

IN THE NEWS



VOLUME 31 ISSUE 27
AUGUST 3, 2026

Contact at:
mafood@mafood.com

TO VIEW THIS AND PREVIOUS NEWS SCAN UPDATES, [CLICK HERE](#)

MA LEGISLATURE FINISHES FORMAL SESSIONS FOR YEAR, BUT MAY RETURN TO DEAL WITH UNFINISHED WORK

On Friday, July 31 the MA legislature ended its formal sessions for the two-year session which began in January 2025 and officially ends January 5, 2027. Although formal sessions have ended, under new rules the legislature can return to finish any work through the remainder of the session started by conference committees that were established to reach a compromise agreement between house and senate proposals on respective issues before the July 31 deadline. As of August 1, there were twelve conference committees established to deal with differing issues, only one of which may affect our industry (see last week's News Scan) via plastic bans. Other issues that could bring the legislature back into session include conference committees working on school cellphone ban/youth social media; data privacy, child welfare, energy, prevent healthcare workplace violence and ballot question campaign finance. If the legislature returns to deal with any issues before the session ends, they will vote either yeah or nay, no amendments or changes are allowed to be made to a conference committee report. MFA will be putting together a summary of the session and an annual report on the legislative, regulatory and association issues MFA has dealt with over the past year for our October Annual Meeting. In the meantime, please contact the office if you have any questions.

MA 1st STATE TO ROLL OUT SNAP CHIP EBT CARDS STATEWIDE

On July 29, Governor Healey announced that Massachusetts has become the first state in the nation to roll out chip and tap-enabled Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards statewide to enhance security and better prevent theft across the system, including for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The statewide launch follows a successful pilot in the Worcester area in July, during which the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) mailed 35,000 chip cards to clients, which were used in tens of thousands of successful transactions. Updated EBT cards will be mailed to clients in the rest of the state throughout August. According to the announcement, earlier this year, the Healey-Driscoll Administration [began notifying retailers](#) to prepare for this upcoming change by updating their Point-of-Sale (POS) system to accept the new chip and/or tap EBT cards. In order to have as little disruption to clients as possible, DTA has closely collaborated with retailers for months to ensure they are prepared for this transition, and the vast majority of retailers statewide are prepared to accept the new cards. That day, the Governor's office reached out to MFA to thank us for its support and assistance for the role we played in supporting retailer readiness efforts. As SNAP retailers update their systems to accept insert or tap transactions, some retailers may require customers to swipe their card. This does not mean that the card is broken or defective, but that the store has not yet updated its systems. More information for retailers is available [here](#).

- REMINDER -

MA SALES TAX HOLIDAY AUGUST 8 - 9

During a sales tax holiday most retail items of up to \$2,500, purchased in Massachusetts for personal use on these two days are exempt from sales tax. The state's meals tax remains in place during the weekend. For an FAQ and more information from the MA Department of Revenue [click here](#).

MA STATE LOTTERY GOES ONLINE

On July 27 the MA State Lottery rolled out its online lottery system [Mass. Lottery Online](#), the state's new online sales and gameplay platform.