

Monday, January 5, 2004.

Met according to adjournment, at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mrs. Walrath of Stow 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:

Holy Spirit God, we pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and to reflect for a moment on spiritual matters in this new year. As legislators we ask once again for Your assistance in our task of analyzing accurately new and emerging legislative issues and policies in the months ahead. Your gift of wisdom enables us to recognize correctly the needs of people and of our communities in this changing world of human and spiritual values. Your gift of knowledge also helps us to reorganize and adjust our own priorities. In the new year may our trust in You, Our Creator, increase and aid us in deepening our trust in each other and in our basic institutions which have served us well in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

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

At the request of the Chair (Mrs. Walrath), the members, guests and employees joined with her in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Resolutions.

Resolutions (filed with the Clerk by Representatives Linsky of Natick and Peisch of Wellesley) honoring Michael Aries, were referred, under Rule 85, to the committee on Rules.

Mr. Miceli of Wilmington, for the committee on Rules, then reported that the resolutions ought to be adopted. Under suspension of the rules, on motion of Ms. Story of Amherst, the resolutions (reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn) were considered forthwith; and they were adopted.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. St. Fleur of Boston, for the committee on Education, Arts and Humanities, on Senate, Nos. 232, 233, 243, 246, 281, 282, 318, 323, 329, 332, 333, 335 and 338 and House, Nos. 326, 1248, 1828, 2032, 2038, 2227, 2408, 2769, 2938 and 3488, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education, Arts and Humanities to make an investigation and study of certain Senate and House documents concerning financial assistance to elementary, secondary, disabled and higher education students (House, No. 4406).

By the same member, for the same committee, on Senate, Nos. 253, 257, 259, 260, 268, 287, 290, 317 and 319 and House, Nos. 117, 118, 686, 875, 1249, 1255, 1256, 1450, 1453, 2394, 2402, 2405,

2943, 3130, 3317, 3487, 3497 and 3501, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Education, Arts and Humanities to make an investigation and study of certain Senate and House documents concerning the cost, testing and special needs of students in the Commonwealth (House, No. 4407).

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently Mr. Scaccia of Boston, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

Public
charities.

By Mr. Hall of Westford, for the committee on State Administration, on a petition, a Bill relative to public charities (House, No. 4234). Read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

Engrossed Bill.

Bill
enacted.

The engrossed Bill establishing a betterment fund in the town of Spencer (see House, No. 1326) (which originated in the House), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was passed to be enacted; and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Third
reading
bills.

Authorizing the town of Dighton to establish a special fund (House, No. 455);

Relative to the municipal light board of the town of Marblehead (House, No. 4107, changed);

Relative to a change in land use in the town of Lakeville (House, No. 4112); and

Establishing a sick leave bank for Shirley Morrow, an employee of the Department of Mental Retardation (House, No. 4322) (its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading);

Severally reported by said committee to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Severally sent to the Senate for concurrence.

At eleven minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, the House adjourned.

[Under the provisions of Article X of the Amendments to the Constitution, the 2003 session of the General Court was dissolved on the day next preceding the first Wednesday of January, without any proclamation or other act of the Governor.]

Attest:

STEVEN T. JAMES,
Clerk.