
Daily sitting 27 Wednesday, June 10, 2020

12 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Arseneau,
Bill 48, *Local Food Security Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Urquhart,
Bill 49, *An Act to Amend the Emergency Measures Act*.

Mr. D'Amours gave Notice of Motion 63 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

WHEREAS, in early February 2020, the Premier announced that six hospitals, namely the Sussex Health Centre, the Sackville Memorial Hospital, Hotel-Dieu of St. Joseph in Perth-Andover, Stella-Maris-de-Kent Hospital in Sainte-Anne-de-Kent, Enfant-Jésus Hospital in Caraquet, and the Grand Falls General Hospital, would see cuts in their emergency room services;

WHEREAS the Premier also announced an intention to convert 120 acute care beds in these hospitals to long-term care beds, thereby shifting the role of these hospitals from acute care facilities to long-term care facilities;

WHEREAS it became apparent that there was no consultation by the government with medical professionals or the public on the proposed health reforms;

WHEREAS due to mounting opposition to the Premier's plan, the Premier announced in mid-February that the reforms would be put on hold pending consultations;

WHEREAS there have been no consultations since the Premier's announcement;

WHEREAS the Premier indicated that these cuts were Phase 1 of a healthcare reform plan;

BE IT RESOLVED that in the interests of openness and transparency, the Legislative Assembly urge the government to table in the Legislative Assembly all phases of its intended health reform measures.

Mr. LePage gave Notice of Motion 64 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS the federal government announced a wage top up program of \$3 billion for essential workers;

WHEREAS under the program, each province could determine which essential workers would receive the top up and how much the top up would be;

WHEREAS the federal government will pay 75% of the costs and the provincial government will pay 25% of the program costs;

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick has significantly limited the categories of essential workers who will receive the top up and determined that any essential worker making over \$18 per hour would not qualify for the program;

WHEREAS this wage cut off in New Brunswick is far more restrictive than many other provinces, which means that far fewer essential workers will qualify for wage top up;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Province of New Brunswick to expand the categories of essential workers who qualify for the wage top up and raise the threshold for qualification to \$18.75.

Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 65 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, including, but not limited to, briefing notes, correspondence, e-mails, texts, agreements, offers, and contracts with respect to all exemptions under the *Procurement Act*, the regulation, and the *Crown Construction Contracts Act*, for the period of March 1, 2020, to June 5, 2020.

Mr. LeBlanc gave Notice of Motion 66 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Thériault:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation, including briefing notes, contracts, agreements, correspondence, e-mails, and texts related to services purchased or contracts awarded to Bonshaw Media, the digital arm of Brunswick News.

Mr. McKee gave Notice of Motion 67 that on Thursday, June 18, 2020, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Horsman:

THAT an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House all documentation including, but not limited to, briefing notes, correspondence, e-mails, texts, agreements, leases, and memorandum related to the decision to move the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench to the Fredericton Convention Centre, including all the costs associated with the decision for the duration of the relocation.

Mr. Arseneault, Opposition House Leader, gave notice that on Thursday, June 11, 2020, Opposition Members' Business would be considered in the following order: Motion 44 and 41.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that, with leave to dispense with notice, it was the intention of government that Bills 42 and 43 be called for second reading.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that Bills 42 and 43 be called for second reading and that if the Bills received second reading, they be considered by the Standing Committee on Economic Policy forthwith.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 42 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 42, *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 43 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 43, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

And then, 1.52 p.m., the House adjourned.