

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mary Bosco, student at Thetford Academy and 3rd place finalist in the 2024 Vermont Poetry Out Loud Contest.

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 98

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority over prescription drug costs

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 54

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 54. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 26, 2024.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 26, 2024, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 206

House concurrent resolution honoring the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden

Offered by: Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction,

Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, and Waters Evans of Charlotte

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, and Wrenner

Whereas, Sally Borden is a veteran advocate and leader at organizations advocating on behalf of the victims and survivors, and their families, of criminal acts, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect, and

Whereas, she graduated with honors from the University of California at Davis and earned a master's degree from Cambridge College in Massachusetts, and

Whereas, her first professional role was as a victim-witness advocate at the Northwestern District Attorney's office in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she was subsequently promoted to a supervisory position, and

Whereas, Sally Borden's responsibilities as Director of Training at the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance entailed supervising statewide training for victim advocacy, and

Whereas, for several years, Sally Borden returned to California, where she served as the Executive Director of the Shelter Against Violent Environments Inc., an organization that provides support services for domestic violence victims and survivors and their children in Alameda County, California, and

Whereas, since 1998, Sally Borden has been associated with the KidSafe Collaborative in Burlington, which works to improve the response to child abuse and neglect, where she initially served as a project director, and, since 2001, as the organization's executive director, and

Whereas, Sally Borden has led or participated in many national and State panels and projects; is the recipient of several honors recognizing her professional excellence and exemplary community roles, including the Antonio B. Pomerleau Medal of Honor; and she is concluding her work at KidSafe Collaborative, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sally Borden and to the KidSafe Collaborative.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 5, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Andrews of Westford**, the following remarks by **Rep. Andriano of Orwell** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Today is April 24, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. On this day in 1915, the Ottoman Empire rounded up hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and political leaders, put them in jail, and later murdered most of them. This was the first salvo in a campaign to eliminate the Armenian people from the face of the Earth.

The Armenians have a slogan about today: ‘We Remember and Demand.’ We remember the 1.5 million that were murdered, and we demand justice for them. We need to do both of those things because either alone is not enough. If we forget, if we remain silent, if we ignore what is happening around us, horrific things happen.

The thing is, we knew. We knew in 1915. We knew and ignored it.

Madam Speaker, may I quote the U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau Sr.’s telegram to the State Department from 1915?

Thank you.

‘Persecution of Armenians assuming unprecedented proportions. Reports from widely scattered districts indicate systematic attempts to uproot peaceful Armenian populations and through arbitrary arrests, terrible tortures, wholesale expulsions and deportations from one end of the Empire to the other, accompanied by frequent instances of rape, pillage, and murder, turning into massacre, to bring destruction and destitution on them.’

We knew and turned a blind eye. We knew and did nothing.

Madam Speaker, in closing, there is a quote about the Armenian genocide, a very famous quote, one that confronts you in large black letters stark against a white wall as you emerge into the sunlight out of the darkness of the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia. I am hesitant to ask permission to read this quote because the man who said its very name is a curse.

But we must remember.

Madam Speaker, may I quote Adolf Hitler?

Thank you.

On August 22, 1939 at Obersalzberg, Adolf Hitler made the following argument to his assembled cronies as they plotted the so-called final solution.

The quote is, ‘Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?’

The fact that the world ignored and forgot the annihilation of one people was later used as a justification for the annihilation of another. The fact that the world ignored the Medz Yeghern—which translates from Armenian as the Great Crime—was used by that horrific man to justify the Shoah.

Genocide begets genocide.

We must remember, and we must demand, because if we don’t, it continues to happen.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide and all other genocides that have so blighted our world.”

**Proposal of Amendment Amended;
Amendment Offered and Withdrawn; Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 209

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting unserialized firearms and unserialized firearms frames and receivers

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Arsenault of Williston**, moved to amend the House proposal of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 4, 13 V.S.A. § 4027, in subdivision (c)(2), after the words “authorized to carry a firearm”, by inserting “or a dangerous or deadly weapon”

Second: In Sec. 5, 17 V.S.A. § 2510, in subdivision (b)(2), after the words “authorized to carry a firearm”, by inserting “or a dangerous or deadly weapon”

Which was agreed to.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Harrison of Chittenden** moved that the House proposal of amendment be amended by striking Sec. 7 in its entirety and adding two new sections to be Secs. 7 and 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

§ 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following powers:

* * *

(8)(A) To regulate or prohibit the use or discharge, but not possession, of firearms within the municipality or specified portions thereof, provided that an ordinance adopted under this subdivision shall be consistent with section 2295 of this title and shall not prohibit, reduce, or limit discharge at any existing sport shooting range, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 5227.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (8), the legislative body of a municipality may adopt an ordinance that prohibits the possession of a firearm within a municipal building or portion of a municipal building. The ordinance may exempt law enforcement officers, security personnel, or similar officers from the prohibition on firearm possession within a municipal building.

* * *

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on February 28, 2025.

(b) Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and this section shall take effect on passage.

Thereupon, **Rep. Harrison of Chittenden** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington** moved to amend the House proposal of amendment by striking out Sec. 7, effective date, in its entirety and adding two new sections to be Secs. 7 and 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. REPORT ON FIREARM IN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS; VERMONT
LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

(a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Office of the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association, shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Government Operations on options for prohibiting firearms in municipal buildings.

(b) The report required by this section shall include recommendations on the following topics:

(1) whether the preferable approach is:

(A) for the General Assembly to pass a statute prohibiting firearms in municipal buildings statewide; or

(B) for municipalities to be provided with the authority to decide whether to pass an ordinance prohibiting firearms in municipal buildings;

(2) whether a statewide prohibition should include a definition of the term “municipal building,” and if so, what that definition should be; and

(3) which municipal buildings should be covered and which should not be covered by a prohibition on possessing firearms in municipal buildings.

(c) As used in this section, “firearm” has the same meaning as in 13 V.S.A. § 4017(d).

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on February 28, 2025.

(b) Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and this section shall take effect on passage.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 191

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall, for the Committee on Education, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to New American educational grant opportunities

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont Student Assistance Corporation * * *

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2846 is amended to read:

§ 2846. ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

(a) The Corporation may establish an advancement grant program for residents pursuing nondegree education and training opportunities who do not

meet the definition of student in subdivision 2822(3) of this title, and who may not meet the requirements of this subchapter.

(b) Advancement grants may be used at institutions that are not approved postsecondary education institutions.

(c) The Corporation may adopt rules or establish policies, procedures, standards, and forms for advancement grants, including the requirements for applying for and using the grants and the eligibility requirements for the institutions where the grants may be used. Such rules shall be consistent with subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, applicants shall not be ineligible for the advancement grant solely on account of the applicant's residency status under subdivision 2822(7) of this title if that applicant:

(1) qualifies as a refugee pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42) (definition of refugee);

(2) is granted parole to enter the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) (temporary admission of nonimmigrants for urgent humanitarian reasons); or

(3) is issued a special immigrant visa pursuant to the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-8 (8 U.S.C. § 1101 note), as amended.

Sec. 2. INCENTIVE GRANT ELIGIBILITY; RESIDENCY

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, applicants shall not be ineligible for the Vermont incentive grant program under 16 V.S.A. §§ 2841–2844 solely on account of that person's residency status if the applicant:

(1) qualifies as a refugee pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42) (definition of refugee);

(2) is granted parole to enter the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) (temporary admission of nonimmigrants for urgent humanitarian reasons); or

(3) is issued a special immigrant visa pursuant to the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-8 (8 U.S.C. § 1101 note), as amended.

(b) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2027.

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 2828 is added to read:

§ 2828. FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a resident who is otherwise eligible for a State-funded financial aid program administered by the

Corporation shall not be ineligible solely on the basis of such resident's immigration status under federal law.

(b) The Corporation shall establish procedures and forms that enable residents eligible under subsection (a) of this section to apply for, and participate in, all State-funded student financial aid programs administered by the Corporation for which such residents are eligible to the full extent permitted by federal law. The Corporation may collect such information as is necessary to confirm eligibility for participation in programs administered by the Corporation.

(c) The Corporation may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) The Corporation shall include information regarding the impact of this section and the number of students who receive financial aid pursuant to this section in its biannual report to the General Assembly pursuant to subsection 2835(c) of this title.

* * * Vermont State Colleges Corporation * * *

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2185 is amended to read:

§ 2185. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

(a) The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements. Any policies adopted by the Board shall not discriminate against or exclude a person based solely on the person's immigration status, or lack thereof, if such person would otherwise qualify for and meet requirements for Vermont residency for tuition purposes as set forth by the Board and as permitted under federal law.

(b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who is transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of education shall, upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in Vermont, be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic period.

(c) For determination of residency for tuition to the Community College of Vermont, a person who resides in Vermont shall be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes, beginning at the start of the next semester or academic period after arrival in Vermont, if that person:

(1) qualifies as a refugee pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42) (Immigration and Nationality Act definition of refugee);

(2) is granted parole to enter the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) (temporary admission of nonimmigrants for urgent humanitarian reasons); or

(3) is issued a special immigrant visa pursuant to the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-8 (8 U.S.C. § 1101 note), as amended.

* * *

(e) Except as otherwise provided by law, or by consent of the individual identified in the record, information collected pursuant to this section that directly or indirectly identifies applicants or students, including grant, loan, scholarship, or outreach programs, is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

* * * University of Vermont and State Agricultural College * * *

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 2282a is amended to read:

§ 2282a. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

(a) Enrollment at an institution for higher learning, or presence within the State for the purposes of attending an institution of higher learning, shall not by itself constitute residence for in-state tuition purposes or for the purpose of eligibility for assistance from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements. Any policies adopted by the Board of Trustees shall not discriminate against or exclude a person based solely on the person's immigration status, or lack thereof, if such person would otherwise qualify for and meet requirements for Vermont residency for tuition purposes as set forth by the Board and as permitted under federal law.

* * *

(d) Except as otherwise provided by law, or by consent of the individual identified in the record, information collected pursuant to this section that directly or indirectly identifies applicants or students, including grant, loan, scholarship, or outreach programs, is exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 1 (advancement grants) and 2 (incentive grants) shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

(b) Secs. 3 (financial aid), 4 (Vermont State Colleges Corporation in-state tuition), and 5 (University of Vermont and State Agricultural College in-state tuition) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Education agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Favorable Reports; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 881

Rep. Hooper of Burlington, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington

Reported in favor of its passage.

Rep. Anthony of Barre City, for the Committee on Ways and Means, reported in favor of its passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 40

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to nonconsensual removal of or tampering with a condom

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 1043 is added to read:

§ 1043. NONCONSENSUAL REMOVAL OF OR TAMPERING WITH A
CONDOM

(a) No person shall intentionally and without consent remove or tamper with a condom prior to or during a sexual act in a manner likely to render it ineffective for its common purpose when consent to the sexual act is given by the other person with the explicit understanding that a condom would be used.

(b) A person harmed by a violation of subsection (a) of this section may bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court for compensatory damages, punitive damages, and reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

(c) An action under subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to the statute of limitations in section 511 of this title.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 563

House bill, entitled

An act relating to criminal motor vehicle offenses involving unlawful trespass, theft, or unauthorized operation

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Burditt of West Rutland**, action on the bill was postponed until April 25, 2024.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 861

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4100l is amended to read:

§ 4100l. COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY
AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE

* * *

(b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the home by home health agencies.

(2)(A) A health insurance plan shall provide the same reimbursement rate for services billed using equivalent procedure codes and modifiers, subject to the terms of the health insurance plan and provider contract, regardless of

whether the service was provided through an in-person visit with the health care provider or by audio-only telephone.

(B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply in the event that a health insurer and health care provider enter into a value-based contract for health care services that include care delivered by audio-only telephone.

(c) A health insurance plan may charge an otherwise permissible deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance for a health care service delivered by audio-only telephone, provided that it does not exceed the deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

~~(3)~~(d) A health insurance plan shall not require a health care provider to have an existing relationship with a patient in order to be reimbursed for health care services delivered by audio-only telephone.

Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET

2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2), telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 1(a)(1) is amended to read:

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may approve an application by a municipality for reimbursement of State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, prior to ~~April~~ November 15, 2024, a municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax, under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025, except this section and Sec. 3 (extension for flood abatement reimbursement) shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone and extending time for flood abatement reimbursement

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 887**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation

Was taken up and read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 101. Nays, 39.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford *	Dodge of Essex	Mrowicki of Putney
Andriano of Orwell	Dolan of Essex Junction	Nicoll of Ludlow
Anthony of Barre City	Dolan of Waitsfield	Notte of Rutland City
Arsenault of Williston	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Noyes of Wolcott
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Nugent of South Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Berbeco of Winooski	Garofano of Essex	Ode of Burlington
Birong of Vergennes	Goldman of Rockingham	Pajala of Londonderry
Black of Essex	Headrick of Burlington	Patt of Worcester
Bluemle of Burlington	Holcombe of Norwich *	Pouech of Hinesburg
Bongartz of Manchester	Hooper of Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Houghton of Essex Junction	Rachelson of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Howard of Rutland City	Rice of Dorset
Brady of Williston *	Hyman of South Burlington	Roberts of Halifax
Brown of Richmond	James of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Brownell of Pownal	Jerome of Brandon	Scheu of Middlebury
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Burke of Brattleboro	Krasnow of South Burlington	Sibilia of Dover
Burrows of West Windsor	Lalley of Shelburne	Sims of Craftsbury
Buss of Woodstock	LaLonde of South Burlington	Small of Winooski
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	LaMont of Morristown	Squirrell of Underhill
Carpenter of Hyde Park	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stebbins of Burlington
Carroll of Bennington	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Stevens of Waterbury
Casey of Montpelier	Logan of Burlington	Stone of Burlington
Chapin of East Montpelier	Long of Newfane *	Surprenant of Barnard
Chase of Chester	Masland of Thetford	Taylor of Colchester
Chase of Colchester	McCann of Montpelier	Templeman of Brownington
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cina of Burlington	McGill of Bridport	Torre of Moretown
Coffey of Guilford	Mihaly of Calais	Troiano of Stannard *
Cole of Hartford	Minier of South Burlington	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Conlon of Cornwall		White of Bethel
Cordes of Lincoln		Whitman of Bennington
		Williams of Barre City

Demrow of Corinth

Morris of Springfield

Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arrison of Weathersfield

Graham of Williamstown

McFaun of Barre Town

Bartley of Fairfax *

Gregoire of Fairfield

Morgan of Milton

Beck of St. Johnsbury

Hango of Berkshire

Morrissey of Bennington

Branagan of Georgia

Harrison of Chittenden

Page of Newport City

Brennan of Colchester

Higley of Lowell

Parsons of Newbury

Burditt of West Rutland

Hooper of Randolph

Peterson of Clarendon

Canfield of Fair Haven

Labor of Morgan

Quimby of Lyndon

Corcoran of Bennington

LaBounty of Lyndon

Shaw of Pittsford

Demar of Enosburgh

Laroche of Franklin

Smith of Derby

Dickinson of St. Albans

Lipsky of Stowe

Taylor of Milton

Town

Maguire of Rutland City

Toof of St. Albans Town *

Donahue of Northfield

Marcotte of Coventry

Williams of Granby

Galfetti of Barre Town *

Mattos of Milton

Goslant of Northfield

McCoy of Poultney

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Christie of Hartford

Graning of Jericho

Sammis of Castleton

Clifford of Rutland City

Oliver of Sheldon

Walker of Swanton

Elder of Starksboro

Pearl of Danville

Rep. Andrews of Westford explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes to responsibly fund this year’s Education Fund as approved by Vermont voters and to also responsibly consider the best path forward to finance an equitable, high quality education system.”

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This bill is not a solution, it is only a Band-Aid that won’t even stop the bleed.”

Rep. Brady of Williston explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because we must transform our system in Vermont into a right-sized, strong public education system that supports all students and uses our precious statewide resources sustainably and efficiently. Coherent change that truly supports students and schools with a common vision and much needed financial predictability will take time and extraordinarily political will by all of us. In this bill, the Commission on the Future of Public Education is an important and real incremental step toward true transformation.”

Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted no on this bill because this body had many, many, opportunities to save Vermonter’s money last session; instead most chose to engage in reckless spending – spending that has continued this session and resulted in this onerous and unnecessary tax hike imposed on struggling Vermonters.”

Rep. Holcombe of Norwich explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am voting yes, not because I am happy with this bill, which is not adequate to the challenge we face. It falls short of what our children and communities need, but I stand with colleagues to send a message to the Senate that we will not support a worse bill and to give us time to address the real drivers of cost and design a system that provides for the bright future that our children deserve.”

Rep. Long of Newfane explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on H.887 because it strikes an important balance. It helps Vermont taxpayers in the short run, and it lays the groundwork for necessary transformation in the long run.”

Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote no because this is just another tax, spend, and study bill.”

Rep. Troiano of Stannard explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes. Raising revenues to offset school property tax increases is the right thing to do. We cannot shortchange our students with unacceptable budget cuts.”

**Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar
Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**

S. 259

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to climate change cost recovery

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Message from the Senate No. 51

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has adopted a proposed amendment to the Vermont Constitution entitled:

Prop 4. Declaration of rights; government for the people; equality of rights.

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

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 247. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 649. An act relating to the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered joint resolution originating in the House of the following title:

J.R.H. 10. Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Girls State educational program to use the State House facilities on June 27, 2024.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 22nd day of April, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 190. An act relating to statements made by a child victim of an offense involving serious bodily injury.

S. 278. An act relating to prohibiting a comparative negligence defense in an action for a negligence claim relating to a sexual act or sexual conduct.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and thirteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.