

Daily sitting 34

Thursday, June 3, 2021

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Pursuant to Motion 60, certain Members participated in House proceedings by virtual means.

Hon. Mr. Savoie, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 35 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 35, *An Act Respecting Empowering the School System*, be now read a second time, moved by Ms. Mitton, seconded by Mr. Coon, on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

At 12 p.m. the House recessed. At 1 p.m. the House resumed with Ms. Anderson-Mason, the Deputy Speaker, in the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 20

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Legacy
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Melanson	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Gauvin
Mr. McKee	Mr. LePage	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Harris	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Landry
Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau
Mr. Austin	Ms. Conroy	

NAYS - 23

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. S. Wilson
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Bockus
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Mr. Hogan
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Carr
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Turner
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Mr. Wetmore	

And the question being put that Bill 35 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division after leave was granted to dispense with the ten-minute time allotted for the ringing of the bells:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Green	Mr. Cullins
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Hogan
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Turner
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Austin
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Mr. Wetmore	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. S. Wilson	
Hon. Mr. Holland	Ms. Bockus	

NAYS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Legacy
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Melanson	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Gauvin
Mr. McKee	Mr. LePage	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Harris	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Landry
Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau

Accordingly, Bill 35, *An Act Respecting Empowering the School System*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 2 p.m. the House recessed. At 2.30 p.m. the House resumed with Mr. Speaker in the chair.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend The Residential Tenancies Act*, be now read a second time.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 18 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the negative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 18

Mr. Arseneault	Mr. LeBlanc	Mr. Legacy
Ms. Thériault	Mr. K. Chiasson	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Melanson	Mr. Bourque	Mr. Gauvin
Mr. McKee	Mr. LePage	Mr. Mallet
Ms. Harris	Mr. D'Amours	Mr. Landry
Mr. Coon	Ms. Mitton	Mr. Arseneau

NAYS - 28

Hon. Mr. Holder	Hon. Ms. Green	Ms. Anderson-Mason
Hon. Mr. Savoie	Hon. Ms. Dunn	Mr. Hogan
Hon. Mr. Higgs	Hon. Mr. Cardy	Mr. Stewart
Hon. Mr. Steeves	Hon. Ms. Scott-Wallace	Mr. Ames
Hon. Ms. Shephard	Hon. Mr. Allain	Mr. Carr
Hon. Mr. Flemming	Hon. Ms. Johnson	Mr. Turner
Hon. Mr. Fitch	Mr. Wetmore	Mr. Austin
Hon. Ms. M. Wilson	Ms. S. Wilson	Ms. Conroy
Hon. Mr. Crossman	Ms. Bockus	
Hon. Mr. Holland	Mr. Cullins	

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Mr. Austin moved an amendment to the Bill. Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment out of order.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 63 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act*, was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Savoie moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT pursuant to Standing Rule 42.2(6) Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette Sales Act*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Municipal Elections Act*, be now read a second time.

And after some time, Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson, 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 28, *An Act to Amend the Municipal 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. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 73, Mr. D’Amours moved, seconded by Mr. Arseneault:

WHEREAS, according to the Nurses Association of New Brunswick, the Nurses’ Union, and the CEOs of the health authorities, there is a severe shortage of nurses in the province with serious implications for our health system if the shortage is not addressed;

WHEREAS the health authorities told a Legislative committee that the province has a shortage of 520 nurses per year;

WHEREAS the shortage is estimated to be upwards of 5,000 nurses in the next five years;

WHEREAS, in a move that boggles the mind, the Higgs government cut \$9 million from funding for nurse training;

WHEREAS, despite evidence that shows that NB nurses are amongst the lowest paid in Canada and statistics that show that New Brunswick is losing nurses and nursing graduates to other provinces with better compensation, contracts for nurses and licensed practical nurses have not been finalized and the Premier seems determined to avoid paying nurses a competitive salary;

WHEREAS, while other jurisdictions are offering incentives to nurses and nursing graduates, there is no comprehensive plan, to our knowledge, to attract and retain nurses in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the shortage of nurses has resulted in hospital services having to be reduced or temporarily shut down in hospitals throughout the province;

WHEREAS examples of these hospital service reductions due to nursing shortages include the diversion of ambulances to the Moncton Hospital from the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont Hospital, the shutdown of psychiatric services at the Campbellton hospital to divert nurses elsewhere, the shutdown of pediatric services at the Miramichi hospital to divert nursing resources, the temporary shutdown of obstetrical services at the Bathurst hospital due to nursing shortages, the shutdown of obstetrical services at the Campbellton hospital for a period of 14 months, bed closures at the Saint John Regional Hospital due to nurse shortages and others;

WHEREAS, despite that there is a crisis caused by the nursing shortage, the government has not done anything to address it, leading to speculation that the Premier plans to permanently reduce or shutdown services at hospitals throughout the province and will use the nursing shortage as an excuse for doing so;

WHEREAS the Premier said to nursing home workers who were asking for a better salary “if you want that kind of wage, then Alberta’s where to get it”;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to immediately address the nursing shortage by initiatives such as providing nurses and licensed practical nurses with competitive salaries, investing in more nursing seats, and providing a comprehensive incentive program to attract and retain nurses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Premier to abandon any plans to reduce hospital services throughout the province by attempting to justify them based on a nursing shortage crisis that his government has not been willing to resolve.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. S. Wilson took the chair.

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

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

And then, 6 p.m., the House adjourned.