
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, June 5, 2025.

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

Pledge of
allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Oliveira) handed the gavel to Mr. O'Connor for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. O'Connor then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, the SCRAP Robotics team from Weymouth. The team was recognized for having won the District Championship Rookie All-Star Award at the New England FIRST 2025 Competition in Revere, the Rising All Star Award at WPI and the Rookie All Star Award from the New England District Greater Boston robotics event. The mission of SCRAP is to ignite curiosity and a lasting passion for STEM through hands-on robotics challenges that inspire creativity, resilience and teamwork. The Senate applauded their accomplishments and they withdrew from the Chamber.

SCRAP Robotics
team.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable, Bruce E. Tarr, Minority Leader, announcing the re-appointment of Tai Pasquini (under section 26 of chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020) to the Rare Disease Advisory Council (received June 2, 2025),-- **was placed on file.**

Rare Disease
Advisory Council,--
appt.

Reports.

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

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 80 of Chapter 118E of the Massachusetts General Laws) submitting its Managed Care Plan Mental Health Parity 2024 report (copies having been forwarded to the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 2, 2025);

MassHealth,--
Mental Health
Parity 2024 report.
SD2948

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Middlesex County Jail and House of Corrections, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received June 2, 2025);

DPH,-- Middlesex
County Jail
Inspection report.
SD2949

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 and Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Emergency Housing Assistance Program bi-weekly report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 2, 2025);

A&F,-- EA Housing
bi-weekly report.
SD2950

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Section 22 of Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly approved and authorized training programs report as of June 2, 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 2, 2025);

A&F,-- Monthly
Work Training for
EA Residents
report.
SD2951

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Report of Property and Casualty Initiative, LLC (pursuant to Section 3 of Chapter 259 of the Acts of 1998) submitting its Property and Casualty Initiative, LLC 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 Financial Services and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received May 29, 2025);

PCI,-- FY24 annual report.
SD2952

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F, as amended by the Acts of 2023) submitting its April 2025 report on year-to-date net state tax revenue for the current fiscal year (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received June 3, 2025);

DOR,-- net state tax revenue April FY25 report.
SD2953

Report of the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (pursuant to Chapter 32, Section 23(2A)(e)(xi) of the General Laws) submitting its PRIM Board quarterly report for period ending March 31, 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service) (received May 29, 2025);

PRIM quarterly FY25 report.
SD2955

Report of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (pursuant to Section 8C of Chapter 21 of the General Laws and 313 CMR 4.11(3)) submitting its report of the Findings, Justifications, and Decision of the Water Resources Commission (received May 9, 2025); and

DCR,-- Water Resources Commission report.
SD2957

Report of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (pursuant to Section 66 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws) submitting its MCSW FY2025 annual report (received June 4, 2025).

MCSW FY2025 annual report.
SD2958

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mrs. Dooner, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2527) of Kelly A. Dooner (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the town charter of Wareham [Local approval received];

Wareham,-- charter.

Referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Fattman (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Brian Arthur O'Connor for legislation to repeal the beverage container recovery law;

Bottle bill,-- abolish. SD2944

By the same Senator (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of David Matthews for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination; and

MCAD,-- guidelines.
SD2946

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Barry R. Finegold for legislation to promote the safety of dogs in the custody of kennels;

Kennels,-- dog safety.
SD2945

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

Reports of a Committee.

By Mr. Gómez, for the committee on Cannabis Policy, on petition, a Bill relative to economic opportunities in the cannabis industry (Senate, No. 78);

Cannabis industry,-- license holders.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to create efficiencies in the cannabis employment process (Senate, No. 80);

Cannabis industry,-- license holders.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to create Cannabis career pathways for justice-involved individuals (Senate, No. 84);

Cannabis employment.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing an internal special audit unit within the Cannabis Control Commission (Senate, No. 90); and

Cannabis Control Commission.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to study supply and demand for cannabis cultivation (Senate, No. 100);

Cannabis cultivation,-- supply and demand.

Severally read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Committee Discharged.

Mr. Moore, for the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 50) of Pavel M. Payano for legislation to establish a career-to-education data center within the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Education.

Career-to-education data center.

Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted. Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to authorizing the town of Scituate to grant four additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4184),-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure**

Scituate,-- liquor licenses.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4188) of Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush (by vote of the town) that the town of Westwood be authorized to grant licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages in said town;

Westwood,-- liquor licenses.

To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4185) of Brian W. Murray (by vote of the town) relative to the nomination process for candidates for town meeting in the town of Milford;

Milford,-- town meeting.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4189) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the town council) relative to ranked choice voting in the town of Amherst; and

Amherst,-- ranked choice voting.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4190) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (with the approval of the town council) that the city known as the town of Amherst be authorized to extend local voting rights for lawful permanent residents residing in said town;

Amherst,-- voting rights.

Severally to the committee on Election Laws.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4191) of Hadley Luddy and Julian Cyr (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Wellfleet to enact a pesticide reduction bylaw;

Wellfleet,-- pesticide reduction bylaw.

To the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4186) of Thomas W. Moakley (by vote of the town) relative to the affordable housing trust fund of the town of Edgartown;

Edgartown,-- affordable housing.

To the committee on Housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3897) of Bruce J. Ayers (with the approval of the mayor and city council) that the city of Quincy be authorized to enter into a lease extension to Quarry Hills Associates, Limited Partnership; and

Quincy,-- Quarry Hills Assoc.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4192) of Nicholas A. Boldyga (by vote of the town) relative to the election and composition of the conservation commission in the town of Southwick;

Southwick,--
conservation
commission.

Severally, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4193) of Mindy Domb and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the city known as the town of Amherst be authorized to establish a real estate transfer fee in said town;

Amherst,-- real
estate transfer fee.

To the committee on Revenue.

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 designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day (Senate, No. 2152),-- was read a third time.

Tourette Syndrome
Awareness Day.

Remarks of Senator Cindy F. Friedman.

Thank you, Mr. President. The legislation before us today would designate June 7th as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day.

Remarks of Senator
Cindy F. Friedman.

The proposal for this bill came from a young Lexington constituent named Owen Rosenthal, who was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, or “TS”, in September 2023. As Owen explained to me, Tourette Syndrome is a neurological condition that can cause people to make sounds or movements they cannot control.

According to the Tourette Association of America and the CDC, 1 in 50 children from 5-17 years old in the U.S. have a tic disorder or TS. These sounds or movements can be challenging to experience in and of themselves – they can lead to stigma or shame that can cause isolation, loneliness, and other issues.

As Owen rightfully pointed out to me, designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day won’t solve all these problems – but establishing a day of observance will bring more attention to a condition that affects the lives of many in the Commonwealth. Hopefully, observing this day will also help reduce the stigma associated with the condition, allowing those it affects to live happier, more open lives.

I would like to thank Owen for being a vocal advocate for spreading awareness about TS, not only here in Massachusetts but also on behalf of the Tourette Association of America in Washington, D.C.

Owen strives to help those diagnosed with TS feel more accepted in their communities and to help those who are not lucky enough to receive a diagnosis yet. I just could not be prouder or more in awe of the 16-year-old who has done the work of getting this bill passed. Owen has put himself out there as a clear and eloquent spokesperson for this effort, and an incredible example of a leader we need and want in the future.

I would also like to thank the Senate President for her commitment to move this bill before International Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day, which is also on June 7th.

Hopefully Massachusetts will be able to have its own observance in the very near future.

Thank you.

On motion of Mr. Tarr, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6A, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Pending the question on passing the bill to be engrossed, Ms. Friedman moved that the bill be amended by inserting before the enacting clause the following emergency preamble:-

“Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to designate forthwith June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day, therefore it is hereby

declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.”.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2152, amended) was then passed to be engrossed.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Andrew Setera, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (see Senate, No. 2508), 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 4 to 0.

Andrew Setera,--
sick leave.

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

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Moore) “commending National Safety Council Inc. for their recognition of June 2025 as National Safety Month”;

National Safety
Council Inc.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Rodrigues) “honoring the memory of Daniel Grover Fitch”;
and

Daniel Grover
Fitch.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Tarr) “celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of the First Religious Society of the city of Newburyport.”

First Religious
Society of the city
of Newburyport.

Report 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 Michael D. Brady and Bridget Plouffe for legislation to designate bar pizza as the official pizza of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth,--
official pizza.
SD2852

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Dana Johnson, an employee of the department of children and families (House, No. 4032,-- on petition),-- was read.

Dana Johnson,--
sick leave.

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

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4194) of Colleen M. Garry relative to the estimated rate of inflation for social service programs;

Social service
programs,-- inflation.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4195) of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to require that all establishments be required to accept cash for transactions;

Cash buyers,--
discrimination.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4196) of Colleen M. Garry relative to the listing of the alcohol by volume for beer selections on menus;

Beer menus,--
ABV.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4197) of Colleen M. Garry relative to notification of alcohol by volume in beers to be consumed on the premises;

Id.

Severally, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4198) of Colleen M. Garry for legislation to establish parity in funding for regional vocational school districts and traditional public school district;

Schools,-- fair
contributions.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Education.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4199) of Jeffrey N. Roy relative to legal protections for victims of childhood sexual abuse;

Child victims,--
sexual abuse.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on the Judiciary.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4200) of James J. O'Day for legislation to authorize a pilot program for the use of psychedelics in certain licensed treatment facilities;

Psychedelics,-- pilot
program.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Tarr), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Captain Andrew John Porter.

Moment of silence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Emergency Preamble Adopted.

An engrossed Bill designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day (see Senate, No. 2152, amended), 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.

Tourette Syndrome
Awareness Day.

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

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the Senate), 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. Oliveira) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Bills laid before the
Governor.

Designating June 7 as Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day (see Senate, No. 2152, amended); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Andrew Setera, an employee of the trial court of the commonwealth (see Senate, No. 2508).

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

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 Captain Andrew John Porter.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr, moved that when the Senate adjourn today, it do so in memory of Captain Andrew John Porter.

Captain Andrew John Porter, 44 of Rockport passed away on Monday, May 26, 2025.

Andrew served the town of Rockport with immense pride and dedication. He was a 25-year veteran of the Rockport Fire Department most recently serving as Captain of Engine Company 1 and 3. Andrew was also a specialist in the Rockport Department of Public Works Highway Division for over 20 years. He wasn't just a part of the fire department- he was the glue that held it together. His leadership, courage, and compassion has left an indelible mark on the department and the entire community.

Andrew was a devoted husband to the love of his life Alison (Militello) Porter with whom he shared a deep and enduring love. May 28, 2025 would have marked their 14th year of marriage. He was a proud and loving father to his two adoring daughters Mackenzie and Raegan, who were truly the center of his world.

Andrew is survived by his wife Alison Porter, daughters Mackenzie and Raegan. His parents Cathy and Jack Porter, sister Lyndsay. His goddaughters TT and Callie and godson Cameron, all of whom brought him great joy. His Godfather Hey Boy, Aunt Karin, Godmother Donna and many other Aunts, Uncles, Cousins including his special Aunt Susan.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Captain Andrew John Porter, at eighteen minutes past twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Durant, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.
