

Thursday, January 22, 2009.

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:

Prayer.

God, Our Creator, we believe that You are our Source of Hope and Truth. Each day we look to You for Your gift of wisdom which enables us to address thoughtfully and carefully the many difficult and sensitive items on both our personal and legislative agenda. We, as a nation, are grateful for the spirit of enthusiasm, encouragement, confidence and openness to responsible change which the ceremonies and inauguration of the new President has brought about. In these uneasy and challenging times help us to remain faithful to the letter and spirit of our constitution which outlines the rights of individuals and the responsibility of government. As we look at the turmoil and serious armed conflicts in many lands, teach us to continue to respect the personal dignity and rights of each individual in our communities with emphasis on the most innocent, vulnerable and dependent.

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

Pledge of allegiance.

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.

Appointments of the Minority Leader.

January 14, 2009.

The Honorable Steven T. James
Clerk of the House of Representatives
 State House, Room 145
 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Assistant Minority Leader.

I write to inform you that the Republican Caucus, under the provisions of Rule 18, has ratified the appointment of a portion of my leadership team. Representative George N. Peterson Jr. of Grafton will serve as Assistant Minority Floor Leader.

Ranking Ways and Means member.

Additionally, I have appointed Representative Viriato Manuel "Vinny" deMacedo of Plymouth to serve as the ranking member of the minority party on the House committee on Ways and Means under House Rule 18A.

I hope to have further leadership appointments and committee assignments completed soon and I will announce them as soon as they are made. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRADLEY H. JONES, JR.,
Minority Leader.

Communication from the Commissioner of the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy.

January 20, 2009.

Steven T. James
Clerk of the Massachusetts House of Representatives
 State House, Room 145
 Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Pursuant to Section 304 of Chapter 149 of the Acts of 2004, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is required to file an annual report which identifies employers that have 50 or more employees receiving health services through publicly funded programs. The report is to be submitted annually on February 1 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Annual report of the Division of Health Care Financing of employers with 50 or more employees.—request for extension.

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division), on behalf of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, respectfully requests an extension of the reporting deadline to April 1, 2009. The Division is required to report on individuals enrolled in MassHealth or covered by the Health Safety Net (HSN). The Division also reports on individuals enrolled in Commonwealth Care. In its May 2008 report, the Division significantly enhanced its methodology for identification and verification of employer-employee relationships. In collaboration with the Department of Revenue (DOR), the Office of Medicaid, and the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, the Division identified employees through matches with DOR's quarterly wage reporting files to create employer-level summaries of the number of employees and the value of services provided to them and to their dependents. The Division is requesting an additional two months to allow the report to include all State Fiscal Year 2008 Health Safety Net claims. These claims are considered final by October 31, 2008, a full two months later than the production schedule of prior years' reports. Additional time will allow the Division to produce the enhanced report with a full HSN dataset.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Assistant Commissioner Kate Nordahl at 617-988-3100.

Sincerely,

SARAH ISELIN,
Commissioner.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (filed with the Clerk) were referred, under Rule 85, to the temporary committee on Rules:

Resolutions (filed by Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop) on the occasion of Ira Novoselsky being elected to the esteemed office as National Commander to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for 2008-2009; and

Ira Novoselsky.

Patrick
McFetridge.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Ross of Wrentham) congratulating Patrick McFetridge of Medfield upon his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the temporary committee on Rules, reported, in each instance, that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Fagan of Taunton, the resolutions were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

Next
sitting.

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

At ten 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, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.