

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Monday, September 27, 2004.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. O'Flaherty of Chelsea 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.

Eternal God, we pause for a moment of prayer and reflection and to focus our thoughts and attention on Your spiritual values and realities. At times, our pressing personal responsibilities, goals and agenda cloud our intellectual and moral vision and prevent us from recognizing and evaluating issues accurately. In Your goodness, help us to make sound practical judgements at all times as we work together in addressing the current needs of people and of society. Inspire us to be leaders in marshalling and utilizing our great blessings: our human and material resources.

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. O'Flaherty), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resignation of Thomas M. Finneran of Boston as Speaker of the House.

The following communication, received by the Clerk, was read for the information of the House; and placed on file.

September 27, 2004.

Steve James, *Clerk*
House of Representatives
State House, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Resignation of Thomas M. Finneran of Boston as Speaker of the House.

Please accept this letter as notice of my resignation from the office of Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives effective Tuesday, September 28th at 5:00 P.M.

The formality of an official notice of this sort does not allow me sufficient opportunity to express my thanks, my appreciation, and my affection for and to all the employees of your office, House members and staff, and our Senate colleagues and staff for their many kindnesses and courtesies as well as for their diligent discharge of the duties of public service.

Suffice it to say, that I have been accorded the highest honor which the members can confer — the honor of serving as Speaker of the House — and that I worked to the best of my ability to successfully meet the immense responsibilities of that office.

It has been one of the singular joys of my life to have been given such a trust by my constituents and colleagues and I will remain eternally grateful for the friendship and support of so many extraordinary people.

Sincerely Yours,

THOMAS M. FINNERAN,
Speaker of the House.

Message from the Governor — Veto.

A message from His Excellency the Governor returning with his objections thereto in writing the engrossed Bill providing for an early retirement incentive program for the city of Medford [see House, No. 4961, changed] (for message, see House, No. 5093) was filed in the Office of the Clerk on Friday, September 24.

Medford, early retirement.

The message was read; and, under House Rule 12, it was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting, the question being on passing the bill, notwithstanding the said objections.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Jones of North Reading) congratulating Coolidge Middle School on receiving the Intel/Scholastic Twenty-First Century School of Distinction Award;

Coolidge Middle School.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Driscoll of Braintree) recognizing the Dianne DeVanna Center for its many years of dedicated service and the creation of the "Shelter of Hope";

Dianne DeVanna Center.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Brien of Kingston) congratulating Gordon R. Fogg on the occasion of his retirement as police chief of the Kingston Police Department;

Gordon R. Fogg.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Petersen of Marblehead) on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Abbot Public Library;

Abbot Public Library.

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Stanley of West Newbury) congratulating the Merrimac Couplings Fire Department Auxiliary on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary; and

Merrimac Couplings Fire Department Auxiliary.

Resolutions (filed by Mrs. Teahan of Whitman) congratulating Joe Sklut of East Bridgewater upon his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout;

Joe Sklut.

Mr. Miceli of Wilmington, for the 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. Petruccielli of Boston, 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. Ruane of Salem presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5094) of J. Michael Ruane (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to the disability retirement of William Hudson, a fire fighter in the city of Salem; and the same

Salem, William Hudson.

was referred to the committee on Public Service. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Report of a Committee.

Tax abatements.

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the Order relative to authorizing the committee on Taxation to make an investigation and study of a certain House document requiring the Commissioner of Revenue to accept a certain application for abatement of taxes (House, No. 5090),— and recommending that the same be recommended to the committee on Taxation. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Emergency Measure.

Jamie Richard, sick leave bank.

The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for a certain employee of the Department of Social Services (see House, No. 4841), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 16 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Engrossed Bills.

Bills enacted.

Engrossed bills
Establishing the Berkshire county commission on the status of women (see Senate, No. 142);
Authorizing the town of Lincoln to regulate certain property tax exemption eligibility requirements for the elderly (see Senate, No. 2018);
(Which severally originated in the Senate);
Relative to the reduction in rank for certain public employees in the city of Haverhill (see House, No. 4736);
Relative to reduction in rank for members of the fire department of the city of Boston (see House, No. 4791);
Authorizing the town of Pembroke to borrow certain sums of money (see House, No. 4814);
Establishing the Mattapoisett River Valley water district (see House, No. 4839, amended); and
Relative to the terms of certain bonds of the city of Revere to be issued to finance the construction of a public safety facility (see House, No. 4964);
(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.

Orders of the Day.

The engrossed Bill relative to the Belchertown Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (see House, No. 4692), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see House, 5077), was considered.

Belchertown Economic Development.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading reported recommending that the amendment be considered in the following form:

In section 1 (as printed) by striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the words “age-restricted, 55 and over, independent”.

The report was accepted; and the amendment recommended by the Governor then was adopted. Sent to the Senate for its action.

The Senate Bill authorizing cities, towns and regional districts to send certain information to registered voters (Senate, No. 2221, amended), 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the amendment previously adopted by the House.

Third reading bill.

The Senate Bill increasing the retirement allowance for certain retirees of the town of Arlington (Senate, No. 1931) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading), reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, was read a third time; and it was passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

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The House Bill authorizing the town of Hingham to issue pension obligation bonds (House, No. 3688), 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. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

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Order.

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

Next sitting.

At twenty-three minutes after eleven o’clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Petrucci of Boston (Mr. O’Flaherty of Chelsea being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.