
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

[39]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, May 1, 2025.

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

The Chair (Ms. Rausch), 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 (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Ms. Rausch for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Rausch then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Medfield High School girls varsity volleyball team, girls varsity basketball team and girls varsity hockey team. The three teams were recognized for winning the 2025 MIAA state championship titles for their respective sports. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Medfield High
School girls varsity
volleyball,
basketball and
hockey teams.

The Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. Tarr for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Tarr then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the Georgetown High School boys basketball team. The team was recognized for winning the 2025 MIAA Division 4 state championship title, the team's first championship title. They were accompanied by School Resource Officer Taylor Ford, Coaches Ted Schreunder, Bennett Pawlusiak, Bob McKenna, Nick Privitera, Kyle O'Connor and Josh Keilty, Superintendent Dr. Margo Ferrick, Principal Jeff Carovillano, Athletic Director Ryan Browner and Representative Kassner of Hamilton. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Georgetown High
School boys
basketball team.

The Chair (Mr. Collins) handed the gavel to Mr. Feeney for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Feeney then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, former United States Secretary of Labor Julie Su. Secretary Su was instrumental in making the Biden Administration the most pro-labor federal administration in modern history. Secretary Su oversaw the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and worked to overhaul several out-of-date Department of Labor policies, leading to improved overtime compensation for salaried employees and stronger regulations to protect workers from misclassification. She was accompanied by Representative Decker of Cambridge. The Senate applauded her accomplishments, she signed the guest book and withdrew from the Chamber.

U.S. Secretary of
Labor Julie Su.

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Correction (pursuant to Section 119A(i) of Chapter 127 of the General Laws) submitting its DOC FY24 Medical Parole annual report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received April 28, 2025);

DOC,-- Medical
Parole FY24 annual
report.
SD2850

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7010-0012 of Section 2 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its DESE 2022 METCO Program report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate

DESE,-- METCO
FY22 report.
SD2854

Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to line item 7010-0012 of Section 2 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its DESE 2023 METCO Program report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Department of Higher Education (pursuant to Section 168E(q) of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting its Campus Sexual Misconduct Incident Data 2022-2023 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 170 of the Acts of 2004) submitting its 2022 annual report on Electronic Control Weapons in Massachusetts (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Dukes County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Plymouth County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2025) submitting its plan to phase out the use of hotels and motels for emergency housing assistance not later than December 31, 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 29, 2025);

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to line item 1201-0122 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Low Income Tax Clinic report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to Sections 1A and 1B of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Tax and Non-Tax Revenue Fiscal Year 2025 as of March 31, 2025 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol-New Bedford Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Jail and House of Correction, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Women's Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Bristol County Modular Building, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health

DESE,-- METCO
FY23 report.
SD2855

DHE,-- CSVP 22-
23 report.
SD2856

EOPSS,-- 2022
ECW report.
SD2858

DPH,-- Dukes
County Correctional
Facility Inspection
report.
SD2859
DPH,-- Plymouth
County Correctional
Facility Inspection
report.
SD2860
A&F,-- Hotel
Closure Plan.
SD2861

DOR,-- Low
Income Tax Clinic
report.
SD2862

Comptroller,-- Tax
and Non-Tax Rev
March FY2025
report.
SD2863
DPH,-- Bristol-New
Bedford Facility
Inspection report.
SD2864

DPH,-- Bristol
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD2865

DPH,-- Bristol
County Women's
Center Inspection
report.
SD2866
DPH,-- Bristol
County Modular
Building Inspection
report.

Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received April 30, 2025);

Report of the Office of the Inspector General (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 12A of the General Laws and Section 231 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its 2024 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received April 30, 2025); and

Report of the Executive Office of Veterans Services (pursuant to Section 4 of Chapter 15 of the Acts of 2021) submitting its Holyoke Veterans Home Construction report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs) (received April 30, 2025).

SD2867

OIG 2024 annual
report.
SD2868

EOVS,-- Holyoke
Construction report.
SD2870

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2511) of Liz Miranda (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the office of district councilor in the city of Boston [Local approval received];

Boston,-- district
city councilor.

Under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Election Laws.

By Mr. Brady, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael D. Brady and Bridget Plouffe for legislation to designate bar pizza as the official pizza of the Commonwealth; and

Commonwealth,--
official pizza.
SD2852

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Nick Collins and Daniel J. Hunt for legislation to provide accidental death benefits for the surviving spouse of Mathew M. Troy, a former firefighter of the City of Boston;

Firefighter Troy,--
accidental death
benefits.
SD2857

Severally, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Reports of Committees on Proposals for

Legislative Amendments to the Constitution.

By Mr. Eldridge, for the committee on Revenue, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 11) of Joanne M. Comerford for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to agricultural and horticultural lands,-- reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 11), ought to pass;

Agricultural and
horticultural lands.

The report was read and placed on file, in accordance with the requirements of said rule.

By Mr. Eldridge, for the committee on Revenue, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 12) of Bruce E. Tarr for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to cap the state income tax,-- reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 12), ought NOT to pass (Senator Fattman dissenting); and

Income tax,-- cap.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 13) of Bruce E. Tarr for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to require a supermajority vote for the utilization of rainy day funds,-- reported, in accordance with a provision of Joint Rule 23, recommending that the amendment proposed by said petition (see Senate, No. 13), ought NOT to pass (Senator Fattman dissenting);

Rainy day funds,--
supermajority vote.

The reports were severally read and placed on file, in accordance with the requirements of said rule.

Under the provisions of Joint Rule 23, the following proposals were placed on file, the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 6) of James B. Eldridge for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish an independent redistricting commission;

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 7) of Liz Miranda for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights;

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 8) of Paul W. Mark for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to campaign finance reform;

Of the committee on Election Laws, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 63) of Erika Uyterhoeven and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting rights of certain persons incarcerated in correctional facilities due to felony convictions;

Of the committee on Housing, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 65) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the right to housing;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 9) of Vincent Dixon, for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for term renewal process;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, Senate, No. 10) of Paul W. Mark for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to define the succession plan for a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 64) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to establish a right to health care;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 66) of Kate Donaghue for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to the oaths and affirmations of public office;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 67) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to prohibiting eminent domain takings;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 68) of Paul McMurtry for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to changing the mandatory age of retirement for judges;

Of the committee on the Judiciary, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 69) of Susannah M. Whipps and Francisco E. Paulino for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to a succession plan for a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant-Governor;

Of the committee on Labor and Workforce Development, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 70) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to a Constitutional right to employable skills training;

Of the committee on Revenue, ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 23), on the petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 71) of Natalie M. Blais, Hannah Kane and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to agricultural and horticultural lands.

Redistricting,--
commission.

Voting rights,--
felons.

Campaign finance,--
reform.

Voting rights.

Housing rights.

Judges,-- term
renewal.

Lt. Governor,--
vacancy succession
plan.

Health care,-- right.

Public office,--
oaths.

Eminent domain,--
prohibit.

Judges,-- retirement
age.

Lieutenant
Governor,--
vacancy.

Employable skills
training.

Agricultural and
horticultural lands.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

Notice was received from the House of Representatives announcing the following appointment by the Minority Leader:

Representative Kenneth P. Sweezy of Duxbury has been appointed to serve as his designee (under Section 4C of Chapter 21A of the General Laws) to the Ocean Advisory Commission.

Ocean Advisory Commission,-- appointment.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4006) of Christopher M. Markey (by vote of the town) that the town of Dartmouth be authorized to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

Dartmouth,-- liquor license.

Motion – Print Remarks.

Mr. Collins in the Chair, Mr. Feeney moved that remarks made during the Senate Session on Monday, April 28, 2025, be printed in the journal of the Senate for said day.

Motion to print remarks.

The motion prevailed; and the remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate for April 28, 2025.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Velis, Keenan, DiDomenico, Gómez, Oliveira, Fernandes, O'Connor and Tarr, Ms. Lovely, Messrs. Moore, Payano, Lewis and Fattman) “commending Emotions Matter, Inc. on its recognition of May 2025 as Borderline Personality Disorder Month.”

Emotions Matter, Inc.

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4010),-- ought to pass, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2512 (Direct Appropriations: \$1,283,200,000.00).

Supplemental appropriations.

Order Adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Ordered, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (House, No. 4010) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 2512) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, May 8, 2025, for immediate consideration; and *be it further ordered* that all amendments to the proposed new text shall be second-reading amendments, but further amendments in the third-degree to such amendments shall be in order.

Procedural order.

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

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 Nicholas J. Costello.

Moment of silence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

Ordered, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of Former State Representative,
State Senator, Civic Leader and Mayor of Amesbury
Nicholas J. Costello*

The Senator from Second Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Finegold, the Senator from First Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, the Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins, the Senator from Bristol and Norfolk, Mr. Feeney, and the Senator from Bristol and Plymouth, Mr. Rodrigues, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in memory and legacy of Nicholas J. Costello, the former State Representative, State Senator, civic leader and Mayor of Amesbury, who died peacefully at home, age 89 on March 17, 2025.

Born in Albany, New York, on August 22, 1935, he was the son of the late Nicholas Costello and Mary Clarke Costello. While enlisted in the U.S. Army, Nick was assigned to the U.S. Army Nike missile base in Nahant, Massachusetts. He met his wife Cynthia, in Lynn, where they started a family, moving to Amesbury in 1969.

Nick had an extensive record of public service -- as a school committee member and then town selectman. He was elected to the Massachusetts State Legislature from 1978-1991, first serving as State Representative and later as State Senator. From 1996 to 2001, Costello served as the City of Amesbury's first Mayor, successfully leading the transition from town government to city government. A major accomplishment of his tenure as mayor was to gain funding for redeveloping and renovating the downtown, including improving traffic flows.

A champion of environmental and social justice, Costello worked with local organizations for over 40 years to protect the natural beauty and quality of life for Merrimack Valley residents. As Senate Chairman of the Legislature's Committee on Energy, Senator Costello was a visionary helping to negotiate and regulate clean and renewable energy. He was selected to serve as the Massachusetts Senate liaison in discussions with Canada on the Hydro-Quebec energy supply project.

Senator Costello also served as a member of the Commerce and Labor Committee, specializing in small business and labor issues. He was a member of the Natural Resources Committee and the Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee. In 1988, he took on the chairmanship of the Special Senate Committee on Patient Care in State Mental Health Hospitals, and he notably authored women's health legislation requiring insurance companies to guarantee free mammograms and pap smears to patients.

After retiring as Mayor, Costello served as the Executive Director for Link House until 2014, continuing his life-long dedication to providing sober housing and transitional assistance to those in recovery. Additionally, he continued to serve as President of the Maudslay Arts Center in Newburyport, a role he began in 1993. While Senator, one of his proudest achievements was securing the former Maudslay Estate as park land, saving the

land as open space for residents to enjoy. He also served as a member of Amesbury's Economic Development Committee and Council of Aging.

Nick leaves behind a legacy of dedication and service and a lifetime of joyful memories with his wife Cynthia, of 64 years, and his five sons and five grandchildren.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Nicholas J. Costello, at sixteen minutes past twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
