

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Met according to adjournment at six o'clock P.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).

Message from the Governor.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to providing the terms of certain bonds to be issued by the Commonwealth (House, No. 4147), was filed this day in the office of the Clerk.

Bonding
terms.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 17G, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Ms. Whipps of Athol, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4144) of Susannah M. Whipps (by vote of the town) relative to providing for recall elections in the town of Erving. To the committee on Election Laws.

Erving,—
recall
elections.

By the same member, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4145) of Susannah M. Whipps (by vote of the town) relative to representation on the board of trustees for soldiers' memorials in the town of Orange. To the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Orange,—
soldiers'
memorials.

By Representative Whipps of Athol and Senator Gobi, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4146) of Susannah M. Whipps and Anne M. Gobi (by vote of the town) that the position of part-time officer in the police department in the town of Athol be exempt from the civil service law. To the committee on Public Service.

Athol,—
civil
service.

Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Representative Hunt of Sandwich and Senator Cyr presented a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Randy Hunt, Julian Cyr and others for legislation to name two bridges over Route 6 in the city known as the town of Barnstable as the first responders appreciation overpasses; and the same was referred, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Barnstable,—
bridges.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, then reported recommending that Joint Rule 12 be suspended. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Transportation. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Paper from the Senate.

The following communication was spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

January 22, 2018.

Honorable Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Room 356 State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honor to inform you that the Honorable Harriette L. Chandler, President of the Senate, has announced the appointments that were ratified by the Majority Party Caucus:

Senator Joseph A. Boncore as Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, and

Senator Eric P. Lesser as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM F. WELCH,
Clerk of the Senate.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Galvin of Canton, for the committee on Rules and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the petition of Harold P. Naughton, Jr., and Harriette L. Chandler for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Elise Sanchez-Oshea, an employee of the Trial Court. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Mr. Garballey of Arlington, the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on the Judiciary. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

By Ms. Cronin of Easton, for the committee on the Judiciary, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Joseph Loughman, an employee of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth (House, No. 4141).

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, for the committee on Public Service, on a petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Zelpha Bennett, an employee of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (House, No. 4119).

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Pursuant to assignment, at twenty minutes past six o'clock P.M., the two branches met in

JOINT SESSION

In the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as His Excellency Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to

Joint committee appointments.

Elise Sanchez-Oshea, — sick leave.

Joseph Loughman, — sick leave.

Zelpha Bennett, — sick leave.

Joint Session of the two branches.

the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Harriette L. Chandler, President of the Senate.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Boncore,—

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests of the Governor and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence.

Notification of Lieutenant-Governor, Constitutional officers, et al.

Senators Gobi, Rodrigues, Lesser, Creem, Ross and Humason were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Donato of Medford, Ferguson of Holden, Viera of Falmouth, Honan of Boston, Wong of Saugus and Smizik of Brookline were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Donato, for the committee, reported that Her Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, the Executive Council and distinguished guests would immediately attend upon the Convention.

Shortly thereafter, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Karyn E. Polito, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court, and distinguished guests entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Invocation.

The President in the Chair, then introduced Senior Imam Shaykh Yasir Fahmy, of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, who delivered the following Invocation:

Invocation.

Dear brothers and sisters, in the Holy Qur'an, God tells us: "Oh Mankind, we have created you from male and female, and we made you peoples and tribes that you may come to know one another. Surely, the noble of you before God are those most reverent of you."

In this verse, God speaks to the essence of the human condition; to the fundamental truth that, despite our differences, which can be profound, we are here, on this earth, to live with, to care for, and know one another. This sacred spirit and divine guidance is captured in the words and work of our own Founding Fathers.

In the year 1776, quoting John Locke, Thomas Jefferson said: "neither Pagan nor Mahamedan [Muslim] nor Jew ought to be excluded from the civil rights of the Commonwealth because of his religion." Espousing this same sentiment, the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780 promised "the most ample liberty of conscience... to Deists, Mahometans [Muslims], Jews and Christians".

My dear brothers and sisters, these words remind us of the kind of nation our Founding Fathers sought to bequeath us: a nation that upholds freedom of conscience; a nation that embraces religious pluralism, and a nation that calls for the honor and dignity of all.

Yet we also know that even as these visionary words were spoken, slavery raged and the rights of women were ignored. We know that racial and ethnic quotas were implemented in immigration, and that

Invocation. Catholic and Jew, here in our own State, were not welcomed as equals. We understood early on that the vision of America we inherited was in fact a call for action and diligence. A gift, but never one to be taken for granted. A blessing, but not one yet fully realized for all.

Brothers and sisters, this vision and dream we call America calls for principled and courageous leadership, a leadership that embodies the sacred spirit and the divine guidance of our prophets and pious predecessors, from the wisdom and insight of Moses, to the love and compassionate shepherding of Jesus, and to the mercy and justice of Mohammed, may the peace and blessings of God be upon them all.

Let us pray. O' God, as we stand before You today in utter humility and with deep gratitude, we pray that You instill a sacred spirit and divine guidance in all of our hearts. O' God at a moment when our nation seems divided, we seek Your aid in bringing our hearts together. O' Lord, we know at this moment what is called for is courageous leadership. We ask that You bestow that leadership on our Governor Charles Duane Baker. We ask that You guide him to his highest self, inspire him to always practice that which is most beloved to You and to uphold the best of Your divinely inspired values and ideals. Guide him and all of our elected officials to help remove the pain and division that beseech parts of our nation. Allow us to see past our differences and to work with another for the betterment of ourselves, our state and our nation.

Order Adopted.

The President in the Chair, on motion of Ms. Spilka,—

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that the two branches are now in Convention for the purpose of receiving such communication as he may be pleased to make to them, relating to the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Senators DiDomenico, Cyr, Hinds, Donoghue, Tran and O'Connor were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives Nangle of Lowell, Mahoney of Worcester, Poirier of North Attleborough, Puppolo of Springfield, Frost of Auburn, Ultrino of Malden, Lewis of Framingham, McMurtry of Dedham and Howitt of Seekonk were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. DiDomenico, for the committee, reported that His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, would immediately attend upon the convention.

The President introduced members of the 2017 National JROTC Champions – the Lynn English High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps who posted the colors.

National Anthem.

The President then introduced Cadet Samantha Parker, accompanied by the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Honor Guard, who sang the National Anthem.

Notification of the Governor.

Lynn English High School JROTC.

National Anthem.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then introduced Ashanti Rosario and Miguel Torres from Puerto Rico and the STEM Middle Academy in Springfield who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Shortly thereafter, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The President then introduced His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2).

State of the Commonwealth address.

The President in the Chair, then introduced the Springfield Community Chorale directed by Vanessa Ford and Aarif Bradley for a performance of "Oh Give Thanks" and "Bless the Lord With Me".

Springfield Community Chorale.

Benediction.

The President then introduced Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz of Temple Emanuel in Newton, who gave the following Benediction:

Benediction.

Dear Lord, the place from which we speak to You tonight is Beacon Hill. A beacon is a light that warms and guides and inspires hope, especially when we are lost at sea. May we be worthy of our name. May Beacon Hill continue to be a genuine beacon.

In a world rent by division, may we be a beacon of collaboration. In a world where all too often it is my way or the highway, may we be a beacon of the productive conversation, where we listen to and work with one another for the common good.

In a world soiled by xenophobia, nativism and hatred, may we be a beacon for inclusion, for love of all your children, all made in Your image, all infinitely loved by You.

Lord, You tell us in Your holy scriptures that You have a special love for the most vulnerable among us. The widow and the orphan. The stranger and the refugee. May we be a beacon of translating Your love into social policy, so that all Your children are protected not only by Your love, but by our wise, just, and compassionate laws.

May the good will we have for all human beings, the respect we have for all human dignity, make our Commonwealth a beacon of productivity, innovation, and prosperity.

We pray that you will now imbue all the elected leaders of our Commonwealth — Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler and all the members of the Senate, Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and all the members of the House, with Your spirit of decency and humility and the ability to work together to promote the common good so that Beacon Hill continues to be what it has been: the beacon that our beloved Commonwealth and our beloved nation need right now, and for this, let us say, Amen.

The President in the Chair, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, the members of the Executive Council and members of the Supreme Judicial Court then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On motion of Mr. Brady, at eleven minutes before eight o'clock P.M., the Convention of the Two Branches was dissolved; and the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Called
to order.

At eleven minutes before eight o'clock P.M., the House was called to order with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair.

Order.

Next
sitting.

On motion of Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop,—
Ordered. That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock A.M.

At ten minutes before eight o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following day at eleven o'clock A.M.