

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Vegan Aharonian, Karme Choling Retreat Center, Barnet.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Adelynne Cimonetti of Shrewsbury led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 199

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to mergers and governance of communications union districts

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), materially affecting the revenues of one or more municipalities, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 164

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Morgan of Milton, Hango of Berkshire, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Graham of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon, Sims of Craftsbury, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Williams of Granby

Whereas, many Americans and Vermonters may not be aware that there are more than 1.6 million children of U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, family pressures are magnified for children who remain stateside when a parent is deployed abroad, and the children of the approximately 1,000 Vermont National Guard personnel who may be deployed over the course of a year experience this disruption firsthand, and

Whereas, military children's frequent relocation and corresponding lack of long-term community stability present them with an unwelcome distraction, and

Whereas, in 1986, the U.S. Department of Defense first designated April as the Month of the Military Child, and this annual event is part of a year-round initiative that brightens and improves these children's lives, and

Whereas, related programs include the national Military Kids Connect, partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H Clubs, and Sesame Street for Military Families, as well as many local activities that offices such as the Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services administer, and

Whereas, as part of this special month, April 17, 2024 will be Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, an opportunity for Americans to show solidarity with military families by wearing purple, a color that symbolizes all branches of the military, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard Office of Child & Youth Services.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 1, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 869

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the merger of Brandon Fire District No. 1 and Brandon Fire District No. 2

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 543**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction**, action on the bill was postponed until April 11, 2024.

Message from the Senate No. 44

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. 52. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 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 one o'clock in the afternoon.