

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Recess

The Chair declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Called to Order

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 26

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Courtney Reckord, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 780. An act relating to judicial nominations and appointments.

H. 847. An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

S. 85.

On motion of Senator Ingalls, the Committee on Institutions was relieved of further consideration of Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to allowing probation and parole officers to carry firearms while on duty,

and the bill was committed to the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance**S. 301.**

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**S. 220.**

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

An act relating to Vermont's public libraries.

**Message from the Governor
Appointment Referred**

A message was received from the Governor, by Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointment, which were referred to committee as indicated:

The nomination of

Gallagher, Kate T. of Williston - Superior Judge - from March 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 780.

An act relating to judicial nominations and appointments.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 847.

An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bill Passed in Concurrence**H. 469.**

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

An act relating to remote and electronic processes for executing an advance directive.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 187.**

Senator Weeks, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to student application of sunscreen and car seat safety.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1389 is added to read:

§ 1389. POSSESSION AND APPLICATION OF SUNSCREEN

(a) Pursuant to the requirements of this section, each public and approved independent school in the State shall permit students, with the written authorization of a parent or guardian, to possess and self-administer a topical, nonaerosolized sunscreen while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without being required to provide a medical provider's note or prescription or having to store the sunscreen in a specific location. A school shall keep on file a parent's or guardian's written authorization.

(b) School personnel shall not be required to assist students in applying sunscreen and shall not be responsible for ensuring that the sunscreen is applied to the student.

(c) The school and school personnel shall be immune from civil liability for any actions taken in good faith in reliance on the provisions of this section. This section shall not apply to recklessness or intentional misconduct on the part of the school or school personnel.

(d) As used in this section, "sunscreen" means a product regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet-light-induced skin damage.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to student application of sunscreen”

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 302.

Senator Williams, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to public health outreach programs regarding dementia risk.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 6221 is amended to read:

§ 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

(a) The Departments of Health and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall jointly develop and maintain easily accessible electronic, print, and in-person public education materials and programs on Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders that shall serve as a resource for patients, families, caregivers, and health care providers. The Departments shall include information about the State Plan on Aging as well as resources and programs for prevention, care, and support for individuals, families, and communities.

(b)(1) The Departments of Health, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, in consultation with the Commission on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders and other relevant workgroups and community organizations, shall, as part of existing and relevant public health outreach programs:

(A) educate health care providers regarding:

(i) the value of early detection and timely diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia;

(ii) validated assessment tools for the detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease, and other types of dementia;

(iii) the benefits of a Medicare annual wellness visit or other annual physical for an adult 65 years of age or older to screen for Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia;

(iv) the significance of recognizing the family care partner as part of the health care team;

(v) the Medicare care planning billing code for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia; and

(vi) the necessity of ensuring that patients have access to language access services, when appropriate; and

(B) increase public understanding and awareness of:

(i) the early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia; and

(ii) the benefits of early detection and timely diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

(2) In their public health outreach programs and any programming and information developed for providers pertaining to Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform, consistent guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural competency as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 251 and health literacy, specifically targeting populations at higher risk for developing dementia.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Message from the House No. 27

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Courtney Reckord, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 629. An act relating to changes to property tax abatement and tax sales.

H. 694. An act relating to sexual exploitation.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill of the following title:

H. 839. An act relating to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments.

And has adopted the same on its part and ordered the bill delivered to the Governor.

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 164. House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supporting the important work it represents.

H.C.R. 165. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship boys' indoor track and field team.

H.C.R. 166. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning its third consecutive State championship.

H.C.R. 167. House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of U.S. Navy Torpedoman 2nd Class Henry Breault's becoming the first submariner to receive the Medal of Honor.

H.C.R. 168. House concurrent resolution honoring the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington.

H.C.R. 169. House concurrent resolution honoring Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame member Harold Martin, in celebration of Black History Month.

H.C.R. 170. House concurrent resolution honoring Putney Fire Chief Thomas Goddard for his exemplary achievements as a municipal public safety official.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Morgan and others,

H.C.R. 164.

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supporting the important work it represents.

By Reps. Dodge and others,
By Senators Vyhovsky and Wrenner,

H.C.R. 165.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship boys' indoor track and field team.

By Reps. Dodge and others,
By Senators Vyhovsky and Wrenner,

H.C.R. 166.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning its third consecutive State championship.

By Reps. Morgan and others,

H.C.R. 167.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of U.S. Navy Torpedoman 2nd Class Henry Breault's becoming the first submariner to receive the Medal of Honor.

By Rep. Roberts,

H.C.R. 168.

House concurrent resolution honoring the artistic legacy of Skip Morrow and The Art of Humor Gallery in Wilmington.

By Reps. Donahue and others,
By Senators Cummings, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale and Watson,

H.C.R. 169.

House concurrent resolution honoring Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame member Harold Martin, in celebration of Black History Month.

By Rep. Mrowicki,
By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 170.

House concurrent resolution honoring Putney Fire Chief Thomas Goddard for his exemplary achievements as a municipal public safety official.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Clarkson, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 33.