

# Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 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. 7

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 a House bill of the following title:

**H. 560.** An act relating to making technical corrections to workers' compensation rulemaking requirements.

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

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

**J.R.S. 37.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 19, 2024.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

**Rules Suspended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed;  
Bill Messaged**

## S. 160.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to State education property taxes and flood-related damage.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported the bill ought to pass.

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported the bill ought to pass.

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

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its passage.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

### **Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**

#### **J.R.S. 38.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 38.** Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

#### ***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect an Adjutant and Inspector General to serve a two-year term commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2026, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to serve four-year terms commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2028. In case such election shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until said vacancy is filled.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

### **Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**

#### **J.R.S. 39.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 39.** Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2024.

*Whereas*, in recent years it has become increasingly necessary to shorten the length of time spent by the General Assembly in joint session for the election of various officials, and

*Whereas*, if elections for multiple vacancies were to be decided by a plurality vote, then a great savings of time can be effectuated, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That, notwithstanding the current provisions of Joint Rule 10, and for this election only, the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation at a Joint Assembly to be held on February 15, 2024, shall be governed by the following procedure:

(1) All candidates for the office of Trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be two.

(2) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the two vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the Trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for a vacant position, then voting shall continue on successive ballots for the unfilled position until the vacancy has been filled by election declared of the candidate receiving the larger number of votes.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

**Bill Referred**

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

**H. 560.**

An act relating to making technical corrections to workers' compensation rulemaking requirements.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

**Message from the House No. 8**

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 a House bill of the following title:

**H. 599.** An act relating to retroactively reinstating 10 V.S.A. § 6081(b).

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

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

**H.C.R. 136.** House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

**H.C.R. 137.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' soccer team on completing an outstanding, undefeated season.

**H.C.R. 138.** House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of the Vermont State Parks.

**H.C.R. 139.** House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of Mt. Anthony Masonic Lodge No. 13.

**H.C.R. 140.** House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative John C. Candon of Norwich.

**H.C.R. 141.** House concurrent resolution honoring Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service.

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. Sabilia and others,

#### **H.C.R. 136.**

House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2024 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

By Reps. Branagan and others,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

#### **H.C.R. 137.**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' soccer team on completing an outstanding, undefeated season.

By Reps. Roberts and others,  
By Senators Brock and Norris,

**H.C.R. 138.**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial of the Vermont State Parks.

By Reps. Morrissey and others,  
By Senators Campion and Sears,

**H.C.R. 139.**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of Mt. Anthony Masonic Lodge No. 13.

By Reps. Holcombe and Masland,  
By Senators Clarkson, McCormack and White,

**H.C.R. 140.**

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative John C. Candon of Norwich.

By the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,  
By the Senate Committee on Government Operations,

**H.C.R. 141.**

House concurrent resolution honoring Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 37.