

Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Jon Gailmor, Singer, Elmore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Margaret Platzner of New Haven led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of the bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee as follows:

H. 683

By Rep. Bongartz of Manchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to modernizing the State Designated Areas Program

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 684

By Reps. Williams of Barre City, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chase of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, LaLonde of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Nugent of South Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Rice of Dorset, Satcowitz of Randolph, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a rental housing registry

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 685

By Reps. Lalley of Shelburne, Andrews of Westford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bongartz of Manchester, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Waitsfield, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, LaMont of Morristown, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to pedestrians and pedestrian safety and bicycle and pedestrian facilities

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 686

By Reps. Bartley of Fairfax, Cina of Burlington, Elder of Starksboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Andriano of Orwell, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Garofano of Essex, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, LaBounty of Lyndon, Lalley of Shelburne, LaMont of Morristown, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, Mattos of Milton, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Sims of Craftsbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Troiano of Stannard, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to measuring progress toward statewide and regional housing targets

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 687

By Reps. Sheldon of Middlebury and Bongartz of Manchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 688

By Reps. Stebbins of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City, Burke of Brattleboro, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Rice of Dorset, and Satcowitz of Randolph,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to including rechargeable batteries and battery-containing products under the State battery stewardship program

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 689

By Reps. Hango of Berkshire and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to child abuse and neglect allegations involving military personnel

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 690

By Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Dolan of Essex Junction, Headrick of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Small of Winooski, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing community restitution as a sentencing alternative

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 691

By Reps. Andrews of Westford, Dodge of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Berbeco of Winooski, Brumsted of Shelburne, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Logan of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Stebbins of Burlington, and Templeman of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exempting veterans from paying town fees for a license to peddle or vend goods

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 692

By Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to encouraging the sale of homes to buyers who are financing

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 693

By Reps. Coffey of Guilford, Burke of Brattleboro, Andrews of Westford, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, McCann of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset,

Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Toleno of Brattleboro, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to 2024 transportation initiatives to improve infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce carbon emissions

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 694

By Reps. Emmons of Springfield and Arsenault of Williston,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to sexual exploitation

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 695

By Reps. Higley of Lowell, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of West Rutland, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Clifford of Rutland City, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of Lyndon, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, Morgan of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Peterson of Clarendon, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of Castleton, Shaw of Pittsford, Sims of Craftsbury, Smith of Derby, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, and Wilson of Lyndon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to survivor benefits for law enforcement officers

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 696

By Rep. Brumsted of Shelburne,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Critical Incident Review Team

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 697

By Reps. Austin of Colchester, Buss of Woodstock, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Ode of Burlington, Roberts of Halifax, Stebbins of Burlington, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the advancement of literacy instruction

To the Committee on Education.

H. 698

By Rep. Shaw of Pittsford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the governance and transformation of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation

To the Committee on Education.

H. 699

By Rep. Minier of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the availability of menstrual products in schools

To the Committee on Education.

H. 700

By Reps. Hango of Berkshire, Birong of Vergennes, and Sibia of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Armed Services Scholarships

To the Committee on Education.

H. 701

By Reps. Demrow of Corinth and Beck of St. Johnsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont earned income tax credit and the Vermont child tax credit

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 702

By Reps. Brumsted of Shelburne, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Leavitt of Grand Isle, McCarthy of St. Albans City, and Walker of Swanton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to legislative operations and government accountability

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 703

By Reps. McGill of Bridport, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Brumsted of Shelburne, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Gregoire of Fairfield, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset, Small of Winooski, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to 3SquaresVT

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 704

By Rep. Garofano of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to disclosure of compensation in job advertisements

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 705

By Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Andrews of Westford, Black of Essex, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brownell of Pownal, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Harrison of Chittenden, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of Castleton, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to opioid overdose response training and the distribution of opioid antagonists

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 706

By Reps. Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Anthony of Barre City, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Bongartz of Manchester, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dolan of Waitsfield, Headrick of Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morris of Springfield, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Patt of Worcester, Rice of Dorset, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 707

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry and Jerome of Brandon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to revising the delivery and governance of the Vermont

workforce system

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 708

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry and Jerome of Brandon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of a forgivable loan track within VEGI program and repealing the VEGI sunset

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 709

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Anthony of Barre City, Christie of Hartford, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Templeman of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating the Office of Entrepreneurship and other programs pertaining to entrepreneurs

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 710

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Anthony of Barre City, Burrows of West Windsor, Chase of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Jerome of Brandon, Masland of Thetford, Roberts of Halifax, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Templeman of Brownington, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to regulating developers and deployers of certain artificial intelligence systems

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 711

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Burrows of West Windsor, Chase of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Jerome of Brandon, Masland of Thetford, Roberts of Halifax, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Templeman of Brownington, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating oversight and liability standards for developers and deployers of inherently dangerous artificial intelligence systems

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 712

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Buss of Woodstock, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Casey of Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Jerome of Brandon, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Stebbins of Burlington, and Templeman of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to age-appropriate design code

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 713

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Anthony of Barre City, Howard of Rutland City, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a 32-hour workweek

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 714

By Reps. Garofano of Essex, Andrews of Westford, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Brumsted of Shelburne, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hyman of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Roberts of Halifax, Small of Winooski, Templeman of Brownington, Torre of Moretown, and Whitman of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to bolstering child and youth voices in Vermont

To the Committee on Human Services.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 128

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments

Offered by: Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Birong of Vergennes, Sibilia of Dover, Austin of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Brumsted of Shelburne, Cina of Burlington, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Rachelson of Burlington, Smith of Derby, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Taylor of Colchester, Williams of Granby, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Hardy, Ram Hinsdale, Williams, and Wrenner

Whereas, Deputy Adjutant General Ken Gragg began his military service in 1978 with a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, and

Whereas, as a Vermont National Guard (VTNG) member from 1982–2008, he served as Supervisor and Superintendent of the Munitions Storage Area, Chief of Security Forces, and as Command Chief Master Sergeant, and

Whereas, from 2001–2014, Ken Gragg was employed at the Williston Law Enforcement Support Center of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, where he served as Director of Financial Operations, and

Whereas, for the past decade, Ken Gragg has served honorably at the Vermont Department of Military Affairs, first, from 2014–2018, as Financial Director, where, in 2015, he enabled the Department to earn its first clean financial audit, and since 2018, as the Vermont Deputy Adjutant General, and

Whereas, his skill and leadership were essential in the planning and financing of many significant departmental construction projects, and

Whereas, Ken Gragg's effective advocacy and professional partnership with the VTNG and Veterans' Affairs Legislative Caucus were important factors in the General Assembly's adoption of an improved VTNG Tuition Benefit Program, a revision of the State's VTNG laws, and a more reliable capital funding stream, and

Whereas, as Deputy Adjutant General, he coordinated the rapid construction of a temporary 400-bed Alternate Health Care Facility in response to COVID-19, and

Whereas, Ken Gragg is concluding his service as Deputy Adjutant General with great distinction, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg.

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

Message from the Senate No. 4

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 on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 36. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 12, 2024.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and twenty-eight minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.