

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 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. 40

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. 657. An act relating to the modernization of Vermont's communications taxes and fees.

H. 829. An act relating to long-term housing solutions.

H. 871. An act relating to the development of an updated State aid to school construction program.

H. 875. An act relating to the State Ethics Commission and the State Code of Ethics.

H. 879. An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program.

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

Bills Referred

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

H. 657.

An act relating to the modernization of Vermont's communications taxes and fees.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 829.

An act relating to long-term housing solutions.

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

H. 871.

An act relating to the development of an updated State aid to school construction program.

To the Committee on Education.

H. 875.

An act relating to the State Ethics Commission and the State Code of Ethics.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

H. 879.

An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bill Amended, Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Bill Messaged

H. 543.

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

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Senator McCormack, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported the bill out to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senators Kitchel and Lyons moved to propose to the House to amend the bill by adding a new Sec. 3 and a Sec. 4 after the existing Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; EMERGENCY HOUSING ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION

It is the intent of the General Assembly that in fiscal year 2024 documentation of a qualifying disability or health condition pursuant to 2024

Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 89(b) shall require the certification of a health care provider as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481.

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 89(b) is amended to read:

(b) A household that is otherwise eligible for temporary emergency housing pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, but for the inability to qualify for or document receipt of SSI or SSDI, may use ~~the Department's Emergency Housing Disability Variance Request Form~~ a form developed by the Department as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition that requires:

(1) the applicant's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the applicant's social security number;

(2) a description of the applicant's disability or health condition;

(3) a description of the risk posed to the applicant's health, safety, or welfare if temporary emergency housing is not authorized pursuant to this section; and

(4) a certification of a health care provider, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481, that includes the provider's credentials, credential number, address, and phone number.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, was agreed to.

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

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

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

Message from the House No. 41

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. 862. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre.

H. 874. An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education laws.

H. 876. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the corrections laws.

H. 882. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

H. 884. An act relating to the modernization of governance for the St. Albans Cemetery Association.

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

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

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.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption 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. 51. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 5, 2024.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.