

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 28

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 considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 47. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of two Superior Judges and one Magistrate.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

H. 629.

On motion of Senator Cummings, the Committee on Finance was relieved of further consideration of House bill entitled:

An act relating to changes to property tax abatement and tax sales,
and the bill was committed to the Committee on Government Operations.

Rules Suspended; Bill Not Referred to Committee on Finance

S. 258

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, and, pending referral of the bill to the Committee on Finance pursuant to Senate Rule 31, Senator Baruth moved that the rules be suspended and the Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife.

Not be referred to the Committee on Finance pursuant to Senate Rule 31 (and thereby remain on the Calendar for notice),

Which was agreed to.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. 204. An act relating to reading assessment and intervention.

S. 258. An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife.

**Message from the Governor
Appointments Referred**

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

Bordeau, Christina Marie of South Burlington - Member of the Community High School of Vermont Board - from March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Education.

Bowden, William B. of Burlington - Member of the VT Citizens' Advisory Council on Lake Champlain's Future - from January 10, 2024 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Gomez, Christopher of Rutland - Commissioner of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency - from March 1, 2024 to February 29, 2028.

To the Committee on Finance.

Hardy, Christopher of Orleans - Member of the Community High School of Vermont Board - from November 13, 2023 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Education.

Pepper, James of Montpelier - Chair of the Cannabis Control Board - from March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Senate Resolutions Adopted

Senate resolutions of the following titles were severally offered, read and adopted, and are as follows:

By Senator Baruth,

S.R. 16. Senate resolution relating to concurrently conducted electronic committee meetings.

Resolved by the Senate:

Notwithstanding the language in Permanent Senate Rule 32A limiting the applicability of Senate Rule 32A to Declarations of Emergency, the provisions of Permanent Senate Rule 32A regarding committee meetings shall be in effect through Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

By Senator Baruth,

S.R. 17. Senate resolution relating to electronic participation in Senate Sessions.

Resolved by the Senate:

That temporary Rule 9B(b), be amended as follows:

Rule 9B. Temporary Rule Regarding Electronic Participation in Senate Sessions

* * *

(b) This temporary rule shall remain in effect through ~~Friday, March 1, 2024~~ Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

Bills Passed

Senate bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed:

S. 109. An act relating to Medicaid coverage for doula services.

S. 191. An act relating to New American Advancement Grant Applicants.

Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 41.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was read the third time and adopted on the part of the Senate:

Joint resolution requesting that the U. S. Postal Service reestablish, as rapidly as possible, a full-service U.S. Post Office in downtown Montpelier.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 518.**

Senator Vyhovsky, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 117 (Town of Essex), in section 701 (fiscal year), following the words “first day of July” by striking out the words “and end on the last day of June”

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

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

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, March 14, 2024.