

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025**

[54]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Met at twenty-one minutes past one o'clock P.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties if the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), 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. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Collins for the purpose of an introduction. Mr. Collins then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, a group of college students who are participating in an energy and environment intership program through Eversouce. The students and respective colleges who are participating in the program are:

Eversource - Energy and Environment Internship Program.

- Hana Bevilaqua -- Salve Regina University
Peter Burke -- Stonehill College
Joe Campanelli -- Providence College
Alex Cullen -- NC State
Colin Findlen -- Quinnipiac University
Brian Fortin -- Colby College
Christopher Kerwin -- Boston College
Molly Lyons -- UNH
Abby Martin -- Framingham State
Olivia Martin- Salve Regina University
Sean McCusker -- Nichols College
Mimi O'Connell -- Holy Cross
Kerry Perez -- Boston College
Ben Snyder -- Holy Cross
Mick Vaughn -- Providence College

Reports.

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

Report of the Executive Office of the Trial Court (pursuant to Section 15(c) of Chapter 239 of the General Laws) submitting its report summary statistics on eviction filings, actions, and dispositions from January 2024 through May 2025 (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary) (received June 16, 2025);

EOTC,-- rental protections May 2025 report. SD2980

Report of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (pursuant to line item 7003-0100 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Barriers to Employment report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 16, 2025);

EOLWD,-- Barriers to Employment report. SD2981

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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 16, 2025);

A&F,-- EA Housing bi-weekly report. SD2983

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to Chapter 88 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its monthly report on Temporary Respite Centers (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 16, 2025);

A&F,-- temporary respite centers report. SD2984

Report of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (pursuant to line item 4003-0123 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023) submitting its May Resettlement Agency report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 16, 2025);

A&F,-- May Resettlement Agency report. SD2985

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Massachusetts Treatment 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 June 18, 2025); and

DPH,-- Massachusetts Treatment Center Inspection report. SD2986

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Boston Pre-Release 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 June 18, 2025).

DPH,-- Boston Pre-Release Center Inspection report. SD2987

*Petition.*

Ms. Lovely presented a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to authorize the retirement board of the city of Salem to retire Kathleen Rocheville, a police officer of the city of Salem,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Salem,-- Kathleen Rocheville. SD2979

*Reports of a Committee.*

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill authorizing the county of Plymouth to issue pension obligation bonds or notes (Senate, No. 1463);

Plymouth county,-- pension bonds.

**Read and, under Senate Rule 27, referred to the committee on Ways and Means.**

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill providing for indigenous representation on the Martha's Vineyard Commission (Senate, No. 1431);

Martha's Vineyard Commission,-- representation.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill authorizing Barnstable County to establish an energy revolving loan fund (Senate, No. 1435);

Barnstable county,-- energy revolving loan fund.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the Regional Commissions on the Status of Women (Senate, No. 1464); and

Commissions on the Status of Women.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill requiring automatic external defibrillators in Norfolk County public buildings (Senate, No. 1473);

AED,-- Norfolk County public buildings.

**Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, referred to the committee on Rules.**

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on petition, a Bill amending the charter of the town of Seekonk (Senate, No. 20) [Local approval received];

Seekonk,-- charter.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill enabling the appointment of alternates to the Swampscott Conservation Commission (Senate, No. 23) [Local approval received];

Swampscott,--  
Conservation  
Commission.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (Senate, No. 24) [Local approval received];

Sandwich,-- town  
charter.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill amending the charter of the town of Sandwich (Senate, No. 25) [Local approval received];

Sandwich,-- town  
clerk.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill further regulating the amendment of a conservation restriction in the town of Hanson (Senate, No. 1425) [Local approval received];

Hanson,--  
conservation  
restriction.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill amending the charter of the city of Everett (Senate, No. 1436) [Local approval received];

Everett,-- charter.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the residency requirement for the town manager of the town of Tewksbury (Senate, No. 1446) [Local approval received];

Tewksbury,-- town  
manager.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction and reconstruction of telecommunications facilities by the city of Quincy (Senate, No. 1450) [Local approval received]; and

Quincy,-- revenue  
bond.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing the Gloucester Fisheries Commission (Senate, No. 2507) [Local approval received];

Gloucester Fisheries  
Commission.

**Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.**

*Committees Discharged.*

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the Senate Bill relative to archaic laws (Senate, No. 1034),-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Rules.

Archaic laws.

**Under Senate Rule 36, the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3894) of Joan Meschino (by vote of the town) that the town of Cohasset be authorized to issue five additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises in said town;

Cohasset,-- liquor  
licenses.

**To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4223) of Sean Garballey, Cindy F. Friedman and David M. Rogers (by vote of the town) that the town of Arlington be authorized to grant legal voting rights in municipal elections to town residents aged 16 and 17 years old; and

Arlington,-- voting  
age.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4224) of Aaron L. Saunders and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) relative to validating the results of the annual town election in the town of New Salem held on May 5, 2025;

New Salem,--  
elections.

**Severally, to the committee on Election Laws.**

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4225) of Jennifer Balinsky Armini and Brendan P. Crighton (by vote of the town) that the town of Marblehead be authorized to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption in said town;

Marblehead,--  
senior tax  
exemptions.

**To the committee on Revenue.**

*Committee of Conference Report.*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

A report of the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the Senate amendments to 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) (*amended by the Senate* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2514),-- reported, in part, a “Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects” (House, No. 4227) [Total Appropriation: \$1,387,975,000.00],-- came from the House, and was read.

Supplemental appropriations.

**The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Durant, the report was considered forthwith and accepted, in concurrence**

*Resolutions.*

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

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Lewis and DiDomenico, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Jehlen and Mr. Tarr) “congratulating Mystic Valley Elder Services on the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.”

Mystic Valley Elder Services.

*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 joint petition of Peter J. Durant and Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Emily Coollick.

Emily Coollick,-- sick leave. SD2921

**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 Public Service.**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

*Petition.*

On motion of Mr. Durant, Senate Rule 20 and Joint Rule 12 were suspended on the petition, presented by Jacob R. Oliveira (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation relative to residential address privacy for candidates on general and primary election ballots,-- **and the same was referred to the committee on Election Laws.**

Candidates,-- residential address privacy. SD2982

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jato Charlotin, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4182,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Jato Charlotin,-- sick leave.

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

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were 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. 2529),-- was read a second time.

Supplemental appropriations bill.

After remarks and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Messrs. Moore and Keenan moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_\_ the following section:-

“SECTION \_\_. The special commission established in section 148 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024 is hereby revived and continued and shall file its final report not later than July 31, 2025.”

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Keenan moved that the bill be amended by inserting, in section 16, after subsection (c), in lines 222-224, the following new subsection:-

“(d) Annually, not later than January 1, the office of the inspector general shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means on disbursements from the fund and the balance of the fund.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered:

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE

*Emergency Preamble Adopted.*

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4227), 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 8 to 0.

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

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further 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. 2529),-- was further considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Ms. Jehlen and Mr. Payano moved that the bill be amended in section 71, by striking out, in lines 666 to 670, inclusive, the following words:-

“(19) the agreement between the Sheriff of Plymouth County and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 193, Unit SP5, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027; and

(20) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Society of Professors, MTA/NEA, Unit A50, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.”; and

By inserting in place thereof the following words:-

“(19) the agreement between the Sheriff of Plymouth County and the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), Local 193, Unit SP5, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027;

(20) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Society of Professors, MTA/NEA, Unit A50, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027; and

1

2

Supplemental appropriations.

Supplemental appropriations bill.

5

(21) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Faculty Staff Union, Boston Campus, Unit B40, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Mark moved that the bill be amended in section 2, in item 8100-0006, by adding the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$13,000 shall be expended for the town of Cheshire to aid in acquiring a fire rescue boat”; and by striking out the figure “\$4,193,083” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “\$4,206,083”.

7

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Barrett moved that the bill be amended in section 2, in item 9110-1630, by adding the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$350,000 shall be expended for Jewish Family and Children's Service for the court-appointed Guardianship program”; and by striking out the figure “\$60,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “\$60,350,000”.

8

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Mark moved that the bill be amended in section 2, in item 8100-0006, by adding the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the town of Granville to aid in acquiring a police cruiser”; and by striking out the figure “\$4,193,083” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “\$4,243,083”.

9

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Mark moved that the bill be amended in section 2, in item 9110-1630, by adding the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the West County Senior Services District of the towns of Ashfield, Buckland, and Shelburne and the western Franklin County region for increased costs relative to the transition from the ‘Consortium’ to the ‘District’ pursuant to chapter 402 of the Acts of 2022”; and by striking out the figure “\$5,800,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “\$5,900,000”.

12

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Friedman and Mr. Payano moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section X the following section:-

14

“SECTION X. Item 4000-0300 of section 2 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, as most recently amended by section 79 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by striking out the words ‘June 30, 2025’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘June 30, 2026’.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Ms. Miranda moved that the bill be amended in section 2 by adding the following item:-

17

“1599-XXXX - For a reserve to support the creation of the Brooke House in Mattapan by 2Life Development Inc.; provided, that the Brooke House shall create and maintain not less than 127 units of senior housing; provided further, that the housing shall be reserved for seniors with incomes of not more than 60 per cent of the area median income; provided further, that the Brooke House shall include space for the Shattuck Child Care Center; and provided further, that the Brooke House shall include space for a community health care center that shall provide services to the broader community.”.....\$2,000,000

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Fattman moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section X the following section:-

20

“SECTION X. Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out section 53 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

‘SECTION 53. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any member of a retirement system who is a member in service and a veteran who failed to make the purchase authorized in paragraph (h) of subdivision (1) of section 4 of chapter 32 of the

General Laws pursuant to chapter 71 of the acts of 1996, as amended, shall be given a 1-time opportunity to apply to the retirement system to make said purchase no later than January 1, 2026. Each retirement system shall provide written notice to all members in service of their potential eligibility for this purchase within 90 days of the effective date of this act.’”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Cyr and Brady moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 28 the following section:-

21

“SECTION 28A. Section 19F of chapter 94C of the General Laws, as inserted by section 42 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a registered pharmacist may: (i) prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives to any person, regardless of whether the person has evidence of a previous prescription from a primary care practitioner or reproductive health care practitioner for a hormonal contraceptive patch or self-administered oral hormonal contraceptive; and (ii) prescribe, dispense and administer medications used for the treatment and prevention of human immunodeficiency virus and sexually transmitted infections as defined by the department.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mrs. Dooner moved that the bill be amended by adding the following section:-

22

“SECTION \_ . Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after section 67A the following section:

Section 67B. Exemption for Certain Non-Profit 911 Ambulance Providers

(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any non-profit ambulance service that (1) is licensed by the department of public health under 105 CMR 170.000; (2) provides emergency medical transportation services exclusively through 911 contracts with one or more municipalities; and (3) certifies annually to the executive office that it does not engage in any non-911 transport services shall be exempt from any assessments, fees, or payments otherwise required under the MassHealth ambulance provider supplemental payment program under 101 CMR 324.00 or related ambulance provider trust fund programs.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prevent such exempted providers from receiving payment for services rendered to MassHealth enrollees, including base rates for approved ambulance transports.

(c) The executive office shall promulgate regulations and develop a certification process to implement this section. The certification process shall include annual certification of eligibility by qualifying providers and provisions for auditing compliance.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mrs. Dooner and Messrs. Montigny and Fattman moved that the bill be amended in section 41 by striking out paragraph (5) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

23

(5) Not later than 12 months after the completion of each assessment, each electric distribution company may submit to the department of public utilities its plan and an application to revise its rates to account for the additional distribution infrastructure included in the plan pursuant to paragraph (4). The application shall include: (i) testimony that explains how the application is consistent with the plan pursuant to said paragraph (4); (ii) an explanation of the need for each distribution infrastructure investment; (iii) supporting documentation demonstrating that the actual or estimated costs for each distribution infrastructure investment are reasonable; and (iv) the actual or estimated in-service date of the distribution infrastructure investment. Such application shall be

preliminarily approved by the department of public utilities not later than 6 months after submission; provided, however, that the requested rate revision is consistent with the department's practices and incremental costs are not otherwise accounted for in the electric distribution company's existing rates. The department's review of such application shall not be construed as a prudence review. No rate revision shall take effect unless and until the department issues a written decision approving the application within 6 months after submission.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by striking in line 93 through 97 the following:- “the executive office shall submit a report to the joint committee on health care financing and the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing: (I) the schedule of payments to hospitals under this item delineated by acute care hospital, hospital system and payment amount; and (II) each hospital’s intended use of funds provided under this item” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “the executive office shall submit a report to the joint committee on health care financing, the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the house and senate detailing: (I) the schedule of payments to hospitals under this item delineated by acute care hospital, hospital system and payment amount; and (II) each hospital’s intended use of funds provided under this item, including but not limited to (1) unrecovered debt and receivables, (2) increases cost of care attributable to migrants, and or (3) discrepancies between charges and actual payments of reimbursement”.

25

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at a quarter before three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 5 – nays 34) **[Yeas and Nays No. 50]:**

**YEAS.**

Dooner, Kelly A.  
Durant, Peter J.  
Fattman, Ryan C.

O'Connor, Patrick M.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – **5.**

**NAYS.**

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.  
Driscoll, Jr., William J.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Eldridge, James B.  
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.  
Oliveira, Jacob R.  
Payano, Pavel  
Rausch, Rebecca L.  
Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Rush, Michael F.  
Velis, John C. – **34.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at eight minutes before three o’clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

41.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Fattman moved that the bill be amended by striking out section

24

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at ten minutes past three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mrs. Dooner, as follows, to wit (yeas 6 – nays 33) [Yeas and Nays No. 51]:

YEAS.

Brady, Michael D.  
Dooner, Kelly A.  
Durant, Peter J.

Fattman, Ryan C.  
O'Connor, Patrick M.  
Tarr, Bruce E. – 6.

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.  
Brownsberger, William N.  
Collins, Nick  
Comerford, Joanne M.  
Creem, Cynthia Stone  
Crighton, Brendan P.  
Cronin, John J.  
Cyr, Julian  
DiDomenico, Sal N.  
Driscoll, Jr., William J.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Eldridge, James B.  
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.  
Oliveira, Jacob R.  
Payano, Pavel  
Rausch, Rebecca L.  
Rodrigues, Michael J.  
Rush, Michael F.  
Velis, John C. – 33.

The yeas and nays having been completed at sixteen minutes past three o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Creem in the Chair, Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended in line 140, after the word “funds”, by inserting the following:- “(iv) payments made to Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils by municipalities” and to further amend by striking the word “and” in line 139.

35

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by striking in line 304 the following:- “and (v) 1 member of any other state agency that serves MassHealth beneficiaries, who shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “(v) 1 member representing pharmacies, and (vi) 1 member of any other state agency that serves MassHealth beneficiaries, who shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member”.

37

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Edwards and Mr. Montigny moved that the bill be amended by striking in line 147-149, the following:-

47

“For a transfer to the Fair Housing Fund established in section 2JJJJJ of chapter 147 29 of the General Laws .....\$1,000,000”

And by inserting in its place the following:-

“For a transfer to the Office of Fair Housing provided \$1,500,000 shall be expended Fair Housing Trust Fund established in section 2JJJJJ of chapter 29 of the General Laws to support entities that participate in Fair Housing initiatives, as defined by §125.103 of the Code of Federal Regulations in the 2024 edition, at the express direction of the Director of the Office of Fair

Housing and provided further; \$500,000 shall be expended for the operating costs of the Office of Fair Housing established in Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024 in section 5.....\$2,000,000”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Edwards and Mr. Payano moved that the bill be amended by adding the following after line item 4590-0912, the following line item:- 4512-2020.; and 48

In line 144 by adding after the words, “June 30, 2027” the following:- “provided further that not less than \$2,600,000 shall be expended for a matching grant program to be administered by the department of public health to support municipal public safety reform; provided, that funds shall be made available to municipalities pursuing public safety reforms and alternative investments to promote equitable public safety and public health outcomes; provided further, that eligible reforms and investments shall include, but not be limited to: (i) utilizing jail diversion programs, including restoration centers; (ii) hiring de-escalation specialists or implementing de-escalation training; (iii) hiring behavioral health specialists or utilizing other behavioral health supports; (iv) training in evidence-based or evidence-informed mental health and substance use crisis response or alternative emergency response; and (v) hiring or contracting alternative emergency response professionals; provided further, that preference in awarding matching grants shall be given to municipalities proposing alternative emergency responses conducted by unarmed community-based human service or behavioral or mental health providers who shall be unaccompanied by law enforcement but who may call on law enforcement as needed; provided further, that municipalities receiving matching grants shall demonstrate a measurable benefit to the public health for the residents of the municipality, based on criteria established by the department, and that the municipality is pursuing new practices or reforms, or expansion of prior successful practices, that support criteria established by the department; provided further, that prior to receiving matching grants, municipalities shall provide a comprehensive implementation plan to the department of proposed public safety reforms and investments; provided further, that the department shall give priority to applications that propose to invest a majority of grant funds with community-based human service, substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health or mental health providers; and provided further, that not later than March 3, 2025, the department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (a) a list of all municipalities that received matching funds; (b) the amount of matching funds awarded to each municipality; and (c) a description of the reforms and investments implemented in each municipality awarded matching funds, prior appropriation continued..... \$12,600,000”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Miranda and Messrs. Cronin, Keenan, Payano, Moore, Collins and Driscoll moved that the bill be amended in section 2A, in item 4000-1998 by inserting after the word “Inc.” the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$2,500,000 shall be expended to The Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Inc. for enhanced technical assistance including, but not limited to, the facilitation of shared service agreements”. 49

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Velis moved that the bill be amended by striking out section 4 in its entirety. 50

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Cyr and Ms. Miranda moved that the bill be amended in section 29, by inserting after the words “reproductive health care”, in clause (i), the following words:- “or gender-affirming health care”. 51

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Finegold moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 50 the following section:- 52

“SECTION 50A. Item 7002-1523 of section 2 of chapter 238 of the acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out the following words:- developed with the assistance of a Small Business Innovation Research or Small Business Technology Transfer grant from a federal agency including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Energy, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Food and Drug Administration or the National Science Foundation.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Montigny moved that the bill be amended by striking section 59 in its entirety. 57

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Collins moved that the bill be amended in section X, in item 1595-1779 by adding the following words:- “; provided further, that not less than \$3,000,000 shall be expended to Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, Inc. for the construction of La CASA: Center for Arts, Self-determination and Activism, a center for economic mobility programming, youth development, resident services and arts serving low-income families of color and the conversion of 2 office buildings to 46 units of affordable housing”; and by striking out the figure “\$1,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “\$4,000,000”. 65

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Moore moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_\_ the following section:- 53

“SECTION \_\_. Section 63 of Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition is hereby amended in section 1, by inserting after the word ‘thereof’, in line 398, the following words:- ‘or shares of an exchange-traded fund;’.”; and

In Section 63 of Chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the word ‘money’, in line 402, the following words:- ‘, or shares of an exchange-traded fund’.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting in line 573 after the word, “financing” the following:- “1 member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate and 1 member to be appointed by the minority leader of the house”. 27

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_ the following section:- 34

“SECTION \_ . Section 33 of chapter 268 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by inserting line 10 after the word, ‘revenue’ the following:- ‘officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States or any department, agency or officer thereof.’.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Montigny moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_ the following sections:- 39

“SECTION \_\_. The department of public utilities shall develop, implement, and maintain, a comprehensive, public- facing dashboard to display information relative to the cost and supply of energy for commercial and residential consumers in the commonwealth, provided that such information shall include but not be limited to: i) investor owned transmission and distribution companies of electricity and natural gas, organized by region, ii) current rates for natural gas and electricity for each such company, iii) a clear and easily digestible explanation of the components of gas and electricity bills in the commonwealth, including regional variations, iv) the sources of gas and electricity being delivered by such companies, v) the date of the most recently approved rates for gas and electricity for each company, and vi) a summary of the proceedings by which those rates were approved, vii) the duration of the currently approved rates and any anticipated new rate case filings, viii) any available incentives or discounts to reduce the consumer cost of electricity and natural

gas, ix) average daily, monthly, and yearly consumption of gas and electricity, and any other relevant information.

SECTION \_\_. There shall be a special commission to study and recommend reforms to utility delivery fee structures, industry best practices, and cost-reduction measures for consumers in the Commonwealth. The commission shall analyze the impact of delivery fees on ratepayers, identify the primary cost drivers, and evaluate regulatory or market-based strategies to mitigate excessive charges while ensuring reliable service. The commission shall assess the impact of delivery fees on consumer costs, market competition, and energy affordability through a review of historical rate structures, policy comparisons with other states, stakeholder input, and financial modeling to identify potential reforms that could reduce costs while maintaining reliable service. Additionally, the commission shall review the effectiveness of existing regulations governing delivery fees, identify potential legislative or administrative adjustments to enhance pricing transparency and efficiency, any and all options for reducing such costs in the short and long terms, together with the impacts of such options on efforts to reduce carbon emissions pursuant to current statutory and regulatory obligations, and the impacts of such options on employment levels and the economy of the commonwealth. The commission shall consist of the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, who shall serve as co-chairs; the Speaker of the House of Representatives or a designee; the President of the Senate or a designee; the House Minority Leader or a designee; the Senate Minority Leader or a designee; the chair of the department of public utilities commission or their designee, the director of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, 10 members appointed by the governor, three of whom shall represent electric transmission and distribution companies of electricity in the commonwealth, of which one shall represent municipal light plants in the commonwealth, two of whom shall have expertise in energy policy and represent consumers in the commonwealth, one of whom shall represent large employers in the commonwealth, one of whom shall represent small employers in the commonwealth, one member representing the New England Power Generators Association, and one member representing the Independent Systems Operator for New England, one member representing environmental organizations in the commonwealth, and one member appointed by the attorney general of the commonwealth with expertise in energy policy. Administrative support for the operations of the commission shall be provided by the department of public utilities. The commission shall submit a report detailing its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, and the Clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate no later than twelve months after the passage of this legislation.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Messrs. Tarr and Fattman moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_ the following section:-

44

“SECTION\_ . Clause (b) section 5L of chapter 18 as appearing in the 2022 official edition by inserting after subclause (2) the following:- (3) steals food stamp benefits using an unauthorized electronic other intercept device.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Messrs. Tarr, Montigny and Fattman moved that the bill be amended in section 41 in line 444 by striking the word “and”;

45

In line 445 by adding after the word “investment” the following:- “; (V) a specific analysis of the burdens and impacts on the ratepayers of the Commonwealth.”; and

In line 451, by adding at the end the following:- “Provided that in its consideration of any such application, the department shall conduct not less than one public hearing which shall accommodate remote participation through electronic means.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_ the following:-

54

“SECTION \_\_. Chapter 269 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 14 the following new section:-

Section 14C. Whoever solicits or otherwise entices or communicates or causes to be communicated or published, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a telephone or telecommunication device including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, and facsimile communications, through an electronic communication device or by any other means a list of targeted individuals causing serious bodily injury or death shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 20 years in the state prison or for not more than 2 1/2 half years in a jail or house of correction, or by a fine of not more than \$20,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section \_ the following:-

58

“SECTION \_\_. Section 39 of Chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 5 the word ‘five’ and inserting in place thereof the following:- ‘ten, or community service of 10 hours for a first offense where mitigating circumstances including but not limited to the age of the offender are present’.

SECTION \_\_. Said section 39 of chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 6 the words ‘in a house of correction’ and inserting in place thereof the following:- ‘state prison’.

SECTION \_\_. Said section 39 of chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 7 the words:-‘two and one-half years’ and inserting in place thereof the following:-‘five, or community service of 10 hours for a first offense where mitigating circumstances including but not limited to the age of the offender are present’.

SECTION \_\_. Said section 39 of chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 19 the word:- ‘ten’ and inserting in place thereof the following:- ‘twenty , or community service of 10 hours for a first offense where mitigating circumstances including but not limited to the age of the offender are present’.

SECTION \_\_. Said section 39 of chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 20 the word:- ‘five’ and inserting in place thereof the following:-‘ten, or community service of 10 hours for a first offense where mitigating circumstances including but not limited to the age of the offender are present’.

SECTION \_\_. Said section 39 of chapter 265 as appearing in the 2022 official edition is hereby amended by striking in line 31 the word:- ‘one’ and inserting in place thereof the following:- ‘two, or community service of 10 hours for a first offense where mitigating circumstances including but not limited to the age of the offender are present’.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by striking in item 4000-1202 the following:-

61

“(I) the schedule of payments to hospitals under this item delineated by acute care hospital, hospital system and payment amount; and (II) each hospital’s intended use of funds provided under this item; and provided further, that eligible acute care hospitals shall provide the executive office with information necessary for the report”; and inserting in place thereof the following:- “(I) the schedule of payments to hospitals under this item delineated by acute care hospital, hospital system and payment amount; and (II) each hospital’s use of funds provided under this item including the number of patients served and the type of services provided; (III) what measures the acute care hospital has taken to reduce its costs to be less reliant on supplemental payments and (IV) provided further, that eligible acute care hospitals shall provide the executive office with information necessary for the report”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by adding in line 582 after the words “Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Inc.,” the following words:- “A representative of the Employer Coalition on Health; a representative of the National Federation of Independent Business;”.

63

Paragraph (b) of section 65 is hereby amended by deleting paragraphs (ii) and (iii).

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Barrett moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 41 the following section:-

66

“SECTION 41A. Section 82 of said chapter 179, as amended by chapter 239 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended, in line 1801, by striking the figure ‘2025’ and inserting place thereof:- ‘2027.’; and

By striking out section 55 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

“SECTION 55. Subsection (b) of section 118 of said chapter 239 is hereby amended by striking out clauses (v) and (vi) and inserting in place thereof the following:- (v) the energy storage system cannot be constructed due to any disapprovals, conditions or denials by a state or local agency or body, except with respect to any lands or interests therein, excluding public ways, owned or managed by any state agency or local government; or (vi) the energy storage system cannot be constructed because of delays caused by the appeal of any approval, consent, permit or certificate.”

The amendment was adopted.

*Report of a Committee.*

By Mr. Rodrigues, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2522),-- ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2538).

Health care access rights.

*Order Adopted.*

Mr. Rodrigues offered the following order, to wit:

Procedural order.

*Ordered*, That notwithstanding Senate Rule 7 or any other rule to the contrary, the Senate Bill strengthening health care protections in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2522) (the committee on Ways and Means having recommended that the bill be amended by substituting a new draft with the same title Senate, No. 2538) shall be placed in the Orders of the Day for a second reading on Thursday, June 26, 2025, for immediate consideration.

**The rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Friedman, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted**

**The bill (Senate, No. 2538) was placed in the Orders of the Day for Thursday, June 26, 2025.**

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further 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. 2529),-- the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Supplemental appropriations bill.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 42 the following section:-

3

“SECTION 42A. Item 2511-0107 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended by inserting after the words ‘Essex county’ the following words:- ‘and for expenses related to opening and operating the Seacoast Regional Food Hub, located in the town of Salisbury, serving the Lower Merrimack Valley Food Coalition and such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2026.’”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 41 the following section:-

4

“SECTION 41A. Item 2000-0100 of section 2 of chapter 28 of the acts of 2023, as amended by section 61 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word ‘county’ the following words:- ‘and such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2025’.”; and

By inserting after section 48 the following section:-

“SECTION 48A. Item 2000-0100 of said section 2 of said chapter 140 is hereby amended by adding the following words:- ‘and such funds shall be made available until June 30, 2026’.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matters were considered:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jato Charlotin, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4182,-- on petition),-- was read.

Jato Charlotin,--  
sick leave.

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

*Engrossed Bill.*

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects (see House, No. 4227) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage,-- was put upon its final passage.

Bill laid before the  
Governor.

After remarks, the question on passing it to be enacted was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at two minutes past five o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 52]:**

**YEAS.**

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J.       | Gómez, Adam                 |
| Brady, Michael D.         | Jehlen, Patricia D.         |
| Brownsberger, William N.  | Keenan, John F.             |
| Collins, Nick             | Kennedy, Edward J.          |
| Comerford, Joanne M.      | Kennedy, Robyn K.           |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone      | Lewis, Jason M.             |
| Crighton, Brendan P.      | Lovely, Joan B.             |
| Cronin, John J.           | Mark, Paul W.               |
| Cyr, Julian               | Miranda, Liz                |
| DiDomenico, Sal N.        | Montigny, Mark C.           |
| Dooner, Kelly A.          | Moore, Michael O.           |
| Driscoll, Jr., William J. | O'Connor, Patrick M.        |
| Durant, Peter J.          | Oliveira, Jacob R.          |
| Edwards, Lydia            | Payano, Pavel               |
| Eldridge, James B.        | Rausch, Rebecca L.          |
| Fattman, Ryan C.          | Rodrigues, Michael J.       |
| Feeney, Paul R.           | Rush, Michael F.            |
| Fernandes, Dylan A.       | Spilka, Karen E.            |
| Finegold, Barry R.        | Tarr, Bruce E.              |
| Friedman, Cindy F.        | Velis, John C. – <b>40.</b> |

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at eleven minutes past five o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be enacted, and it was signed by the Acting President (Ms. Creem) (having been appointed by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.

*Moment of Silence.*

At the request of the President, the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Melissa and Mark Hortman.

Moment of silence.

*Orders of the Day.*

The Orders of the Day were further 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. 2529),-- was further considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Supplemental appropriations bill.

Ms. Friedman moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 4 the following section:-

40

“SECTION 4A. Chapter 6D of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 6, as appearing in section 5 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 6. (a) Each acute hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pharmaceutical manufacturing company and pharmacy benefit manager shall pay to the commonwealth an amount for the estimated expenses of the commission.

(b) The assessed amount for acute hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers shall be not less than 30 per cent nor more than 40 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the commission minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the commission; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the acute hospital's and ambulatory surgical center's gross patient service revenues to the total gross patient service revenues of all such hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. Each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall make a preliminary payment to the commission on October 1 of each year in an amount equal to 1/2 of the previous year's total assessment. Thereafter, each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall pay, within 30 days' notice from the commission, the balance of the total assessment for the current year based upon its most current projected gross patient service revenue. The commission shall subsequently adjust the assessment for any variation in actual and estimated expenses of the commission and for changes in acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center gross patient service revenue. Such estimated and actual expenses shall include an amount equal to the cost of fringe benefits and indirect expenses, as established by the comptroller under section 5D of chapter 29. In the event of late payment by any such acute hospital or ambulatory surgical center, the treasurer shall advance the amount of due and unpaid funds to the commission prior to the receipt of such monies in anticipation of such revenues up to the amount authorized in the then current budget attributable to such assessments and the commission shall reimburse the treasurer for such advances upon receipt of such revenues. This section shall not apply to any state institution or to any acute hospital which is operated by a city or town.

(c) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the assessed amount for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies shall be not less than 5 per cent nor more than 10 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the commission minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the commission; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. As calculated using information from MassHealth and the all-payer claims database, each pharmaceutical manufacturing company shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of total outpatient prescription drug spending of the manufacturer in the commonwealth to the total outpatient prescription drug spending of all manufacturers within the commonwealth.

(d) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the assessed amount for pharmacy benefit managers shall be not less than 5 per cent nor more than 10 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the commission minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the commission; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each pharmacy benefit manager shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the claims paid by the pharmacy benefit manager attributed to residents of the commonwealth for whom it manages pharmaceutical benefits on behalf of carriers to the total of all such claims paid by all pharmacy benefit managers attributed to residents of the commonwealth for whom they manage pharmaceutical benefits on behalf of carriers.

(e) Each pharmaceutical manufacturing company and each pharmacy benefit manager shall make a preliminary payment to the commission annually on October 1 in an amount equal to 1/2 of the previous year's total assessment. Thereafter, each pharmaceutical manufacturing company and each pharmacy benefit manager shall pay, within 30 days of receiving notice from the commission, the balance of the total assessment for the current year as determined by the commission.”; and

By inserting after section 5 the following section:-

“SECTION 5A. Chapter 12C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 7, as appearing in section 21 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 7. (a) Each acute hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pharmaceutical manufacturing company and pharmacy benefit manager, shall pay to the commonwealth an amount for the estimated expenses of the center and for the other purposes described in this chapter which shall include any transfer made to the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund established in section 2TTTT of chapter 29.

(b) The assessed amount for acute hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers shall be not less than 30 per cent nor more than 40 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the center and for the other purposes described in this chapter which shall include any transfer made to the Community Hospital Reinvestment Trust Fund established in section 2TTTT of chapter 29 minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the center's publication or dissemination of reports and information; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the acute hospital's or ambulatory surgical center's gross patient service revenues to the total gross patient services revenues of all such hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. Each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall make a preliminary payment to the center on October 1 of each year in an amount equal to 1/2 of the previous year's total assessment. Thereafter,

each acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall pay, within 30 days' notice from the center, the balance of the total assessment for the current year based upon its most current projected gross patient service revenue. The center shall subsequently adjust the assessment for any variation in actual and estimated expenses of the center and for changes in acute hospital and ambulatory surgical center gross patient service revenue. Such estimated and actual expenses shall include an amount equal to the cost of fringe benefits and indirect expenses, as established by the comptroller under section 5D of chapter 29. In the event of late payment by any such acute hospital or ambulatory surgical center, the treasurer shall advance the amount of due and unpaid funds to the center prior to the receipt of such monies in anticipation of such revenues up to the amount authorized in the then current budget attributable to such assessments and the center shall reimburse the treasurer for such advances upon receipt of such revenues. This section shall not apply to any state institution or to any acute hospital which is operated by a city or town.

(c) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the assessed amount for pharmaceutical manufacturing companies shall be not less than 5 per cent nor more than 10 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the center minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the center's publication or dissemination of reports and information; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. As calculated using information from MassHealth and the all-payer claims database, each pharmaceutical manufacturing company shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of total outpatient prescription drug spending of the manufacturer in the commonwealth to the total outpatient prescription drug spending of all manufacturers within the commonwealth.

(d) To the maximum extent permissible under federal law, and provided that such assessment will not result in any reduction of federal financial participation in Medicaid, the assessed amount for pharmacy benefit managers shall be not less than 5 per cent nor more than 10 per cent of the amount appropriated by the general court for the expenses of the center minus amounts collected from: (i) filing fees; (ii) fees and charges generated by the center's publication or dissemination of reports and information; and (iii) federal matching revenues received for these expenses or received retroactively for expenses of predecessor agencies. Each pharmacy benefit manager shall pay such assessed amount multiplied by the ratio of the claims paid by the pharmacy benefit manager attributed to residents of the commonwealth for whom it manages pharmaceutical benefits on behalf of carriers to the total of all such claims paid by all pharmacy benefit managers attributed to residents of the commonwealth for whom they manage pharmaceutical benefits on behalf of carriers.

(e) Each pharmaceutical manufacturing company and each pharmacy benefit manager shall make a preliminary payment to the center annually on October 1 in an amount equal to 1/2 of the previous year's total assessment. Thereafter, each pharmaceutical manufacturing company and each pharmacy benefit manager shall pay, within 30 days' notice from the center, the balance of the total assessment for the current year as determined by the center.”;

By inserting after section 32 the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 32A. The definition of ‘Center for health information and analysis revenue amount’ in section 64 of said chapter 118E, as appearing in section 29 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the words ‘, ambulatory surgical centers and non-hospital provider organizations’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘and ambulatory surgical centers’.

SECTION 32B. The definition of ‘Health policy commission revenue amount’ in said section 64 of said chapter 118E, as appearing in section 30 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024, is hereby amended by striking out the words ‘, ambulatory surgical centers and non-hospital provider organizations’ and inserting in place thereof the following words:- ‘and ambulatory surgical centers’.”;

By inserting after section 70 the following sections:-

“SECTION 70A. Section 38 of chapter 342 of the acts of 2024 are hereby repealed.

SECTION 70B. Section 81 of chapter 343 of the acts of 2024 are hereby repealed.”;

and

By inserting after section 71 the followings section:-

“SECTION 71A. The assessments required under section 6 of chapter 6D of the General Laws, as amended by section 4A, and section 7 of chapter 12C of the General Laws, as amended by section 5A, shall apply to the budgets for the health policy commission and the center for health information and analysis, respectively, beginning in fiscal year 2027; provided, however, that each pharmaceutical manufacturing company and each pharmacy benefit manager shall make a preliminary payment to the commission on October 1, 2026 in an amount equal to 1/2 of the initial year’s total assessment, as determined by the commission and center, respectively, and thereafter shall pay, within 30 days of receiving notice, the balance of the total assessment for the initial year.”

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the bill be amended in section 6, by striking out the words “4 past or current members of the house of representatives, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 4 past or current members of the senate, 3”, in lines 177 to 180, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “5 past or current members of the house of representatives, 4 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 5 past or current members of the senate, 4”;

13

By striking out section 39 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

“SECTION 39. Subsection (j) of section 10 of chapter 269 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 123 of chapter 135 of the acts of 2024, is hereby further amended by striking out the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

Whoever, not being a qualified law enforcement officer, a qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as amended, or a law enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E who is currently certified or recertified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E and notwithstanding any license obtained by the person pursuant to chapter 140, carries on the person a firearm, loaded or unloaded, or other dangerous weapon in any building or on the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, college or university, including transport used for students of said institution without the written authorization of the board or officer in charge of the elementary or secondary school, college or university shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or both. A qualified law enforcement officer or a qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined in the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. sections 926B and 926C, respectively, as amended, or a law enforcement officer as defined in section 1 of chapter 6E who is currently certified or recertified pursuant to section 4 of said chapter 6E may arrest without a warrant and detain a person found carrying a firearm in violation of this paragraph.”;

By inserting after section 40 the following section:-

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

“SECTION 40A. Section 67 of chapter 102 of the acts of 2021 is hereby amended by striking out the figure ‘2025’, as inserted by section 33 of chapter 248 of the acts of 2024, and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- ‘2026’;

In section 47, by striking out, in line 483, the figure “128” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “127”;

In section 59, by striking out the figure “21”, in line 540, and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- “22”; and

In section 71, by striking out clauses (19) and (20), in lines 666 to 670, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following clauses:-

“(19) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Society of Professors, MTA/NEA, Unit A50, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027; and

(20) the agreement between the University of Massachusetts and the Faculty Staff Union, Unit B40, effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027”.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2529, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty minutes past five o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Rodrigues, as follows, to wit (yeas 38 – nays 2) [**Yeas and Nays No. 53**]:

**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.  
Driscoll, Jr., William J.  
Durant, Peter J.  
Edwards, Lydia  
Eldridge, James B.  
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.  
Spilka, Karen E.  
Tarr, Bruce E.  
Velis, John C. – **38.**

**NAYS.**

Dooner, Kelly A.

Fattman, Ryan C. – **2.**

**The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-seven minutes past five o’clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2540].**

**Sent to the House for concurrence.**

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Esther Odufuwa, an employee of the department of mental health (House, No. 4222,-- on petition) [Local approval received],-- was read.

Esther Odufuwa,--  
sick leave.

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

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Ms. Rausch,--

*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  
Firefighter Jeffrey "Jeff" F. Deschenes.*

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Finegold and Messrs. DiDomenico, Keenan, Payano and Tarr, moved that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in honor of the memory and legacy of Firefighter Jeffrey "Jeff" F. Deschenes of Haverhill, who passed away unexpectedly following a medical emergency on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

Born in Methuen on February 5, 1971, he was the beloved son of Raymond and Nancy Deschenes. Jeff was a true hero, starting his career as a firefighter with the Lawrence Fire Department in 2000, where he served with distinction for twelve years. In 2012, he joined the North Andover Fire Department, where his leadership and expertise left a lasting legacy. In 2019, he was appointed as North Andover's first EMS Coordinator, and in that role, he transformed the department's emergency medical services (EMS).

Jeff spearheaded numerous community-focused initiatives, including a North Andover CPR training program, a fire department car seat installation service, and a community EMS outreach program. His efforts modernized the department's EMS capabilities, introducing advanced equipment, protocols, and technology that elevated the standard of care across the region.

His dedication and heroism were widely recognized. Jeff was named a Firefighter of the Year by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2019 for his courageous response during the 2018 Merrimack Valley natural gas disaster. He also received the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award, the Outstanding Contribution to EMS Award, and the Gift of Caring Award.

Jeff's legacy is one of service, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of others. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and the countless lives he touched throughout his career.

Jeff leaves us with a somber reminder of all that our first responders sacrifice to keep us safe, and he should be remembered with honor. Our thoughts go out to all of his surviving family and friends, and especially to his wife Kathy, daughter Emily, son Ryan, and siblings David Deschenes and Jennifer Galatro.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Jeffrey “Jeff” F. Deschenes, at twenty-nine minutes past five o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Rausch, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.

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*Adjournment in Memory of  
Melissa and Mark Hortman.*

The Senator from Middlesex and Norfolk, Ms. Spilka, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of Melissa and Mark Hortman.

On Saturday, June 14th state Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark Hortman, were fatally shot at their home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota in a brazen act of political violence.

Melissa served for two decades in elected office, recently serving as the Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. A champion for policies to uplift all Minnesotans, she led through consensus building and bipartisan cooperation. Mark Hortman was equally accomplished. A respected and experienced businessman who, at the time of passing, was a program manager and leader for an information technology company.

They are survived by their children, Sophie and Colin Hortman who, in recent days, encouraged the public to honor their parents seven ways: visit a park; plant a tree; pet a dog; bake a cake; laugh with loved ones; learn new things; and stand up for what you believe.

In addition to Sophie, Colin, and surviving family of Melissa and Mark Hortman, the Senate keeps in our thoughts state Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, who were also victims of the same gunman and now face a long road to recovery.

The Senate is heartbroken and outraged by the assassinations of the Hortman’s and the attempted assassinations of the Hoffman’s. We stand united in our condemnation of these despicable acts and reaffirm our belief that our democracy is best served by respectful disagreement and debate, not violence.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Melissa and Mark Hortman, at twenty-nine past five o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Rausch, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o’clock A.M.

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