

Daily sitting 23

Thursday, March 12, 2015

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to keep the abortion related provisions of regulations 84-20 in place and continue the two doctor rule. (Petition 27)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislative Assembly to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16. (Petition 28)

Mr. Oliver, Member for Kings Centre, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the District Education Council to keep Browns Flat Elementary School open. (Petition 29)

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 16, 14 and 9 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Prescription and Catastrophic Drug Insurance Act.*

Bill 7, *An Act to Dissolve the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Agency of New Brunswick.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At 12 o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the chair to resume again at 1 o'clock p.m.

1 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 16 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Executive Council Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 14, *An Act Respecting Responsible Governance*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had arrived.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Jody Carr, seconded by Mr. Fitch, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

"Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments."

Mr. Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was defeated.

And the question being put that Bill 10 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Elections Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Debate resumed on the amendment to Motion 17, moved by Hon. Mr. Horsman, seconded by Mr. LePage, as follows:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 17 be amended as follows:

At the end of the fourth “Whereas” clause, add the words “as part of a broader legislative package that includes additional impaired driving countermeasures”;

In the resolution clause, delete all words after “urge the government” and replace them with “to complete its consultations with key stakeholders, including police forces and Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada, and develop legislation to better address impaired driving in New Brunswick, potentially to include mandatory ignition interlock for all persons convicted of impaired driving offenses”.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Steeves, seconded by Mr. Fitch, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 17 be amended as follows:

Deleting the words “potentially to include” and replacing them with “which should include”; and

Adding after the words “impaired driving offenses” the following:

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to complete the said consultation and to develop the said legislation within two (2) months of the date this resolution is adopted by the Legislative Assembly.”

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and it was defeated.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 17 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS alcohol ignition interlocks are an effective tool in the ongoing fight to stop impaired driving;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick ignition interlock program, administered by the Department of Public Safety, is a voluntary program in which persons convicted of impaired driving must request to participate;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is one of the only Canadian jurisdictions where an ignition interlock program exists but is not mandatory for all persons convicted of impaired driving;

WHEREAS stakeholders concerned with the continued societal problem of impaired driving have called for the New Brunswick ignition interlock program to be made mandatory as part of a broader legislative package that includes additional impaired driving countermeasures;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to complete its consultations with key stakeholders, including police forces and Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada, and develop legislation to better address impaired driving in New Brunswick, potentially to include mandatory ignition interlock for all persons convicted of impaired driving offenses.

And the question being put, Motion 17 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate resumed on Motion 2, moved by Mr. Steeves, seconded by Ms. Wilson, as follows:

WHEREAS the President of the Riverview Liberal Association sent an email on November 10, 2014, advising that government road contracts would be made available to supporters of the government, and that the Executive Assistant to the Minister of Social Development had enquired with respect to Liberal companies and individuals to be awarded road work contracts;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health, on November 21, 2014, terminated the employment of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Vitalité Health Network;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Vitalité Health Network issued a statement on November 25, 2014, to indicate that it did not question the qualifications of the former President and Chief Executive Officer, that to the best of its knowledge, the former President and Chief Executive Officer met all the requirements of his mandate, that it was not consulted prior to the termination, and that if it had been consulted, it would have indicated that there were no reasons for the dismissal of the former President and Chief Executive Officer;

AND WHEREAS these instances fall short of the government's commitment to do things differently;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly condemn the government for its failure to live up to its commitment to increase transparency and accountability in government.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 2 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 13, Mr. Jeff Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Holder:

WHEREAS power outages are more and more frequent in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS power outages can cause considerable damage to the homes of New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS power outages can result in significant financial losses and costs for the citizens of this province;

WHEREAS a reliable and safe supply is considered an essential safety element for our population;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly call on the government to look at implementing either a tax credit, a rebate, or a refund to the residents of this province who want to invest in alternative energy sources to supply their homes with power during outages.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.