

Monday, December 14, 2009.

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. God, our Creator and Lord of history, we take a moment for reflection and prayer to acknowledge Your presence in our midst as we open our hearts and minds to You and Your ways. Inspire us to remain faithful to You and our lofty ideals in dealing with current, often complex and sensitive legislation and administrative challenges. Today we join the Jewish Community in spirit as our Jewish associates and friends observe and celebrate Chanukah. This yearly historical, cultural and religious observance reminds us of the dedication of the men and women to their religious beliefs and practices in the midst of challenges and difficulties. May the spirit of this season be with us always as we enjoy peace, joy, happiness and success.

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

*Paper from the Senate.*

Westborough State Hospital. The Senate Resolve establishing a special commission on the reuse of Westborough State Hospital (Senate, No. 2219) (on Senate, No. 2059), passed to be engrossed by the Senate was read; and it was referred, under Rule 33, to the committee on Ways and Means.

*Report of a Committee.*

Belmont,—bonds. By Mr. Moran of Boston, for the committee on the Election Laws, on a message from His Excellency the Governor, a Bill relating to an issue of bonds by the town of Belmont (printed in House, No. 4389). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

*Emergency Measures.*

Christopher Sandiford,—sick leave bank. The engrossed Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Christopher Sandiford an employee of the Department of Transitional Assistance (see House, No. 4333), 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 9 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

*Engrossed Bills.*

*Engrossed bills*

Authorizing the board of selectmen of the town of Tisbury to grant licenses for the sale of wines and malt beverages to be drunk on the premises of certain restaurants, inns and hotels (see House No. 1907, amended); Bills enacted.

Relative to the appointment of the members of the Dalton redevelopment authority (see House No. 4242, changed); and

Authorizing the town of Tyngsborough to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (see House No. 4296);

(Which severally 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.

*Motion to Suspend Rule 24(2).*

Mrs. Harkins of Needham then moved that Rule 24(2) be suspended so that she might offer, from the floor, and Order (filed by her and other members of the House) relative to providing for an independent outside financial audit of the House budget with a specific description of legal expenditures. House budget,—independent audit.

The motion to suspend Rule 24(2) was negatived; and the order was referred, under said rule, to the committee on Rules.

*Quorum.*

Mr. Patrick of Falmouth then asked for a count of the House to ascertain the presence of a quorum. Quorum.

A quorum not being present, under House Rule 82, the Chair (Mr. Donato of Medford), at eleven minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., declared an adjournment of the House, until the following day at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.