

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Thursday, February 23, 2017.

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 Father Rick Walsh of the Paulist Center of Boston, Chaplain of the House, as follows:

God of Hope, God of Freedom we pray for all the members of our legislature and their staff. We pray too for all who keep watch and provide security for the many working here and for those visiting the State House.

We give thanks for the many Boy Scout troops that are gathering here today. We are grateful also for their leaders. Today we pray that these young people and all of us that we may be inspired by the heroics of William Dawes who, with Paul Revere road horseback to Lexington and Concord to warn Sam Adams, John Hancock and local farmers of the approach of a brigade of British soldiers. Tomorrow marks the anniversary of Dawes' death in 1799 at the age of 53. While Paul Revere's exploits live on through Longfellow's poem, William Dawes had just as important a role in warning the local militia, the Minutemen, that 1200 soldiers were coming to confiscate the farmers' stockpiled weapons. We pray that all of us may follow the example of William Dawes, that when faced with a crisis, we may do the right thing, not for notoriety or fame but because it is the noble and courageous thing to do. May God continue to bless our Commonwealth.

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.

Message from the Governor.

A message from His Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review (House, No. 74), was filed in the office of the Clerk on Tuesday, February 21.

The message was read; and it was referred, under Rule 30, with the accompanying draft of a bill, to the committee on the Judiciary. 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. Brodeur of Melrose) congratulating the Wakefield Cooperative Bank on its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary;

Resolutions (filed by Mr. Crocker of Barnstable) congratulating Frederic B. Presbrey on the occasion of his retirement; and

Resolutions (filed by Mr. McMurtry of Dedham) honoring Boy Scouts Troop 3 Dedham on its one hundredth anniversary;

Wakefield,—bank.

Frederic Presbrey.

Dedham,—Boy Scouts.

Mr. Galvin of Canton, 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. Day of Stoneham, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Communication.

A communication from the Office of Community Corrections of the Trial Court (see Section 5 of Chapter 211F of the General Laws) submitting the annual report of the Massachusetts Probation Service, Office of Community Corrections, including a statistical report on the utilization of community corrections centers, was placed on file.

Probation services and community corrections centers.

Petitions.

Petitions severally were presented and referred as follows:

By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Shawn Dooley and others relative to choosing presidential electors and the process which governs them.

Electoral College,—votes.

By Mr. Heroux of Attleboro, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul R. Heroux and others for legislation to authorize the commissioner of the Department of Public Health to appoint a rare disease advisory council to coordinate statewide efforts for the study of the incidences of rare diseases within the Commonwealth.

Rare disease council.

By Mr. Lawn of Watertown, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John J. Lawn, Jr., and others relative to liens on certain construction contracts.

Construction contracts.

By the same member, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John J. Lawn, Jr., and others relative to coverage for disease modifying prescription drugs or treatments of multiple sclerosis for active and retired public employees.

Prescription coverage.

By Messrs. Vega of Holyoke and Rushing of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Aaron Vega, Byron Rushing and others relative to the expungement of records of marijuana arrest, detention, conviction and incarceration.

Marijuana arrests,—expungement.

Severally, under Rule 24, to the committee on Rules.

Paper from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2034) of Marc R. Pacheco, Patricia A. Haddad and Keiko M. Orrall (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to authorize the appointment of retired police officers as special police officers in the city of Taunton, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Taunton,—police.

Order.

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

Next sitting.

At eleven minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session.