

## JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, December 24, 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:

Prayer.

Gracious God, this morning, the day before Christmas, we pause for a moment of personal reflection and prayer in which we think about our spiritual and human values. As this busy pre-Christmas season draws to a close and a more relaxed and joyous Christmas season begins, we thank You, Our Creator, for all of our material and spiritual blessings. Christian communities around the world are about to observe and celebrate Christmas Day a day to recall the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem. Some Christian communities will celebrate Christmas Day with prayer services and others with religious ceremonies. The spirit of the day is one of joy, peace, hope and goodwill to all. The Christmas event reminds us of God's interest and concern for our total well-being at all times. May the Christmas spirit remain with us throughout the new year.

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.

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

Municipal trust funds.

A message from His Excellency the Governor returning with recommendation of amendment the engrossed Bill providing for the establishment of other post employment benefits liability trust funds in municipalities and certain other governmental units [see House, No. 5148] (for message, see House, No. 5187) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Tuesday December 23.

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.

### *Emergency Measure.*

General and Special Laws, corrective changes.

The engrossed Bill making corrective changes in certain General and Special Laws (see Senate, No. 2895), 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 4 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the Senate) was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate. Bill enacted.

### *Engrossed Bills.*

#### *Engrossed bills*

Relative to the sewer system of the town of Ware (see Senate, No. 2731) (which originated in the Senate) and; Bills enacted.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Michael German, an employee of the Department of Mental Retardation (see House, No. 5151, changed) (which originated in the House);

In respect to each of which the Senate had concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

#### *Engrossed bills*

Relative to homeowner heating safety (see Senate, No. 2404); Relative to credit union mortgages (see Senate, No. 2854); Bills enacted.

(Which severally originated in the Senate); and

Authorizing affordable housing covenants in the town of Arlington (see House, No. 4938) (which 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.

### *Order.*

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

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

At twenty minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Peterson of Grafton (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.