
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

[48]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Met at twenty 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.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the following guests were introduced:

The Chair (Mr. Collins) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Adrian Bosco, a student at Boston Green Academy. Adrian was visiting the State House in recognition of having received the Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship for his perseverance in furthering his education. The Senate applauded his accomplishments, he was presented with a Senate Citation on the Rostrum, and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Adrian Bosco.

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 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes from the Newburyport River Valley Charter School. The students were on a field trip to the State House learning about the different aspects of state government. They were accompanied by teachers: Karianna Brace and Lynne Taylor. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Newburyport River
Valley Charter
School.

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, Talya Susi, a sophomore at North Reading High School. Talya was visiting the State House in recognition of having received the Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship for her perseverance in furthering her education. She was accompanied by her father, David, aunts: Maria Fodera, Melissa Manganiello and Rebecca Susi and uncles: Delio Susi and Guiseppe Fodera. The Senate applauded her accomplishments, she was presented with a Senate Citation on the Rostrum, and she withdrew from the Chamber.

Talya Susi.

The Chair (Mr. Collins) introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the 4th grade class from the Green School in Fall River. The students were guests of Senator Rodrigues and Representative Silvia of Fall River. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Green School.

Reports.

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

Report of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (pursuant to Section 99 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its Regional Transit Authority Performance Management 2024 annual report (received May 28, 2025);

MassDOT,-- RTA
Performance
FY2024 report.
SD2874
EOHLC,-- RAFT
FY25 Q3 report.
SD2877

Report of Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to line item 7004-9316 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program third quarter report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received May

28, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (pursuant to Section 6M(8)(c) of Chapter 62 of the General Laws and Section 38EE(c)(8) of the General Laws) submitting its Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) 2024 annual legislative report (received May 28, 2025);

Report of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (pursuant to line item 7003-0500 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Workplace Safety Training Grant Program 2024 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received May 28, 2025)

Report of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (pursuant to Chapter 23J of Section 5 of the General Laws) submitting its Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Industry 2024 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy) (received May 27, 2025); and

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 61 of Chapter 7 of the General Laws) submitting its Supplier Diversity Office FY24 annual report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received May 28, 2025).

EOHLC,-- CITC
2024 annual
legislative report.
SD2910

EOLWD,--
Workplace Safety
Training FY24
report.
SD2925
EOEEA,--
MassCEC Industry
2024 report.
SD2941

A&F,-- Supplier
Diversity Office
FY24 annual report.
SD2942

Committees Discharged.

Mr. Payano, for the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 288) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to bonded warehouses,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on the Judiciary; and

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 292) of John C. Velis for legislation to create coverage and regulations for group therapeutic care,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Health.

Mr. Lewis, for the committee on Education, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration:

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 347) of Peter J. Durant for legislation relative to the protection of medical exemptions for immunizations for school attendance,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Health; and

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 411) of Paul W. Mark and James B. Eldridge for legislation to establish the MassGrant program to provide financial assistance to eligible residents enrolled in higher education,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Higher Education.

Severally, under Senate Rule 36, the reports were considered forthwith and accepted.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4155) of Michael J. Finn (with the approval of the mayor and town council) that the city known as the town of West Springfield be authorized to grant 4 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises in said town;

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4156) of Marjorie C. Decker (with the

Bonded
warehouses.

Therapeutic care.

Immunizations,--
medical
exemptions.

MassGrant
program,-- higher
education.

West Springfield,--
liquor licenses.

Cambridge,--

approval of the city council) for legislation to establish a charter for the city of Cambridge; Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4157) of Marjorie C. Decker (with the approval of the city council) for legislation to further regulate procurements by the city of Cambridge; and

charter.
Cambridge,--
procurement
regulations.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4158) of Alice Hanlon Peisch (by vote of the town) that the town of Weston be authorized to expand its select board from three to five members;

Weston,-- select
board.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Miranda), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Lens Arthur Joseph.

Moment of silence.

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

There being no objection, the following matter was taken out of the Orders of the Day and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (Senate, No. 2521),-- was read a third time.

Supplemental
appropriations bill.

After remarks, the question on passing the Bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 49**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

Gómez, Adam
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Edward J.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – **39.**

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at fourteen minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the bill was passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

The House Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund, and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (House, No. 4001),-- came from the House with the endorsement that the House had NON-concurred in the Senate amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2525, and had asked for a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches; and that Representatives Michlewitz of Boston, Ferrante of Gloucester and Smola of Warren had been appointed the committee on the part of the House.

General
appropriations bill.

On motion of Mr. Rodrigues, the Senate insisted on its amendment and concurred in the appointment of a committee of conference; and Senators Rodrigues, Comerford and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate.

The bill was returned to the House endorsed accordingly.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Barrett) "commending the Commonwealth and Hokkaido Prefecture of Japan on its thirty-fifth sister state relationship"; and

Commonwealth and
Hokkaido
Prefecture of Japan.
Concord-Nanae
Network.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Barrett) "recognizing the Concord-Nanae Network on its celebration of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the Concord-Nanae Sister City Relationship."

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to ban the use of DEHP, a plasticizer found in IV bags and tubing, due to concerns about its potential health risks.

Toxic-free,--
medical devices.
SD2846

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

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2522) of Cindy F. Friedman, Andrea Joy Campbell, Attorney General, Joanne M. Comerford, Julian Cyr and other members of the General Court for legislation to strengthen health care protections in the Commonwealth,-- came from the House with endorsement that the House concurred in the suspension of Joint Rule 12; and had NON-concurred in the reference to the committee on Health Care Financing. The petition bore the further endorsement that the matter had been referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Health care
protections.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate receded from its reference to the committee on Health Care Financing and concurred in the reference to the committee on the Judiciary.

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for

Supplemental
appropriations.

supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see Senate, No. 2521), 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.

The bill was signed by the Acting President, (Mr. Collins) and sent to the House for enactment.

Subsequently, the bill, which originated in the Senate, came from the House with the endorsement that it had been enacted in that branch.

The Senate then passed the bill to be enacted; and it was signed by the Acting President (Mr. Collins) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Rodrigues,--

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 Lens Arthur Joseph.

The Senator from Suffolk, Ms. Miranda, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it does so in memory of Lens Arthur Joseph.

I rise today with profound sorrow to ask that the Senate adjourn in memory of a beloved child whose life was tragically cut short far too soon — Lens Arthur Joseph, of Hyde Park, Massachusetts. Lens passed away on April 28, 2025, at just five years old, after a devastating accident involving the school bus that had brought him home from UP Academy in Dorchester, where he was completing his Kindergarten 2 year.

Born on August 8, 2019, in Arcahaie, Haiti, Lens came to the United States in August of 2023 and quickly became the heart and soul of the home he shared with his father, grandmother, uncle, aunt, and cousin in Hyde Park. Though young, Lens's presence was enormous. He had a wisdom and spark far beyond his years, and those who knew him fondly recall his bright mind, curious nature, and irresistible personality.

To his grandmother, he was "Lenso." To his uncle, he was "Maestro." And to his teachers and classmates, he was a beam of light — a joyful, intelligent, and kind boy who loved school, cared deeply for others, and often reminded his father with a confident grin, "You know I'm a smart guy!"

Lens had big dreams. At three years old, he proudly declared he wanted to be a pilot. By five, that dream shifted — he wanted to be a police officer, inspired by a sense of heroism and justice that belied his age. His teachers at UP Academy were preparing to honor him with a certificate for academic achievement — a tribute to his love for learning and his success, especially in mathematics. That certificate, presented posthumously at his funeral, is a lasting symbol of all he had already achieved, and all he had yet to do.

He loved cars, planes, and his favorite superhero, Spider-Man — fitting for a boy whose heart was as big as any comic book hero's. His casket, adorned in Spider-Man's red and blue, reminded everyone that even small heroes leave a mighty legacy.

In his home, Lens was a helping hand, a storyteller, a source of laughter and life. He'd asked his grandmother if she needed water, would talk endlessly with his uncle about what he learned in school, and stuck close to his cousin Miyah like a loyal shadow. His family described him as the "definition of life," a child whose presence could fill a room, and whose

absence now leaves a silence that is hard to bear.

Lens was the only son of his mother, Wilnese Moise, and the eldest child of his father, Esaie Joseph. He is mourned deeply by his parents, his two sisters — Wid-Kiarinah and Soumeika — his grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and an extended family in both Haiti and the United States who cherished him dearly.

The loss of Lens has left a hole not only in his family, but in the entire Hyde Park and Boston community. In the words of his uncle, Ricardo Joseph, “It always takes a long time for nature to produce a person like Lens.” Indeed, Mr. President, the world is richer for having known this sweet and special boy, and immeasurably poorer without him.

Therefore, Ms. President, I respectfully move that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Lens Arthur Joseph — a brilliant light, a joyful spirit, and a beloved son, grandson, student, and friend. May his memory inspire us to hold our children a little closer, to fight for their safety, and to never forget the immense potential they carry in even their smallest steps.

May Lens rest in peace, and may his family be comforted in their time of unimaginable grief.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Lens Arthur Joseph, at sixteen minutes before one o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Rodrigues, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.