

Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Petrolati of Ludlow 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:

Eternal God, Your wonderful gift of wisdom enables us to analyze and address in a thoughtful manner our personal responsibilities as well as pending legislative and administrative matters. In Your goodness help us, as trusted elected leaders, to make the right, perhaps not easiest decisions. With many complex items on our personal agenda, teach us to pause, on occasion and to reflect on our motives and choices. Your guidance empowers us to be fair, thoughtful and objective in dealing with people and their personal concerns.

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

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Petrolati), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Silent Prayer.

At the request of Messrs. DiMasi of Boston and Petersen of Marblehead, the members, guests and employees stood for a moment of silent prayer in memory of Marine Corps. Captain Jennifer Jean Harris. Captain Harris, of the town of Swampscott, was a Marine helicopter pilot who was killed in action in Iraq while ferrying injured Marines to safety.

Message from the Governor.

A message from His Excellency the Governor (under the provisions of Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments of the Constitution) recommending legislation relative to validating the actions taken at a certain election held in the town of Wareham (House, No. 3747) was filed in the office of the Clerk on Friday, February 16.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Election Laws. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Resolutions.

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

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Conroy of Wayland) congratulating the League of Women Voters of Sudbury; and

Sean Phillip
Rodrigues.

Resolutions (filed by Messrs. Galvin of Canton and Kafka of Stoughton) congratulating Sean Phillip Rodrigues of Stoughton Boy Scout Troop 88 on earning the Eagle Scout Award;

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. Welch of West Springfield, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Order.

Children
and
Families.

An Order (filed by Mr. Scaccia of Boston) relative to the consideration of matters referred to the former committee on Children and Families by the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, was referred, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Mr. Scaccia, for said committees, then reported that the order ought to be adopted.

Under suspension of the rules, on motion of the same member, the order was considered forthwith; and it was adopted. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Paper from the Senate.

New Bedford,—
railroad
depot.

The engrossed Bill relating to the railroad depot contamination remediation and redevelopment project in the city of New Bedford (see Senate, No. 7), came from the Senate with the endorsement that it had been returned to said branch by His Excellency the Governor, in accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, with recommendation of amendment [for message, see Senate, No. 14]; and that the bill had been amended, as follows:

In section 2, in the second sentence, by striking out the words “without the need for approval by the municipal finance oversight board”.

Under suspension of Rule 35, on motion of Mr. Donato of Medford, 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.

Reconsideration.

Joint
Rules.

Mr. Scaccia of Boston moved that the vote be reconsidered by which the House, on Thursday last, concurred with the Senate in its amendments to the Order relative to the adoption of permanent Joint Rules for the 2007 and 2008 General Court (House, No. 3746); and the motion to reconsider was considered forthwith and it prevailed.

Pending the recurring question on concurring with the Senate, the same member moved to amend the amendments by striking out the words “inserting after the second sentence” and inserting in place thereof the words “striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof”.

The further amendment was adopted. The House then concurred with the Senate in its amendments, as amended. Sent to the Senate for concurrence in the further amendment.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Relative to a certain tax exemption in the town of Montague (House, No. 2027) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading); and Third reading bills.

Relative to the Swansea Water District (House, No. 2031);

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. 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 Thursday next at eleven o'clock A.M. Next sitting.

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