

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Monday, July 7, 2008.

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, we believe that You are the Ultimate Source of Truth and Wisdom. Consequently we look to You for guidance as we struggle to make the right, just and fair legislative decisions and choices. In Your goodness, help us to work together and to discuss in a thoughtful way the many complex, difficult and emotional issues of the day. In these changing cultural times, inspire us to strengthen our basic institutions which include our families. Teach us to be aware of the employment, economic and educational needs of all people in our districts. May our common goals be directed towards a stable, civil, ethical and drug free society.

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.

Message from the Governor — Bill Returned with Recommendation of Amendment.

A message from His Excellency the Governor returning with recommendation of amendment the engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Orange to establish a firearms licensing fund [see House, No. 4278] (for message, see House, No. 4934) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Wednesday July 2.

The message was read; and, under the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, the bill was thereupon "before the General Court and subject to amendment and re-enactment".

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment recommended by His Excellency, the bill was referred, on motion of Mr. Golden of Lowell, to the committee on Bills in the Third Reading.

Guests of the House.

During the Session, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford) declared a brief recess and introduced Dr. Rich deAsla of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Accompanying Dr. deAsla were his parents, Richard and Gerry deAsla, who were visiting from the State of South Carolina; and his dear and special friend, Jennifer Gerrick. They were the guests of Speaker DiMasi and General Court Officer Michael Magner.

Dr. Rich deAsla, et al.

Order.

The following order (filed by Mr. Bradley of Hingham) was referred, under Joint Rule 30, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently:

Election Laws
committee,
extension
of time for
reporting.

Ordered. That, notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 10, the committee on Election Laws be granted until Wednesday, July 9, 2008 within which to report on current House document number 705, relative to campaign finance.

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committees on Rules, then reported that the order ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Sullivan of Fall River, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petition.

Representative Hall of Westford and Senator Resor presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Geoffrey D. Hall and Pamela P. Resor that members of the armed forces from the Commonwealth be exempt from payment of a fee for the issuance of fishing licenses; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Armed forces,
fishing
licenses.

Papers from the Senate.

A Bill relative to the appointment of the fire chief and the board of commissioners in the city of Fall River (Senate, No. 2722) (on a petition) [Local Approval Received], passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Fall River,
fire chief, etc.

Mr. Donato of Medford, for said committee, reported that the matter be scheduled for consideration by the House.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Scaccia of Boston, the bill was read a second time forthwith; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Subsequently (Mrs. Haddad of Somerset being in the Chair), under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, the bill (having been reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Gloria Phillips,
sick leave
bank.

A petition of Brian A. Joyce, Anthony D. Galluccio, Bruce J. Ayers, Joseph R. Driscoll and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Gloria Phillips, an employee of the Department of Public Health, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Public Service.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2787) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Reports of Committees.

Prescription data.

By Mr. Donato of Medford, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the Bill to prevent the sharing of prescription data (House, No. 1005),— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Health, with the amendments previously recommended by the committee on Financial Services pending. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the reference.

Westborough,
employee
regulations.

By Mr. Kaufman of Lexington, for the committee on Public Service, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4873) of Karyn E. Polito and others (by vote of the town) for legislation to regulate the suspension or removal from office of employees of the town of Westborough,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

School buses,
seat belts.

Report of the committee on Transportation, that the Bill requiring safety belts for passengers on public school buses (House, No. 2300) ought NOT to pass (under Joint Rule 10).

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee, the report was considered forthwith, the question being “Shall this bill be rejected (under Joint Rule 10)?”

The question on rejection (under Joint Rule 10) then was negatived. The bill then was recommitted, on further motion of the same member, to the committee on Transportation.

Duxbury,
Gumet Road.

By Mr. Binienda of Worcester, for the committee on Revenue, on a recommitted petition, a Bill relative to the town of Duxbury (House, No. 4380) [Local Approval Received].

Sudbury,
property tax.

By the same member, for the same committee, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the town of Sudbury to regulate certain property tax exemption eligibility requirements (House, No. 4860) [Local Approval Received].

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Recesses.

Recesses.

At ten minutes before twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Scaccia of Boston (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House recessed until half past twelve o'clock noon; and at seventeen minutes before one o'clock P.M. the House was called to order with Mrs. Haddad of Somerset in the Chair.

The Chair (Mrs. Haddad), at fourteen minutes before one o'clock, declared a further recess until a quarter after one o'clock P.M.; and at twenty minutes after one o'clock the House was called to order with Mr. Scaccia of Boston in the Chair.

Bill

enacted.

Engrossed Bill.

The engrossed Bill relative to the appointment of the fire chief and the board of commissioners in the city of Fall River (see Senate, No. 2722) (which originated in the Senate), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Next
sitting.*Order.*

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—
Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

At twenty-one minutes after one o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett (Mr. Scaccia of Boston being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.