

Thursday, October 4, 2007.

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.

Gracious God, in Whom we place our trust and hope, we try to begin each day with the intention of serving You and the people who depend upon us, constituents, faithfully and conscientiously. Each day often offers us difficult challenges as well as excellent opportunities in addressing the needs and concerns of the people whom we represent. This weekend we will be celebrating Columbus Day, a holiday. This day reminds us of the blessings which we enjoy as citizens of this land and Commonwealth. Inspire us to use our blessings and resources, human and material, wisely, so that we will achieve the goal for which we have been created by You.

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.

Silent Prayer.

Justice
Roger B.
Champagne.

At the request of Mr. Fagan of Taunton, the members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent prayer in memory of the Honorable Roger B. Champagne, former Assistant United States Attorney and Justice of the Taunton and Barnstable District Courts. Judge Champagne passed away this past weekend at his home in Falmouth.

Resignation of Representative Festa of Melrose.

The following communication, received by the Clerk, on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, was read for the information of the House; and placed on file, to wit:—

October 2, 2007.

The Honorable Salvatore F. DiMasi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DiMasi:

Resignation of
Representative
Michael E.
Festa of
Melrose.

I am writing to inform you that effective Monday, October 8, 2007, at the end of the business day, I am resigning my seat as State Representative for the 32nd Middlesex District, to become a

member of Governor Deval Patrick's cabinet as Secretary of Elder Affairs.

As I end my tenure in the House of Representatives, I want to thank the people of Melrose, Wakefield and Stoneham for allowing me to serve in this great institution and to thank you for the privilege of being a member of your leadership team these past three years.

I am going to miss my colleagues tremendously; there is no experience that I have had, or will ever have, that can equal the unique opportunity that comes with being a member of the House. To serve with such extraordinary people, to engage in debate, to mingle in the well and in the aisles, to share private moments of grief and joy, to negotiate, strategize and navigate through the committee and budget process, to struggle with the relentless challenges of doing right by our families, constituencies, politics, personalities, professions and interests...I will miss all of it.

That said, I give up my seat in the third division with no regrets or misgivings. I now have the opportunity to serve the people in a different way, to help seniors find dignity, security and happiness in their twilight years. To do that job well, of course, means that I will continue to work closely with you and my former colleagues, at the State House and all across the Commonwealth.

So Mr. Speaker, I resign as a member of the House, but I do not say goodbye. I will be in the neighborhood; ready, willing and able to work with you and the legislature for the public good, and most important, to remain a friend to all those whom I have proudly called my colleagues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. FESTA,
*State Representative,
 Thirty-second Middlesex District.*

Statement of Representative Keenan of Salem.

A statement of Mr. Keenan of Salem was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to call to the attention of the House the fact that I was unable to be present in the House Chamber for the sitting of Tuesday last due to official business outside of the Commonwealth, attending a conference. Any roll calls that I may have missed that day was due entirely to the reason stated. If I had been present for the taking of roll call numbers 176 and 177, I would have voted in the affirmative, in both instances.

Statement of
 Representative
 Keenan of
 Salem.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Dempsey of Haverhill, Kaprielian of Watertown and Koutoujian of Waltham) welcoming

His Holiness
 Karekin II.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, during his 2007 pontifical visit to the United States and New England;

Jared Noah Lefkowitz.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kafka of Stoughton and Galvin of Canton) congratulating Jared Noah Lefkowitz of Boy Scout Troop 54 on earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Casimir Pulaski Day.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kocot of Northampton, Kulik of Worthington and Scibak of South Hadley) honoring Casimir Pulaski Day in the city of Northampton;

Robert W. Eisenmenger.

Resolutions (filed by Representatives Linsky of Natick and Peisch of Wellesley) congratulating Robert W. Eisenmenger on his thirty-five years of service as a member of the Natick Planning Board; and

Casa Nueva Vida.

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Sánchez of Boston) congratulating Casa Nueva Vida on the twentieth anniversary of its founding;

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, 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. Smith of Everett, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Petitions.

Plymouth,—charter.

Mr. deMacedo of Plymouth presented a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4267) of Viriato Manuel deMacedo and Thomas J. Calter (by vote of the town) that the charter of the town of Plymouth include certain information for voters relative to the placement of questions on the ballot in said town; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

Visiting nurses,—parking.

By Mr. Binienda of Worcester, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John J. Binienda and others that visiting nurses be exempt from certain parking regulations in cities and towns.

Homeland security,—federal agreement.

By Mr. Fernandes of Milford, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John V. Fernandes that the Department of Public Safety be authorized to enter into an agreement with the federal Department of Homeland Security for participation in a certain program.

Group Insurance Commission.

By Ms. Kaprielian of Watertown, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Rachel Kaprielian for legislation to extend the time for governmental units to transfer coverage of health insurance for public employees to the Group Insurance Commission of the Commonwealth.

Public employees,—medical expenses.

By Mr. Timilty of Milton, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Walter F. Timilty and others relative to the payment of medical expenses for certain public employees injured in the performance of their official duties.

Motor vehicles,—registration.

By Mr. Vallee of Franklin, petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James E. Vallee for legislation to require applicants for the registration of motor vehicles to possess a valid drivers license issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Papers from the Senate.

The engrossed Bill relative to residency requirements for regular fire and police officers in the town of Boxborough (see Senate, No. 9), which had been returned to the Senate by the His Excellency the Governor, with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Senate, No. 15) came from said branch with the endorsement that the bill had been amended as follows:

Boxborough,—
police and
firefighters.

In section 1, in line 1, striking out the figures "99" and inserting in place thereof the following: "99A".

Under suspension of Rule 35, on motion of Mr. Eldridge of Acton, the amendment (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) was considered forthwith; and it was adopted, in concurrence.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Stephen M. Brewer for legislation relative to the leasing of a certain parcel of land in the town of Gardner, came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Higher Education.

Gardner,—
land.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and, on motion of Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater, the petition was referred, in non-concurrence, to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. Sent to the Senate for its action.

A petition of Benjamin B. Downing, Stephen R. Canessa, Robert A. Antonioni, Pamela P. Resor and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve school campus air quality, came from the Senate referred, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

Air quality,—
improvement.

The House then concurred with the Senate in the suspension of said rule; and the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2357) was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

A report of the Department of Public Health (under the provisions of sections 5 and 20 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws) relative to an inspection of the Northeastern Correctional Center, in the town of Concord, was spread upon the the records of the House; and returned to the Senate.

Northeastern
Correctional
Center,—
inspection.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Housing, on a petition, a Bill relative to a special House sub-committee to study condominium law (House, No. 4017). Read; and referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Condominium
laws,—
study.

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, for the committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing teen mental health drop-in centers (House, No. 1881). Referred, under Joint Rule 1E, to the committee on Health Care Financing.

Teens,—
mental health
centers.

Condominiums,— By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Housing, on common areas. Senate, No. 744 and House, No. 1275, a Bill relative to the determination of condominium common area interest (House, No. 4268). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Engrossed Bills.

Bill re-enacted.

The engrossed Bill designating a certain pier in the town of Winthrop as the Charles J. Famolare Pier (see House, No. 1931) (which originated in the House) (which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendments), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be re-enacted, in its amended form; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bill enacted.

The engrossed Bill authorizing the town of Foxborough to grant 12 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House, No. 4147) (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; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

Third reading bills.

Senate bills

Relative to the Westfield Municipal Light Board in the city of Westfield (Senate, No. 2159) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading); and

Authorizing the appointment of Alcino Fernandes as a police officer in the town of Milford notwithstanding the maximum age requirements (Senate, No. 2254);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.

Id.

House bills

Relative to the Department of Public Works in the town of Hatfield (printed as Senate, No. 2238); and

Authorizing the town of Aquinnah to issue licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 4179) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Severally reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

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

Next sitting.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007.

707

At the hour of twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Ms. Rogeness of Longmeadow (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Tuesday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.