

Tuesday, March 20, 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.

Eternal God, in Whom we place our trust and hope, we look to You for guidance and direction as we begin this first day of Spring. In Your goodness, help us to sort out and organize the many demands which are made on us, our time and our daily responsibilities. Inspire us to make reasoned and mature judgements and decisions at all times. In evaluating the needs of people and our communities, teach us to listen carefully to the voices of constituents. In responding to the people and issues, may we be guided by traditional principles and values, human and spiritual.

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.

Communications.

Communications

Community Corrections.

From the Office of Community Corrections (pursuant to item 0339-1004 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006) containing a spending and management plan for said office;

Local Services.

From the Division of Local Services' Bureau of Local Assessment of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006) submitting a copy of its biennial equalized valuation study; and

Office of Transportation.

From the Executive Office of Transportation (under the provisions of items 6000-0100 and 6010-0001 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006) submitting copies of several quarterly and special reports, including STIP funding, Chapter 90 PWED fund, and certain payroll reports;

Severally were placed on file.

Annual and Special Reports.

Annual reports

Community Antenna Television.

Of the Division of Community Antenna Television with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (under the provisions of Section 2 of Chapter 166A of the General Laws) relative to appeals that came before said division for the calendar year 2006; and

Minority and Women Owned Business.

Of the Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (under Section 6(i) of Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2004) relative to the performance of the construction reform affirmative marketing program for calendar year 2006;

Semi-annual report of the Insurance Fraud Bureau (under the provisions of Section 1(k) of Chapter 338 of the Acts of 1990) containing a spending and management plan for said office;

Insurance
Fraud
Bureau.

Monthly report of the Division of Unemployment Assistance (under the provisions of Chapter 142 of the Acts of 2003) relative to the condition of the Commonwealth's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund for February, 2007; and

Unemployment
Trust Fund.

Special report of Project Bread (under the provisions of item 4400-1001 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006) relative to the progress of certain programs to alleviate and prevent hunger in the Commonwealth and to expand participation in federal nutrition programs;

Project
Bread.

Severally were placed on file.

Petitions.

A joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 9) of Cleon H. Turner and Robert A. O'Leary relative to the Jacob Sears Memorial Library (having been deposited in the office of the Clerk previous to five o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 10, 2007) was transmitted to the State Secretary under Chapter 3 of the General Laws.

Sears
Library.

Mr. DiMasi of Boston presented a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Salvatore F. DiMasi, Brian S. Dempsey and Daniel E. Bosley for legislation to establish the green communities act of 2007 through the development of a comprehensive energy policy for the Commonwealth; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Green
communities
energy
policy.

Papers from the Senate.

Petitions were referred, in concurrence, as follows:

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2153) of Steven C. Panagiotakos, David M. Nangle, Kevin J. Murphy and Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to a parcel of land in the city of Lowell. To the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

Lowell,—
land
conveyance.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2156) of Marc R. Pacheco and Susan Williams Gifford (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the town of Wareham to issue fifteen (15) additional licenses for the sale of all-alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises. To the committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Wareham
liquor
licenses.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2152) of Frederick E. Berry and John D. Keenan (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to adopt protections for Salem's governmentally involved housing stock in the city of Salem. To the committee on Housing.

Salem
housing.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2155) of Marc R. Pacheco and Susan Williams Gifford (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to the interest rate to be charged upon apportioned betterment assessments for the Weweantic sewer project in the town of Wareham;

Wareham,—
Weweantic
sewer
project.

Wareham
assessments.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2158) of Marc R. Pacheco and Susan Williams Gifford (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to interest rates to be charged upon apportioned betterment assessments in the town of Wareham; and

Quincy,—
stabilization
fund.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2160) of Michael W. Morrissey, Bruce J. Ayers, Ronald Mariano and A. Stephen Tobin (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the city of Quincy to establish a neighborhood stabilization fund;

Severally to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Taunton,—
firefighters.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2154) of Marc R. Pacheco, James H. Fagan, Patricia A. Haddad and Stephen R. Canessa (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the certification and eligibility as firefighters in the city of Taunton;

Wareham,—
health
insurance.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2157) of Marc R. Pacheco and Susan Williams Gifford (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to provision of health insurance to surviving spouses of long-term employees of the town of Wareham; and

Lowell,—
civil service
law.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2161) of Steven C. Panagiotakos (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to exempt the position of superintendent of police in the city of Lowell from the provisions of civil service law;

Severally to the committee on Public Service.

Westfield
Municipal
Light Board.

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2159) of Michael R. Knapik and Donald F. Humason, Jr. (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the city of Westfield regarding the Westfield Municipal Light Board. To the committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

Reports of Committees.

Minors,—
caregivers.

By Mrs. Walrath of Stow, for the committee on Health Care Financing, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1151) of John A. Lepper and others relative to caregiver consent for medical and educational decisions for minors;

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, for the committee on Public Health, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Disabled
Persons
Commission.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2081) of James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to make certain changes in the law relative to the authority of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission;

Id.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2082) of James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to further define the term "disabled person" as used by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission;

Id.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2083) of James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to further define the authority of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission;

Dental
offices,—
chair lifts.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2145) of Peter V. Kocot for legislation to authorize the installation of chair lifts in dental offices for the assistance of patients with physical limitations; and

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2212) of Alice Hanlon Peisch clarifying the investigative powers of the Disabled Persons Protection Commission; Disabled Persons Commission.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities;

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2235) of Byron Rushing and others further protecting civil rights; Civil rights.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2264) of A. Stephen Tobin relative to establishing new sentencing guidelines; and Sentencing guidelines.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2265) of A. Stephen Tobin relative to establishing new sentencing guidelines; Id.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on the Judiciary;

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2230) of John F. Quinn to study the safety of political sign holders on public roadways,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security; Political signs.

Of the petition (accompanied by order, House, No. 2258) of Thomas M. Stanley and Louanne Fucci relative to post trip inspections by school bus drivers — and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Transportation; School buses,— inspections.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2139) of Thomas P. Kennedy for legislation to grant creditable service for retirement purposes to public employees for service in the armed forces,— and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs; and Armed forces,— retirement credit.

By Mr. Costello of Newburyport, for the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2290) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others relative to gun use; Gun use.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2337) of Stephen P. LeDuc and Karyn E. Polito for legislation to prohibit the sale or equipping of motor vehicles with hidden compartments for the purpose of concealing contraband; Motor vehicles,— compartments.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2353) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr., relative to background checks for grid workers; and Grid workers.

Of the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2362) of Anthony Petruccelli and others relative to the recording of firearm sales, rental and leases in the Commonwealth; Firearms,— records.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop, for the committee on Ways and Means, that the Bill relative to the conveyance of a certain parcel of land in the town of Grafton (House, No. 3745) ought to pass with certain amendments in section 3, in line 27 and also in lines 57 and 58, by striking out the words “state administration” and inserting in place thereof, in Grafton,— land conveyance.

Grafton,—
land
conveyance.

each instance, the words “bonding, capital expenditures and state assets”, in line 42, by inserting after the word “land” the words “at the termination of said lease”, in lines 79 to 82, inclusive, by striking out the words “may exercise its right of reverter after giving the Massachusetts state police museum and learning center written notice and an opportunity to cure and recording a notice of reversion in the appropriate registry of deeds, whereupon” and inserting in place thereof the following: “shall have a right of reversion and may exercise said right after (i) providing the Massachusetts state police museum and learning center with written notification and an opportunity to cure; and (ii) recording a notice of said reversion in the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds. Upon satisfaction of the foregoing provisions,”; and in line 89, by striking out the word “or” and inserting in place thereof the word “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; and, under said rule, it was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading, with the amendments pending.

By Mr. Donato of Medford, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following matters be scheduled for consideration by the House:

House bills

Janice Brown,—
sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Janice Brown an employee of the Appellate Tax Board (House, No. 44);

Antoinette
Romes,—
sick leave.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Antoinette Romes, an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance (House, No. 3941, changed); and

Franklin,—
liquor
license.

Authorizing the town of Franklin to grant an additional liquor license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not be drunk on the premises (House, No. 3962);

Severally placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading.

Capital
improvements.

By Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop, for the committee on Ways and Means, on a message from His Excellency the Governor, a Bill providing for the immediate capital improvement needs of the Commonwealth (printed in House, No. 2915) [Bond Authorization: \$1,469,500,000.00]. 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; and, under said rule, it was placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading.

Order.

On motion of Mr. DiMasi of Boston,—

Next
sitting.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007.

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At eight minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Kaufman of Lexington (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.