

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

[55]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, June 23, 2025.

Met at eleven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Driscoll in the Chair).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communications.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Rebecca Rausch as co-chair (pursuant to Section 163 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to the permanent commission on recruitment, hiring and retention of municipal police officers and firefighters in the commonwealth (received June 23, 2025),-- was placed on file.

Police and fire retention commission,-- appointment. SD2998

Communication from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 9B of Chapter 128A and Section 222 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws) submitting proposed regulation changes to 205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing (Senate, No. 2539) (received June 20, 2025),-- was referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. Sent to the House for concurrence.

MassGaming,-- 205 CMR 3.00 regulations.

Reports.

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

Report of the Office of the Auditor (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 11 of the General Laws) submitting its Audit of MassVentures from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 20, 2025);

Auditor,-- MassVentures Audit report. SD2991

Report of the Office of the Auditor (pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 11 of the General Laws) submitting its Audit of the Massachusetts State College Building Authority from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 20, 2025);

Auditor,-- MSC Building Authority Audit report. SD2992

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 69 of Chapter 23K of the General Laws) submitting its Gaming Revenues May 2025 report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Revenue) (received June 23, 2025); and

MassGaming,-- Gaming Revenues May 2025 report. SD2994

Report of the Division of Banks (pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 167 of the General Laws) submitting its 2024 annual report (received June 23, 2025).

DOB,-- 2024 annual report. SD2995

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill to establish an acquired brain injury advisory board (Senate, No. 134);

Brain injury,-- advisory board.

Read and, under Joint Rule 29, referred to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill relative to cognitive rehabilitation for individuals with an acquired brain injury (Senate, No. 742); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to patient access to biomarker testing to provide appropriate therapy (Senate, No. 809);

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

By Ms. Rausch, for the committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on Senate, Nos. 543, 554, 589, 590, 609, 629, 630, 643 and 654, a Bill to reduce plastics (Senate, No. 2541);

By Mr. Feeney, for the committee on Financial Services, on petition, a Bill relative to the Massachusetts Uniform Commercial Code (Senate, No. 684);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 735), a Bill relative to fairness in debt collection (Senate, No. 2537);

By Ms. Comerford, for the committee on Higher Education, on petition, a Bill ensuring tuition equity at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture (Senate, No. 920);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to admissions requirements to institutions of higher education (Senate, No. 932);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 921), a Bill to facilitate student financial assistance (Senate, No. 2533);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 928, 943, and 950, a Bill relative to equitable higher education admissions policies (Senate, No. 2534);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 939), a Bill establishing the hunger-free campus initiative (Senate, No. 2535); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 944), a Bill relative to advanced placement examinations (Senate, No. 2536);

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

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill updating the juvenile justice policy and data board (Senate, No. 116);

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill dignifying individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (Senate, No. 137); and

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to persons with developmental disabilities (Senate, No. 150);

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

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4228) of Susannah M. Whipps and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Athol be authorized to regulate rents for the use or occupancy of manufactured housing parks in said town,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Housing.**

Cognitive rehabilitation.

Biomarker testing,-- patient access.

Reduce plastics.

Massachusetts Uniform Commercial Code. Fairness in debt collection.

UMASS,-- Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Higher education,-- admissions requirements.

Student financial assistance.

Equitable higher education.

Hunger-free campus initiative.

Advanced placement examinations.

JJPAD board.

Persons with developmental disabilities.

Developmental disabilities,-- define.

Athol,-- manufactured housing parks.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Brownsberger) “congratulating Anne Covino-Goldenberg on her one hundredth birthday”; and

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Fernandes) “congratulating the 300 Committee Land Trust on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.”

Anne Covino-Goldenberg.
300 Committee Land Trust.

Petition.

On motion of Ms. Rausch, Senate Rule 20 and Joint Rule 12 were suspended on the petition, presented by Rebecca L. Rausch (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to enhance safety and security for candidates and professionals,-- **and the same was referred to the committee on Election Laws.**

Candidates’ safety.
SD2989

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4229) of William F. MacGregor for legislation to regulate social media feeds;

Social media,-- regulations.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4230) of Kevin G. Honan and Michael J. Moran for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for James Caruso, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;

James Caruso,-- sick leave.

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Durant,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o’clock A.M., in a full formal session with a calendar.

Time of meeting.

Moments of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Driscoll), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Grace Anne Powers-Walsh.

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 David C. “Chuck” Colburn, Sr.

Id.

Adjournment in Memory of Mrs. Grace Anne Powers-Walsh.

The Senator from Suffolk, Mr. Collins presented a request that when the Senate adjourn today, it do so in memory of Mrs. Grace Anne Powers-Walsh.

Mrs. Grace Anne Powers-Walsh, a Gold Star Daughter of South Boston, a proud Charlestown native and beloved matriarch, passed away at the age of 83, surrounded by the family she so fiercely loved and protected. Born to the late Grace and John Powers, Grace was raised alongside her siblings John, Robert, Kathleen, and Hugh by her mother Grace, after her father John was KIA in World War II. They built a home where love, loyalty, and laughter were always present.

Grace was a force to be reckoned with - resilient, determined, and fiercely independent. She dedicated over half her life to serving the city of Boston in the Assessing Department as the Office Manager. A testament to her incredible work ethic and commitment to her community. As a single mother of six, she faced life's challenges with grace and a touch of humor that only she could deliver.

She was the devoted mother of Billy and his partner MaryBeth Williams, John, GraceAnn and husband Martin Rose, the late Kevin, Francine and Bridget, each of whom carry her strength and spirit. To her grandchildren, she was lovingly known as Nana. Erica, Jillian, Erin, Kaylee, Brian, Elizabeth, Marty, Michael, Aiden, Dennis and Celia will forever cherish her hugs, wisdom, and unwavering support. Her legacy continues in her great-grandchildren: Kyla, Patrick, and Jackson, who brought her endless joy and pride.

Grace was a proud member and past officer of Local SEIU 888, the Gold Star Wives, Daughters of Isabella #1, Charlestown School Girls, South Boston Irish American Society, the Castle Island Association, and the Goula Girls.

Grace lived a life rooted in love, perseverance, and family. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mrs. Grace Anne Powers-Walsh, at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Adjournment in Memory of David C. "Chuck" Colburn, Sr.

The Senator from Essex and Middlesex, Mr. Tarr and the Senator from Middlesex, Mr. Barrett moved that when the Senate adjourn today, it do so in memory of David C. "Chuck" Colburn, Sr., 77 of Bedford formerly of Salisbury.

David passed away peacefully on June 1st at the Bedford VA Hospital. David was predeceased by his beloved wife Gertrude (Bartlett) Colburn.

David was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, on October 24, 1947, the son of the late Glenn P. and Elinore (Hayden) Colburn. He graduated from Cardinal Cushing Academy in West Newbury, Massachusetts, class of 1964.

Shortly after graduation, David proudly enlisted in the United States Navy on November 10th, 1964. Over the course of a distinguished 28-year military career, he rose to the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer, Operations Specialist (SCPO/OS), before retiring in January 1992.

David served aboard several Navy vessels, including the USS Corry, USS Standley, USS McCard, USS Recovery, and USS Biddle. He was a highly respected and decorated sailor, remembered for his professionalism, leadership, and unwavering dedication to service.

Following his military retirement, David remained active in his community. He was a Past President of the Salisbury Lions Club, a former member of the Elks Lodge, and served as a Liquor Commissioner in Salisbury. He had a deep love for baseball, fishing, and boating, but his greatest joy came from spending time with his beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David's is survived by his life partner, Sharon Lewis of Seabrook, New Hampshire; two sons, David C. Colburn, Jr. and his wife Carmen of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Michael Colburn and his wife Aila of Salisbury, Massachusetts; and his daughter, Tracey L. (Colburn) Garbers and her fiancé Jason Steen of Norfolk, Virginia, with Tracey's mother, Linda Colburn-Foden, of Homosassa Springs, Florida.

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He also leaves behind eight grandchildren: Bridget and her husband Eduardo Gomez, Heidi and her husband Keith Hale, Skylar, Riley, Maja, Alexander, Michael, and Eliot; as well as two great-grandsons, Liam and Elijah. He is also survived by his brother, Glenn “John” Colburn and his wife Maureen of Rochester, New Hampshire; two sisters, Nancy Teel of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and Susan Kitonis and her husband Peter of Lake Elmore, Vermont; along with many extended family members and dear friends.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of David C. “Chuck” Colburn, Sr., at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o’clock A.M.
