

Wednesday, December 30, 2009.

Met at nine minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Ms. Reinstein of Revere 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:

Lord, God of Heaven and Earth, Source of All Wisdom and Forgiveness, in Whom we place our hope and trust, we pause for a moment of personal reflection and prayer. We pray for Your guidance as we take up and address the items on today's agenda. In Your goodness grant us the knowledge to understand clearly the issues before us and the wisdom to make the right, just and ethical decisions. As we begin to consider next year's legislative proposals teach us to be open to the suggestions of colleagues and constituents as we continue our common efforts to work together for common goals in our society. In this age of acts of violence against the rights of the innocent and helpless members of our society, teach us to respect the dignity and importance of all individuals in our communities.

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

At the request of the Chair (Ms. Reinstein), the members, guests and employees joined with her in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Vallee of Franklin) congratulating Joseph Gilmore III on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Vallee of Franklin) congratulating Timothy Malacaria on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Vallee of Franklin) congratulating Matt Venooker on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Alicea of Charlton, Kujawski of Webster and Frost of Auburn) congratulating Joshua Wibley on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kujawski of Webster and Alicea of Charlton) congratulating Benjamin Domey on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kujawski of Webster and Alicea of Charlton) congratulating Nicholas Murray on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America; and

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Kujawski of Webster and Alicea of Charlton) congratulating Daniel Skebos on receiving the Eagle Award of the Boy Scouts of America;

Mr. Binienda of Worcester, 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. Murphy of Burlington, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Order.

An Order (filed this day by Mr. Binienda of Worcester) relative to special procedures for consideration of Senate bill No. 2216, relative to education reform (House, No. 4411), having been reported from the committee on Rules, under the provisions of House Rules 7B and 7C, was adopted.

Communications.

Communications

From the Bristol County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure for technological improvements from the County Registers Technological Fund;

From the Dukes County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for technological improvements at said registry;

From the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for expenditure for technological improvements from the County Registers Technological Fund; and

From the Plymouth County District Registry of Deeds (pursuant to Section 2KKK of Chapter 29 of the General Laws) submitting its plan for technological improvements at said registry;

Severally were placed on file [copies of said reports were forwarded to the House committees on Ways and Means and Post Audit and Oversight (as required by said law)].

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Representative Keenan of Salem and Senator Chang-Díaz, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John P. Keenan and Sonia Chang-Díaz relative to extending the reporting date within which the special commission established to investigate, study and designate one thousand great places in the Commonwealth; and

By Mr. Spellane of Worcester, petition (subject to Joint Rules 12 and 9) of Robert P. Spellane relative to the investment powers of the Massachusetts Credit Union Share Insurance Corporation.

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

Papers from the Senate.

The House Bill authorizing the abatement of certain property tax assessments in the town of Lexington (House, No. 1135) came from the Senate passed to be engrossed, in concurrence, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

“SECTION 1. Notwithstanding sections 2A, 2D, 18 and 38 of chapter 59 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Lexington, acting by and through its board of assessors, shall abate or refund a portion of the taxes assessed for fiscal year 2009 on any real estate that decreased in assessed value by over 50 per cent as the result of fire or nature disaster that occurred during fiscal year 2009. The post-fire or post-natural disaster valuation shall be considered the assessed valuation of the property as of January 1, 2008 for purposes of assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2008.

SECTION 2. Applications for an abatement or refund shall be filed with the Lexington board of assessors on or before January 1, 2011.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.”

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

A Bill designating a certain bridge in the towns of Orange and Wendell as the Franklin County Purple Heart Memorial Bridge (Senate, No. 1890) (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Murphy of Burlington, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Senate Bill relative to education reform (Senate, No. 2216) ought to pass with amendments by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 4410; and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act relative to the Achievement Gap.” Referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, for the committee on Elder Affairs, on a petition, a Bill authorizing the establishment of senior citizen safety zones (House, No. 543). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills
Designating a certain bicycle bridge path in the city Fall River and the town of Somerset as the Army Private Michael E. Bouthot Bicycle Path (see Senate No. 2204) (which originated in the Senate); and

Designating a certain traffic circle in the city of Lowell as the Micky Ward Rotary (see House No. 4204) (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.

Education reform,—special procedures.

Bristol County Registry of Deeds.

Dukes County Registry of Deeds.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

Plymouth County Registry of Deeds.

One thousand great places,—study.

Credit Union Share Corporation.

Lexington,—tax abatements.

Franklin County Purple Heart memorial bridge.

Education reform.

Seniors,—safety zones.

Bills enacted.

*Orders of the Day.*Third
reading
bills.

House bill

Increasing the pension benefits payable to Aquinnah Sarah Burgess by the Attleboro retirement system (printed as Senate No. 2179);

Relative to real estate taxes in the town of Wayland (House, No. 1903); and

Validating a certain election in the town of Concord (printed in House, No. 4397) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Severally reported by the 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.*Next
sitting.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—

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

At twenty-five minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Hill of Ipswich (Ms. Reinstein of Revere being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.