

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, December 14, 2005.

Met at ten minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mrs. Harkins of Needham 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, upon Whom we depend for our daily existence, we believe that we live every moment of the day in Your presence. Your presence and assistance enable us to cope with our daily stresses and the complex often sensitive issues of the day. Even with the best of intentions, we cannot resolve all legislative and public policy issues to the satisfaction of all the people whom we represent; but we can join together as a society with all the other members of our communities in building peaceful, safe, just and welcoming neighborhoods in which the dignity and rights of all are recognized and respected.

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

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

Appointments to a Joint Special Commission.

The Speaker announced the appointment of Representatives Harkins of Needham (as the Speaker's designee), Verga of Gloucester (House Chairman of the joint committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs), Vallee of Franklin (as the designee of the Chairman of the House committee on Ways and Means) and Pignatelli of Lenox (as the designee of the House Chairman of the joint committee on Higher Education) to the special commission established (under section 12 of chapter 130 of the Acts of 2005) to make an investigation and study of tuition and fee waivers for veterans at public higher education institutions in the Commonwealth.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Messrs. Leary of Worcester and Pedone of Worcester) congratulating Michael A. Pedone in recognition of his induction into the Saint John's High School Athletic Hall of Fame, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for the committee on Rules, then reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Papers from the Senate.

Donald J.
Castle,
vacation
time.

A Bill relative to vacation accrual rate of Donald J. Castle, an employee of the Trial Court (Senate, No. 2105) (on a petition), passed to be engrossed by the Senate, was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

Richard
Oram,
retirement.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2305) of Pamela P. Resor and Stephen P. LeDuc (with approval of mayor and city council) for legislation relative to retired Police Officer Richard Oram of in the city of Marlborough, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the treasurer of the town of Brookline to invest the trust fund of said town (House, No. 4222) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading); and

Relative to the board of selectmen of the town of Topsfield (House, No. 4224, changed) (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.

Reports of Committees.

Gaming,
simulcast.

By Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop, for the committee on Ways and Means, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the residue (sections 2 to 25) of the Bill further regulating horse and greyhound racing and associated gaming (Senate, No. 2227),— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Rules. Under Rule 42, the report was considered forthwith; and it was accepted.

Horse and
greyhound
simulcasting,
extension.

Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop, for the committee on Ways and Means, on Senate, No. 2227, reported, in part (on section 1), a Bill extending the simulcast expiration date for the horse and greyhound racing industry in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4571). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

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 the same member, the bill was read a second time forthwith.

Pending the question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Flynn of Bridgewater moved that it be amended by inserting after section 16 the following three sections:

“SECTION 16A. Section 3 of chapter 128A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended, by striking in line 71, the words ‘June 15 and October 15.’ and inserting in place thereof the following:— March 1 and December 15; provided further, that no racing meeting licensee in Plymouth county shall conduct live racing meeting performances in connection

with a state or county fair during the live racing season of the running horse racing meeting licensee in Suffolk county; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary an application to conduct live running horse racing meetings in Plymouth county in connection with a state or county fair may be filed until May 31 in the calendar year in which such live racing performances are to occur, subject to approval by the commission within 30 days of said filing.

SECTION 16B. Section 2 of Chapter 128C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking, in lines 45 and 46, inclusive, the words ‘2 interstate running horse simulcasts prior to 4:00 p.m.’ and inserting in place thereof the following:— unlimited interstate running horse simulcasts.

SECTION 16C. Section 2A of said chapter 128C, as so appearing, is hereby amended, by striking, in line 27, the figure ‘15’ and inserting in place thereof the following:— 30.”

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment, and the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Ross of Wrentham asked for a count of the House to ascertain if a quorum was present.

QUORUM.

A quorum not being in attendance, the Chair (Mrs. Harkins of Needham), at twenty-two minutes after eleven o’clock A.M., under the provisions of Rule 82, declared an adjournment of the House until tomorrow at eleven o’clock A.M., in an Informal Session.