

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

[56]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Met at twenty-four minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair).

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

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

Communication from the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate, announcing the appointment of Senator Joanne M. Comerford (pursuant to Chapter 3 of the Resolves of 2016, revived and continued by Section 308 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to the special commission on local and regional public health to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal and regional public health systems (received June 24, 2025),-- was placed on file.

Municipal and regional public health systems. SD3003

Reports.

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

Report of the Department of Economic Research (pursuant to Section 14F of Chapter 151A of the General Laws) submitting its June 2025 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Data report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development) (received June 23, 2025);

DER,-- UITF Data June FY25 report. SD2996

Report of the Department of Revenue (pursuant to Section 5 of Chapter 62F, as amended by the Acts of 2023) submitting its May 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 23, 2025);

DOR,-- net state tax revenue May FY25 report. SD2997

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the Suffolk County 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 23, 2025);

DPH,-- Suffolk County Inspection report. SD2999

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for the MCI Framingham, 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 23, 2025);

DPH,-- MCI Framingham Inspection report. SD3000

Report of the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees (pursuant to Section 24 of Chapter 32A of the General Laws) submitting its Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (received June 24, 2025);

SRBT,-- FY26 Budget report. SD3001

Report of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (pursuant to Section 25 of Chapter 173 of the Acts of 2022) submitting its May 2025 study on Diversity in Sports Wagering and Recommendations for Future Practices in the Massachusetts Industry (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

MassGaming,-- Diversity in Sports Wagering study. SD3005

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the Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion) (received June 24, 2025); and

Report of the Essex County District Attorney (pursuant to Section 70C of Chapter 277 of the General Laws) submitting its Decriminalization Stats for June 26, 2025 (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 26, 2025).

Essex DA,--
Decriminalization
stats 6/26/25.
SD3009

Petitions.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reform charter school funding in Massachusetts;

Charter school
funding.
SD3006
Automated curb
enforcement.
SD2993

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Brendan P. Crighton for legislation to authorize automated curb enforcement and improving parking violation procedures;

By Mr. Driscoll, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. for legislation to authorize the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, to grant permanent easements over certain land in the town of Milton for highway purposes; and

Milton,--
intersection
improvement
project.
SD3004
Algorithmic system,-
- regulations.
SD3007

By Ms. Miranda, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Liz Miranda for legislation to ensure non-discrimination by improving algorithmic system;

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

Reports of a Committee.

By Ms. Kennedy, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on petition, a Bill protecting youth during custodial interrogations (Senate, No. 108);

Juvenile
interrogations.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill establishing a loan repayment program for human services workers (Senate, No. 119);

Human service
workers,-- student
loans.
Housing,--
homeless families.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill improving emergency housing assistance for children and families experiencing homelessness (Senate, No. 136);

Disabled Persons,--
commission.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill updating terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities (Senate, No. 139);

PCA program,--
supervision.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to cueing and supervision in the PCA program (Senate, No. 153); and

MassHealth,-- day
habilitation.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill to update Nicky's Law to protect individuals with disabilities in MassHealth day habilitation programs (Senate, No. 165);

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4231) of Marjorie C. Decker (with the approval of the city council) relative to notices of violation for parking enforcement in the city of Cambridge;

Cambridge,--
parking violations.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4232) of Mark D. Sylvia and Mark C. Montgion (by vote of the town) relative to the charter of the town of Fairhaven; and

Fairhaven,-- charter.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4233) of Steven Ultrino (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to amending the charter of the city of Malden;

Malden,-- charter.

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4234) of Mark D. Sylvia and Mark C. Montigny (by vote of the town) that the town of Fairhaven be authorized to appoint retired police officers as special police officers in said town;

Fairhaven,-- special police officers.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4235) of Mark D. Sylvia and Michael J. Rodrigues (by vote of the town) that the town of Rochester be authorized to continue the employment of Scott Weigel as fire chief in said town, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement; and

Rochester,-- Scott Weigel.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4236) of Susannah M. Whipps (by vote of the town) that the town of Northfield be authorized to continue the employment of Floyd Dunnell, III as fire chief, notwithstanding the maximum age requirement;

Northfield,-- Floyd Dunnell, III.

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Driscoll and Ms. Miranda) “congratulating Dolores Hayes on her retirement from the Massachusetts House of Representatives”;

Dolores Hayes.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Rausch) “congratulating Lisa Audette on her retirement from the Franklin Housing Authority”;

Lisa Audette.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Rausch) “congratulating Kate Fitzpatrick on her retirement from the town of Needham.”

Kate Fitzpatrick.

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 Kelly A. Dooner for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Gregory Baker, an employee of the Suffolk County Sherriff’s office.

Gregory Baker,-- sick leave bank. SD2915

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.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

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

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4238) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to fraternal organizations conducting bazaars;

Bazaars.--fraternal organizations.

Under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

Petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4239) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to a municipal tax amnesty program;

Municipal tax,-- amnesty program.

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

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-six minutes past eleven o’clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twenty-six minutes past one o’clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

Committee of Conference Report.

Joint Rules,-- 194th
General Court.

Ms. Creem, for the committee of conference of the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the House amendments to the proposed Joint Rules for the Senate and House of Representatives for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session (Senate, No. 18) (*amended by the House* by striking out the text in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 2026),-- reports, "Joint Rules for the Senate and House of Representatives for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session" (Senate, No. 2545),-
- was read.

After remarks, the question on acceptance of the report of the committee of conference was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at ten minutes before two o'clock, P.M., on motion of Ms. Creem as follows, to wit (yeas 40 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 54**]:

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. – 40. |

NAYS – 0.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at four minutes before two o'clock, P.M., the report was accepted.
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:-

The Senate Bill strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2522),-- was read a second time.

After remarks, the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2538),-- was considered.

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

Order Adopted.

Health care access
rights.

Ordered, That all matters that are currently before the joint committee on Agriculture established under the order establishing the temporary rules of the two branches for the 2025-2026 legislative session are hereby transferred to the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries; and

Be it further ordered, that all matters currently before the joint committee on Elder Affairs established under the order establishing the temporary rules of the two branches for the 2025-2026 legislative session are hereby transferred to the joint committee on Aging and Independence; and

Be it further ordered, that the current members of the joint committee on Agriculture so established shall hereby be the members of the joint committee on Agriculture and Fisheries and the current members of the joint committee on Elder Affairs so established shall hereby be the members of the joint committee on Aging and Independence.

There being no objection, the rules were suspended, on motion of Ms. Creem, and the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2522),-- was further considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Health care access rights.

Messrs. Finegold and Payano moved that the pending new draft be amended by inserting after section 18 the following section:-

1

“SECTION 18A. Chapter 214 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 3B the following section:-

Section 3C. Malicious Doxing

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

‘Disseminate’, disclose, distribute, share, publish, exhibit, advertise, release, transfer or otherwise make available.

‘Family member’, an individual’s parent, grandparent, sibling, spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent-in-law, mother-in-law, child-in-law or sibling-in-law.

‘Gender-affirming health care services’, as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12.

‘Harassment’, conduct constituting the crime of criminal harassment pursuant to section 43A of chapter 265.

‘Personal information’, information that:

(i) identifies, relates to or is reasonably capable of being associated with a specific individual or such individual’s family member; and

(ii) reveals such individual's or such family member's:

(1) home address, including a primary or secondary residence;

(2) home phone number or cell phone number;

(3) social security number;

(4) electronic mail address; or

(5) school or employment location.

‘Reproductive health care services’, as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12.

‘Stalking’, conduct constituting the crime of stalking pursuant to section 43 of chapter 265.

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(b) A plaintiff may bring a civil action in the superior court against another person for the malicious doxing of personal information if the plaintiff establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that:

(i) the defendant knowingly disseminated the personal information of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's family member;

(ii) the defendant knew or reasonably should have known that the plaintiff or the plaintiff's applicable family member did not consent to such dissemination of their personal information;

(iii) the defendant disseminated the personal information with the malicious intent to cause, aid, encourage or facilitate the harassment, stalking, death or bodily injury of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's family member; and

(iv) the dissemination of the personal information:

(1) poses an imminent and serious threat to the safety of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's family member; provided, however, that the person disseminating the personal information knows or reasonably should have known of the imminent and serious threat;

(2) results in the harassment, stalking, death or bodily injury of the plaintiff or the plaintiff's family member; or

(3) would cause a reasonable individual to fear the harassment, stalking, death or bodily injury of the individual or the individual's family member.

(c) A plaintiff who prevails in a claim under this section may recover actual damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief, reasonable attorney fees and any other appropriate equitable relief.

(d) In determining the overall amount of damages to assess against a person pursuant to this section, the court shall consider whether the personal information was disseminated along with other sensitive information about the individual or the individual's family member, including, but not limited to, information concerning:

(i) the racial or ethnic origin, citizenship or immigration status, sexual orientation or religious beliefs of the individual or the individual's family member;

(ii) a past or present mental or physical health condition, disability, diagnosis or treatment of the individual or the individual's family member; or

(iii) whether the individual or the individual's family member is seeking, providing, facilitating or promoting gender-affirming or reproductive health care services.

(e) A person found liable under this section shall be jointly and severally liable with each other person found liable under this section for the damages, reasonable attorney fees and costs awarded by the court arising from the same violation of this section.

(f) This section shall not be construed to impose liability on any of the following entities: (i) an interactive computer service, as such term is used in 47 U.S.C. 230, including a provider of a virtual private network; (ii) an information service provider, telecommunications provider, interconnected VoIP service or a mobile service provider, as such terms are used in 47 U.S.C. 153; (iii) a commercial mobile service provider, as such term is used in 47 U.S.C. sec. 332(d); or (iv) a cable operator, as such term is used in 47 U.S.C. sec. 522; provided, however, that the entity is acting in its capacity as a provider of such services and the content in question is provided by another person other than the entity.

(g) This section shall not apply to the dissemination of personal information:

(i) for the purposes of reporting conduct reasonably believed to be unlawful;

(ii) gathered in the exercise of the constitutionally protected rights of freedom of speech and assembly; or

(iii) for the purposes of a party's exercise of its right to petition, as such term is defined in section 59H of chapter 231.

(h) An action under this section shall be commenced not later than 2 years after the occurrence of the conduct that gives rise to a claim for relief."

The amendment was *rejected*.

4

Mr. Keenan and Ms. Rausch moved that the pending new draft be amended in section 13, in lines 246-249, by striking the second sentence of the paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following new sentence:- “The name, home address, work address, personal email address, professional email address, home telephone number, work telephone number or mobile telephone number of individuals engaged in the provision, facilitation or promotion of reproductive health care services, as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12, shall not be considered a public record under chapter 66.”; and,

In section 14, in lines 257-260, by striking the second sentence of the paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following new sentence:- “The name, home address, work address, personal email address, professional email address, home telephone number, work telephone number or mobile telephone number of individuals engaged in the provision, facilitation or promotion of gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12, shall not be considered a public record under chapter 66.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

6

Mr. Montigny moved that the pending new draft be amended by inserting after section 17 the following section:-

“SECTION 17A. Chapter 176Q of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 19. (a) Except as required by federal law, the connector shall not provide access to any data, including de-identified data or any other data that would allow the identification of a patient, applicant or provider, in response to an out-of-state or federal inquiry or investigation into services constituting legally-protected health care activity, as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12.

(b) The connector shall grant providers, provider organizations and public and private health care payers access to identifiable health information of an individual solely for the purposes of carrying out treatment, payment, health care operations or its functions as a health insurance exchange.

(c) The connector shall not disclose, disseminate, transfer or otherwise allow access to identifiable health information or other personally identifiable information of an individual for any purpose not expressly authorized by this chapter.

(d) A recipient of de-identified or identifiable health information of an individual patient or applicant shall not use such information to: (i) conduct a criminal, civil or administrative investigation into any individual patient; or (ii) impose criminal, civil or administrative liability on any individual patient.”

After remarks, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-six minutes before three o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Montigny, as follows, to wit (yeas 39 – nays 0) **[Yeas and Nays No. 55]:**

YEAS.

- Barrett, Michael J.
- Brady, Michael D.
- Brownsberger, William N.
- Collins, Nick
- Comerford, Joanne M.
- Creem, Cynthia Stone
- Crighton, Brendan P.
- Cronin, John J.
- Cyr, Julian
- DiDomenico, Sal N.
- Dooner, Kelly A.

- 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.

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Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.
Friedman, Cindy F.

O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 39.

NAYS – 0.

The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-one minutes before three o'clock P.M., the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Brownsberger moved that the pending new draft be amended in section 9, by striking the word “specifically” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “that may be”; and

By adding the following text:- “In making a determination as to the scope of medications to be excluded from the prescription monitoring program, the department shall consult with practitioners of reproductive and gender-affirming health care services.”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the pending new draft be amended by striking in line 232 the word “or” and by further inserting before the words “gender-affirming” the following:- “, or any other medical services by category,”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the pending new draft be amended by inserting after the word “based” in line 325 the following:- “solely”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the pending new draft be amended by striking in line 174 “.” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “consistent with Chapter 112 of the General Laws”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the pending new draft be amended by striking in line 52 “.” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “, inconsistent with this chapter”.

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Ms. Rausch moved that the pending new draft be amended in section 11 by inserting, in line 164, after the word “abortion” the following words:- “, active labor”.

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Recess.

At eleven minutes before three o'clock P.M, at the request of Mr. Tarr, for the purpose of a minority caucus, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess; and, at ten minutes past three o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2522),-- the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting in line 246 after the word “commonwealth” the following:- “for purposes unrelated to public health”.

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting at the end the following section:-

“SECTION _____. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nothing in this act shall be construed as a defense for medical malpractice pursuant to the general laws and standards of care for practice in the Commonwealth.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by striking in lines 81-83 “(ii) any communication made through a tracking device consisting of an electronic or mechanical device which permits the tracking of the movement of a person or object; or (iii)” and inserting in place thereof the following:- “; (ii)”.

14

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr moved that the proposed new draft be amended by inserting after section _____ the following section:-

21

“SECTION _____. Notwithstanding any general or special law to contrary, the executive office of health and human services shall promulgate regulations related to document requests related to this act arising from other states and the federal government and maintain a database of said requests, provided that any such information collected or retained pursuant to this section shall be de-identified.

Annually by December 31st the executive office of health and human services shall submit to the clerks of the house and senate a record of said requests”.

After debate, the question on adoption of the amendment was determined by a call of the yeas and nays at twenty-six minutes past three o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, as follows, to wit (yeas 5 – nays 34) **[Yeas and Nays No. 56]:**

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 twenty-seven minutes before four o'clock P.M., the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the proposed new draft be amended in section 7, in proposed subsection (a) of section 115 of chapter 93 of the General Laws, by adding the following definition:-

5

“Remote computing services”, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2711.”;

By inserting after section 15 the following section:-

“SECTION 15A. Section 26 of chapter 119 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

(d) The removal of a child from the care or custody of a parent, custodian or guardian in another jurisdiction based on the parent, custodian or guardian allowing their child to seek or receive gender-affirming health care services as defined in section 11I½ of chapter 12 shall not provide a basis for adjudicating the child in need of care and protection under this section unless the conduct of the parent, custodian or guardian would otherwise constitute abuse or neglect under the law of the commonwealth.”;

In section 17, striking out, in line 307, the word “officers,” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “officers, solely”;

In said section 17, by striking out, in line 311, the word “be”;

By inserting after section 17 the following 2 sections:-

“SECTION 17A. Chapter 208 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 56. (a) A law of a jurisdiction outside the commonwealth that authorizes a child to be removed from the care or custody of a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing their child to receive gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 11I1/2 of chapter 12, or that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services shall not provide a basis to alter custody, parenting time or visitation or be used to make a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment in a case pending in a court in the commonwealth, unless the conduct of the parent or guardian under such law would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.

(b) No court in the commonwealth shall admit or consider a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment based on a parent or guardian allowing their child to receive or seek gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 11I1/2 of chapter 12, or a finding that a parent or guardian is criminally, civilly or otherwise liable for violating another state’s law that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services as evidence in any proceeding with respect to that parent or guardian and any of their children, unless the conduct of the parent or guardian would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.

SECTION 17B. Chapter 209A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 12. (a) A law of a jurisdiction outside the commonwealth that authorizes a child to be removed from the care or custody of a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing their child to receive gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 11I1/2 of chapter 12, or that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services shall not provide a basis to alter custody, parenting time or visitation or be used to make a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment in a case pending in a court in the commonwealth, unless the conduct of the parent or guardian would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.

(b) No court in the commonwealth shall admit or consider a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment based on a parent or guardian allowing their child to receive or seek gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 11I1/2 of chapter 12, or a finding that a parent or guardian is criminally, civilly or otherwise liable for violating another’s state’s law that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services as evidence in any proceeding in which such parent or guardian and any of such parent’s or guardian’s children are parties, unless the conduct of the parent or guardian would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.”;

In section 18, by inserting after the word “custody”, in line 318, the following words:- “of a”;

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In said section 18, by inserting after the word “or”, in line 321, the second time it appears, the following words:- “be used”;

In said section 18, by striking out, in lines 322 and 323, the words “conduct under such law” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-“the conduct of the parent or guardian”;

In said section 18, by inserting after the word “services”, in line 326, the following words:- “, as defined in section 1111/2 of chapter 12,”;

In said section 18, by striking out, in line 328, the words “, as defined in section 1111/2 of chapter 12,”;

In said section 18, by striking out, in line 329, the words “such conduct” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “the conduct of the parent or guardian”;

By inserting after section 18 the following section:-

“SECTION 18A. Chapter 209C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 25. (a) A law of a jurisdiction outside the commonwealth that authorizes a child to be removed from the care or custody of a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing their child to receive gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 1111/2 of chapter 12, or that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services shall not provide a basis to alter custody, parenting time or visitation or be used to make a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment in a case pending in a court in the commonwealth, unless the conduct of the parent or guardian would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.

(b) No court in the commonwealth shall admit or consider a finding of abuse, neglect or maltreatment based on a parent or guardian allowing their child to receive or seek gender-affirming health care services, as defined in section 1111/2 of chapter 12, or a finding that a parent or guardian is criminally, civilly or otherwise liable for violating another state’s law that bans the provision of gender-affirming health care services as evidence in any proceeding in which such parent or guardian and any of such parent’s or guardian’s children are parties, unless the conduct of such parent or guardian would constitute abuse, neglect or maltreatment under the laws of the commonwealth.”; and

In section 20, by striking out, in line 348, the words “Sections 7 and 8” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “Section 7”.

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 2538, 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-four minutes before four o’clock P.M., on motion of Ms. Friedman, as follows, to wit (yeas 37 – nays 3) **[Yeas and Nays No. 57]:**

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.

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.

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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.

Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Rush, Michael F.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E.
Velis, John C. – 37.

NAYS.

Dooner, Kelly A.
Durant, Peter J.

Fattman, Ryan C. – 3.

The yeas and nays having been completed at seventeen minutes before four o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 2543].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Moment of Silence.

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Rausch), the members, guests and staff stood in a moment of silence and reflection to the memory of Senator Louis P. Bertonazzi.

Moment of silence.

Message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation to strengthen the commonwealth's infrastructure, protect the commonwealth's water and nature, and to invest in the farms and local economies of the commonwealth (Senate, No. 2542) (received in the office of the Clerk of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at a quarter past twelve o'clock noon);

Environmental bond bill.

The message was read; and, under Senate Rule 20, with the accompanying bill, was referred to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

*Adjournment in Memory of
The Honorable Louis Peter Bertonazzi.*

The Senator from Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex, Ms. Rausch, moved that when the Senate adjourns today, it do so in memory of the Honorable Louis Peter Bertonazzi, a former Majority Leader of the Senate, a dedicated family man and community member, and a devoted public servant.

Mr. Bertonazzi was a lifelong resident of Milford, graduating from Milford High School in 1951. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University in 1955 and a Masters degree from Suffolk University in 1960. After graduating from Tufts, Mr. Bertonazzi served for two years in the United States Army until his honorable discharge.

He continued his public service in the Medway school system, first as a teacher and guidance counselor, and then as Director of Guidance. His skill and passion for his work was noticed by Governor John Volpe, who named him Deputy Director of the Department of Youth Services. During this time, Louis also began his career in elected office, winning election five times to the Milford Board of Selectmen and serving as Chair for several years.

Mr. Bertonazzi left the administration to join the Legislature as a member of the House in 1971, serving as the first Chairman of the Committee on Health Care. He won election to the Senate in 1978, beginning a 17-year long tenure in this chamber. Over the years, Mr. Bertonazzi served as Assistant Minority Whip and then Majority Whip before rising ultimately to become Senate Majority Leader. His leadership included authoring legislation on health care cost containment, drunk driving reform, certification of emergency medical services, establishing cancer registries, ambulance safety, public access to physician profiles, and recodification of the dental practice act. After his decades in the Legislature, Mr. Bertonazzi served as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services in Governor Bill Weld's administration before announcing his retirement. Returning to his roots in Milford, Mr. Bertonazzi established the Senator Louis P. Bertonazzi Foundation, which still to this day presents annual awards for leadership in the areas of education, culture and citizenship.

In recognition of his extensive public service, Mr. Bertonazzi received numerous honors and awards, including: the Distinguished Service Award and Key to the University from the Tufts University Alumni Association, its highest honor; and the Governor's Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to Tourism. He was also awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Administration from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Mr. Bertonazzi enjoyed traveling, music and the theater. As a child and young adult, he danced and performed in numerous community production. He was also an avid sports fan and spoke five foreign languages. He particularly enjoyed spending time with his family at their summer home in Wellfleet. Louis is survived by his wife of sixty-seven years Barbara, their children Gregg, Lisa, and David, and their grandchildren Nicholas, Peter, and Griffin.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Louis Peter Bertonazzi, at five minutes before five o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Tarr, the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at one o'clock P.M.
