basketball team and was recognized for joining the prestigious 1,000-point club, becoming only the third girl in Northbridge High School history to reach that milestone. She was accompanied by her parents, Amy and Jaime and Representative Muradian of Grafton. The Senate applauded her accomplishments, she was presented with a Senate and House Citation recognizing her 1,125 points scored and she withdrew from the Chamber.

Molly Gahan.

Communications.

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

Communication from the Honorable, Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the appointment of Senator Patrick M. O'Connor (under Chapter 1 of the Resolves of 2024) to the special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a statewide Massachusetts Cabo Verdean cultural center in the city of Boston to represent the over 200 years history of Cabo Verdeans in the commonwealth (received March 28, 2025); and

Cabo Verdean
Cultural Center
Commission,--
appt.

Communication from the Honorable, Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the appointment of Ernie Gates (under Section 36 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) to the special commission to study and make recommendations 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 (received March 28, 2025).

Xylazine
Commission,--
appt.

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-6232 of Section 2E of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts Clean

Comptroller,--
MassCEC Transfer

Energy Center (MassCEC) Transfer Schedule 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 1, 2025);

Report of the Office of the State Treasurer (pursuant to Section 38 of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts State Lottery Commission 2024 Charitable Games annual report (received March 31, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Section 10(f) of Chapter 25A of the General Laws) submitting its Department of Energy Resources Green Communities 2024 annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (received April 1, 2025);

Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (pursuant to line item 0511-0002 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Corporations Division Dissolution Program FY 2025 Report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 1, 2025); and

Report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to Section 27 of Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Massachusetts Rest Home Task Force report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 1, 2025).

Schedule 2025
report.
SD2798

OST,-- MSLC
Charitable Games
2024 report.
SD2799
DER,-- Green
Communities 2024
annual report.
SD2800

Corp Division
Dissolution FY
2025 report.
SD2801

EOHHS,-- Rest
Home Task Force
report.
SD2802

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointments by the Speaker:

Representative Donaghue of Westborough has been appointed to serve as his designee (under the provisions of Section 36 of Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024) to the Public Health Effects of Xylazine Special Commission; and

Representative Domb of Amherst has been appointed to serve as his designee on the Poet Laureate of Massachusetts nominating committee established (under Executive Order 640) to review, submit, and make recommendations on applications for the position of Poet Laureate to the Governor.

Health Effects of
Xylazine
Commission,--
appt.
Poet Laureate
committee,-- appt.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the House Chair of the Massachusetts Asian-American Legislative Caucus, Representative Chan:

Nicholas You of Boston has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 149 of Chapter 135 of the Acts of 2024) to the Special Commission on Violence Prevention Services Funding.

Violence Prevention
Funding Services
Commission,-- appt.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue, Representative Madaro:

Bridgette Maynard, Research Director of the Joint Committee on Revenue, has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 14 of Chapter 14 of the General Laws) to the Tax Expenditure Review Commission.

Tax Expenditure
Review
Commission,--
appt.

The following petitions, having been timely filed by five o'clock P.M. on January 17, 2025, were referred in concurrence as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3939) of Kate Donaghue for legislation to establish a board of registration for music therapists; and

Music therapy,--
licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3940) of Paul McMurtry relative to unsolicited telephonic sales call to consumers using local phone numbers;

Telemarketer,--
number
restrictions.

Severally to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3941) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida relative to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education visiting school districts; and

DESE,-- visiting
school districts.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3942) of Joshua Tarsky relative to safety and security in schools;

Schools,-- safety.

Severally to the committee on Education.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3943) of James C. Arena-DeRosa relative to voter registration and early voting;

Voter registration,-
- early voting.

To the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3944) of Christopher Richard Flanagan relative to a three-year coastal resiliency emergency management plan;

Coastal resiliency
emergency plan.

To the committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3945) of Judith A. Garcia relative to urban agriculture in environmental justice communities;

Urban agriculture,-
- promotion.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3946) of Sean Garballey, Jessica Ann Giannino and others relative to health insurance coverage for hearing aids; and

Hearing aids,--
coverage.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3947) of John J. Lawn, Jr., relative to the examination of insurance company mergers;

Insurance
company mergers.

Severally to the committee on Financial Services.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3948) of Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation to establish rights and career advancement for contingent faculty in public higher education;

Higher education,-
- career
advancement.

To the committee on Higher Education.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3949) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and Mark D. Sylvia relative to teacher strikes;

Teacher strikes.

To the committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3950) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf relative to parents in recovery from substance use disorder and child welfare;

Substance use,--
parent recovery.

To the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3951) of Mike Connolly relative to municipal fossil fuel free building construction and renovation demonstration projects;

Municipal
construction.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3952) of Christopher M. Markey that Dartmouth Fire District No. 1 be authorized to appoint the position of treasurer; and

Dartmouth Fire
District No. 1,--
treasurer.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3953) of Kenneth P. Swezey (by vote of the town) for legislation to enhance enforcement in building and permitting compliance in the town Hanson;

Hanson,-- local
licenses and
permits.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3954) of James Arciero relative to xylitol labeling;

Xylitol labeling.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3955) of Manny Cruz relative to birth certificates;

Birth certificates.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3956) of Leigh Davis for legislation to exempt Fairview Hospital from determination of need requirements;

Fairview Hospital.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3957) of Michael J. Finn for legislation to establish a fund for the Western Massachusetts Hospital;

Western MA
Hospital fund.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3958) of Christopher Richard Flanagan relative to expanding pathogen testing capabilities for aquaculture;

Aquaculture,--
pathogen testing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3959) of Sean Garballey relative to additives in food products;

Additives,-- food
products.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3960) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian relative to physicians providing testimony in an administrative or judicial hearing; and

Physician
testimony,--
hearings.
Epilepsy,--
mortalities.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3961) of Joan Meschino relative to education and prevention of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and other related epilepsy mortalities;

Severally to the committee on Public Health.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3962) of Hadley Luddy and Julian Cyr relative to inspections of buildings or structures occupied in whole or in part as a short-term rental;

Short-term rental,-
- inspections.

To the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3963) of Kelly W. Pease (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the retirement of Greg Heath, a former firefighter of the city of Westfield; and

Westfield,-- Greg
Heath.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3964) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. and Jacob R. Oliveira that Edward E. Kivari, Jr. be authorized to purchase creditable service from the Hampden county retirement board;

Hampden county,-
- Edward E.
Kivari, Jr.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3965) of James C. Arena-DeRosa relative to tax abatements;

Tax abatements.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3966) of Jay Catelli for legislation to further regulate the property tax assessments and abatement processes;

Property tax,--
regulations.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3967) of Christopher Richard Flanagan for legislation to further regulate surcharges on real property;

Real property,--
surcharge.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3968) of William F. MacGregor relative to property tax exemptions for seniors and persons with disabilities;

Seniors,--
property tax.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3969) of Orlando Ramos relative to urban farmland taxation; and

Taxation,-- urban
farmland.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3970) of David M. Rogers and William N. Brownsberger (by vote of the town) that the town of Belmont be authorized to update the tax treatment of recreational lands in said town;

Belmont,-- land
taxes.

Severally to the committee on Revenue.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3971) of Dennis C. Gallagher for an investigation by a special legislative commission (including members of the General Court) to study the feasibility and efficacy of placing the registries of deeds for county governments under the oversight of the State Secretary;

Registries of
deeds,-- study.

To the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3972) of Mindy Domb, Joanne M. Comerford and Natalie M. Blais relative to utility shutoff protections during periods of extreme heat;

Utility shutoff,--
extreme heat.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3973) of Michael P. Kushmerek and John J. Cronin relative to collective procurement of energy supply;

Energy supply,--
procurement.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3974) of Hadley Luddy relative to cellular coverage; and

Cellular coverage.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3975) of Paul McMurtry for legislation to establish a special commission to investigate double utility poles;

Double utility
poles commission.

Severally to the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3976) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to competitive bidding for school transportation;

School transportation,-- bidding.

To the committee on Transportation.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3977) of Leigh Davis (by vote of the town) that the town of Becket be authorized to provide for alternate members of the conservation commission of said town;

Becket,-- conservation commission.

To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3978) of Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the Boston Retirement Board be authorized to retire Brian C. McPherson, an employee of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department;

Brian C. McPherson,-- retirement.

To the committee on Public Service.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3979) of Kate Lipper-Garabedian (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Melrose be authorized to establish a means tested senior citizen property tax exemption in said city;

Melrose,-- senior property tax.

To the committee on Revenue.

Reports

Of the committee on Elder Affairs, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 774) of Michael P. Kushmerek relative to prescriptions; and

Prescriptions,-- availability.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 785) of Brian W. Murray relative to 340B contract pharmacies;

Contract pharmacies.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Financial Services.

Of the committee on Health Care Financing, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1352) of Nicholas A. Boldyga relative to establishing a prescription drug rebate program for seniors; and

Prescription drug rebate,-- seniors.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1369) of Danielle W. Gregoire relative to supportive housing and healthcare costs for low-income seniors;

Low-income seniors,-- supports.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Elder Affairs.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1359) of Marjorie C. Decker relative to the price of epinephrine;

Epinephrine,-- price cap.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1364) of Carole A. Fiola relative to healthcare access and affordability for patients; and

Patients,-- healthcare access.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1375) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to consider and evaluate the efficacy of policies that require hospitals and other health care providers to sell bundled packages of services that include fees for all relevant physicians;

Health care,-- billing.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Financial Services.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1367) of Sean Garballey relative to Title XIX federal financial participation for certain MassHealth covered services for

MassHealth,-- colleges.

individuals attending programs at Massachusetts state colleges and universities,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Higher Education;

Of the petition (accompanied by proposal for constitutional amendment, House, No. 64) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish a right to health care,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Judiciary; and

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1395) of James J. O'Day, Paul McMurtry and Michael D. Brady relative to authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Early Education and Care to establish an individual retirement account program for personal care attendants,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Service;

Were severally considered forthwith, under Senate Rule 36, and accepted, in concurrence.

Health care,--
right.

PCA,-- retirement
program.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Fattman and Moore) "commending Allcare Medical Supply on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding";

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

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Miranda) "commending the Black Mamas Matter Alliance for recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2025 as Black Maternal Health Week"; and

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Moore Rush, O'Connor, Kennedy and Oliveira, Ms. Jehlen, Ms. Comerford, Ms. Kennedy and Messrs. Tarr, Payano, Keenan and Brady) "commending the IBS Patient Support Group on its recognition of April 19, 2025, as world IBS day."

Allcare Medical
Supply.

Owen Michael
Addesa.

Black Mamas
Matter Alliance.

IBS Patient
Support Group.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees of Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Nick Collins for legislation to assault and battery by means of bodily substance upon a transit worker.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and, after remarks, the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on The Judiciary.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees of Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Mark C. Montigny and Mark D. Sylvia for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Andrew Setera, an employee of the trial court.

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Collins, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on The Judiciary.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

Transit worker,--
assault and battery.
SD2665

Andrew Setera,--
sick leave.
SD2796

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Edwards), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Paul F. Gannon.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Dooner,--

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 Paul F. Gannon.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins and the Senator from Plymouth and Norfolk, Mr. O'Connor moved that when the Senate adjourn today it do so in memory of Paul F. Gannon of South Boston.

Paul F. Gannon passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, on Saturday March 29, 2025.

A life-long resident of South Boston, Paul grew up with a big Irish family. He attended the Bigelow School and graduated from South Boston High School in 1954. He was predeceased by his parents Nellie (Hurney) and James Gannon of South Boston and Galway, Ireland. Paul was the youngest and the last living of fifteen children. His predeceased siblings were James Gannon, Helen Thompson, Vincent Gannon, Joseph Gannon, Mary Gannon, Elizabeth Farrell, Alice Donahue, William Gannon, Anna Curran, Thomas Gannon, Virginia Repucci, Dorothy Reed, and Kathleen Gannon.

Paul was the beloved husband of Norine Mulrey Gannon for 67 years. Paul was the devoted father of the Honorable Paul J. Gannon and his wife Susan of Hingham, MA. He was the proud grandfather of Caroline Cole (Gannon) and her husband Nicholas of South Boston and Jacqueline Gannon of South Boston.

He was a proud member of Local 25 Teamsters and later in life as a Local 800 Longshoreman. Paul was an outstanding athlete growing up in South Boston playing baseball, football, and basketball starting at Saint Vincent's Church, 3rd Street Park, and Fargo Field. He was both a pitcher and a center fielder for various teams including the Old Town Tavern and Strand Café in the M Street Softball League. In football, he played left-end, punter, and kicker for the Mullen Team and later the Town Team. These teams were very successful and were promoted upward from the City League to the Park League.

Paul and his wife loved to travel with their family. The highlight were his trips to Ireland. He enjoyed playing golf at courses all over the country and the world. After retirement he spent much of his free time playing golf and visiting Pleasure Bay and Castle Island with friends.

Mr. Gannon will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Paul F. Gannon, at seventeen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Collins, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.