

Monday, January 4, 2010.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Robert F. Quinn, C.S.P., Chaplain of the House, as follows:

God, our Creator and Guide, we begin today's legislative session, the first session of the new year and the new decade with a prayer for guidance and direction. We believe that Your divine assistance enables us to better address the complex and sensitive issues which we face in the Commonwealth. Inspire us to be open to and to select legislative proposals which serve the best interests of the people now and in the years ahead. At the beginning of the new year may our hearts and minds be filled with enthusiasm, hope, trust and confidence in You, each other and our constituents. In these turbulent times may we try together, to build civil, stable, peaceful and prosperous communities. Let our new year's resolutions be practical, realistic thoughtful and positive, so that our daily lives will have meaning and direction.

Grant Your blessings to the Speaker, the members and employees of this House and their families. Amen.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Mr. Guyer of Dalton) congratulating Alexander M. Geyster on receiving the Eagle Scout Award of the Boy Scouts of America, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Mr. Binienda of Worcester, for said committee, reported, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Driscoll of Braintree, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Petition.

Mr. Bradley of Hingham presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John P. Fresolo relative to providing veteran status to William S. Wood; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Mr. Binienda of Worcester, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Pedone of Worcester, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Papers from the Senate.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, as follows:

Boston,—
affordable
housing.
Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2237) of John A. Hart (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to affordable housing in the city Boston. To the committee on Housing.

Stoughton,—
vacancies.
Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2238) of Brian A. Joyce, William C. Galvin and Louis L. Kafka (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the charter of the town of Stoughton regarding the filling of certain vacancies. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Reports of Committees.

Arlington,—
ballot
question.
By Mr. Moran of Boston, for the committee on Election Laws, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4403) of Sean Garballey, Kenneth J. Donnelly and others (by vote of the town) for legislation providing for a ballot question in the town of Arlington authorizing the granting of 3 licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the discharge of the joint committee.

Education
reform
and
achievement
gap.
By Mr. Kafka of Stoughton, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the Senate Bill relative to education reform (Senate, No. 2216) be scheduled for consideration by the House, with amendments previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means,— striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4410; and striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: "An Act relative to the Achievement Gap.",— pending.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, on motion of the same member, the bill was read a second time forthwith. The amendments recommended by the committee on Ways and Means then were adopted; and the bill, as amended, was ordered to a third reading.

Engrossed Bills.

Bill
enacted.
The engrossed Bill validating the actions taken at the annual town election held in the town of Plympton (see House bill printed in House, No. 4286) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted (more than two-thirds of the members having agreed to pass the same); and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Id.
The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Jeanette Ross, an employee of the Trial Court (see House, No. 4311, amended) (which originated in the House), in respect to which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Engrossed bills

Authorizing the abatement of certain property tax assessments in the town of Lexington (see House No. 1135, amended); Bills enacted.

Authorizing the town of Lincoln to place a certain question relative to the sale of wines and malt beverages on the town's election ballot (see House No. 4257); and

Increasing the membership of the board of selectmen in the town of Hamilton (see House No. 4294);

(Which severally originated in the House);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

At seventeen minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned.

[Under the provisions of Article X of the Amendments to the Constitution, the 2009 session of the General Court was dissolved on the day next preceding the first Wednesday of January, without any proclamation or other act of His Excellency the Governor.]

Attest:

STEVEN T. JAMES,
Clerk.