

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Monday, June 30, 2025.

Met at sixteen 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 of 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 following guests were introduced:

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, Chaplain Clementina Chéry. Chaplain Chéry is the founder, President and CEO of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI), a Center of Healing, Teaching and Learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss. Chaplain Chéry founded the LDBPI in 1994 in Boston, Massachusetts after the murder of her 15-year-old son, Louis. She has used her experience as a survivor to serve families impacted by murder, advocate for survivors of violent crimes and develop best practices for homicide response. The Senate welcomed her with applause, she signed the guest book and withdrew from the Chamber.

Chaplain Clementina Chéry.

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), introduced on the Rostrum, Eugene "Gene" DiPersio. Gene was recognized for his 55 years of dedicated service to the House of Representatives, the last 20 years as Chief Court Officer and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The Senate wished him well on his retirement and he withdrew from the Chamber.

Eugene "Gene" DiPersio.

Reports.

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

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to Section 13D 1/2 of Chapter 118E of the General Laws) submitting its Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) Rates report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee Health Care Financing and the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 27, 2025);

MassHealth,-- CBHC Rates report. SD3011

Report from MassHealth (pursuant to Section 2YYYY of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its quarterly report on expenditures from the Substance Use Disorder Federal Reinvestment Trust Fund (SUD Trust Fund) that support the components of the roadmap for behavioral health reform (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery) (received June 27, 2025);

Masshealth,-- SUD Trust Fund Q3 FY24 report. SD3012

Report of MassHealth (pursuant to line item 4000-0700 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its MassHealth Dental Coverage FY25 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 27, 2025);

MassHealth,-- Dental Coverage FY25 report. SD3013

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Report of the Division of Banks (pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 167 of the General Laws) submitting its revised 2024 annual report (received June 27, 2025);

DOB,-- Revised
2024 annual report.
SD3014
EOTSS,-- JRPOB
2025 report.
SD3015

Report of the Executive Office of Technology Services & Security (pursuant Section 11 of Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2018) submitting its Justice Reinvestment Policy Oversight Board 2025 report (received June 27, 2025);

EOHHS,--
Contingency
Contracts FY24
report.
SD3016

Report of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (pursuant to line item 4000-0321 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Contingency Contracts FY24 report (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 30, 2025);

Comptroller,--
CBHPPT FY25
transfer schedule.
SD3017

Report of the Office of the Comptroller (pursuant to line item 1595-1071 of Section 2E of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Fiscal Year 2025 transfer schedule for the Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Trust Fund (a copy having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means) (received June 30, 2025); and

EOPSS,-- TRCC
2025 annual report.
SD3018

Report of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (pursuant to Section 2ZZZZ of Chapter 217 of the Acts of 2018 and Section 2DDDDD of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its DFS Massachusetts Technical Rescue Coordinating Council 2025 annual 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 Public Safety and Homeland Security) (received June 30, 2025).

Petition.

Petitions were severally presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2544) of Barry R. Finegold (by vote of the town) relative to special town meetings petitioned for by residents of the town of Andover;

Andover,-- special
town meetings.

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

Sent to the House for concurrence.

By Mr. Rush, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael F. Rush for legislation to require health insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems,-- **and the same was referred, under Senate Rule 20, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.**

Health insurance,--
scalp cooling
systems.
SD3010

Report of a Committee.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Brookfield to continue employment of Herb Chaffee beyond the age of 65 (Senate, No. 1830) [Local approval received];

Brookfield,-- Herb
Chaffee
employment.

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

Matter Taken Out of the Orders of the Day.

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

The House Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jato Charlotin, an employee of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (House, No. 4182),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Jato Charlotin,--
sick leave.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Eric J. Iwaniec, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (House, No. 1590, amended,-- on petition),-- was read.

Eric J. Iwaniec,--
sick leave.

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

A Bill making certain appropriations for fiscal year 2026 before final action on the General Appropriation Bill (printed in House, No. 4237,-- being a message from Her Excellency the Governor),-- was read.

Supplemental
appropriations.

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

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

Thank you, Mr. President and through you to the members.

Remarks of Senator
Nick Collins.

As we take up some important issues with budgets today in the Senate as well as our counterparts in the House down the hallway, we are joined here today by a dear friend and great advocate and somebody who has poured her life's work towards healing the trauma the victims of homicide and violence, who has taken her pain and used it for a greater purpose that's my good friend Chaplain Clementina Chéry. of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Something in particular to note that came out of debates here in this chamber and down the hallway was the creation of the POST Commission which was passed in 2020.

One of the inaugural members was Ms. Chéry , we want to thank her for her work, welcome her to the Senate, congratulate her on all that she's accomplished and ask her to take a minute to come up and sign the book of distinguished guests.

On motion of Mr. Durant, the above remarks were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Engrossed Bill.

An engrossed Bill making certain appropriations for fiscal year 2026 before final action on the General Appropriation Bill (see House Bill, printed in House, No. 4237) (which originated in the House), **having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted and signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation.**

Bill laid before the
Governor.

Recess.

There being no objection, at one minute before two o'clock P.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at nineteen minutes before four o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair.

Recess.

Remarks on the General Appropriations Bill Conference Report.

There being no objection, pending consideration by the Senate, several members offered remarks on the report of the committee of conference on the fiscal year 2026 general appropriation bill (House, No. 4240).

FY26 General
appropriations bill.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Committee of Conference Report.

FY26 General appropriations bill.

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 2026 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (House, No. 4001) (*amended by the Senate* by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in Senate document numbered 2525),-- reported, in part, the accompanying bill (House, No. 4240) [Total appropriation: \$61,013,695,075.00],-- came from the House, and 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 twenty-eight minutes past four o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Rodrigues as follows, to wit (yeas 38 – nays 2) [**Yeas and Nays No. 58**]:

YEAS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J. | Jehlen, Patricia D. |
| Brady, Michael D. | Keenan, John F. |
| Brownsberger, William N. | Kennedy, Edward J. |
| Collins, Nick | Kennedy, Robyn K. |
| Comerford, Joanne M. | Lewis, Jason M. |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone | Lovely, Joan B. |
| Crighton, Brendan P. | Mark, Paul W. |
| Cronin, John J. | Miranda, Liz |
| Cyr, Julian | Montigny, Mark C. |
| DiDomenico, Sal N. | 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. |
| Feeney, Paul R. | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Fernandes, Dylan A. | Rush, Michael F. |
| Finegold, Barry R. | Spilka, Karen E. |
| Friedman, Cindy F. | Tarr, Bruce E. |
| Gómez, Adam | Velis, John C. – 38. |

NAYS.

- | | |
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| Dooner, Kelly A. | Fattman, Ryan C. – 2. |
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The yeas and nays having been completed at twenty-five minutes before five o'clock P.M., the report was accepted, in concurrence.

Emergency Preamble Adopted; Engrossed Bill Enacted.

An engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2026 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements (see House, No. 4240), 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

FY26 General appropriations bill.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

requirements of Article LXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the preamble was adopted, in concurrence, by a vote of 14 to 0.

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

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

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

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Tarr,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Collins, at nine minutes past five o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M.