

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 11, 2024

At one o'clock in the afternoon, **Rep. Long of Newfane** called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Karen Johnston, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 30

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a Sister State Program

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 211

House concurrent resolution designating April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Jerome of Brandon, Carroll of Bennington, Chase of Chester, Graning of Jericho, Marcotte of Coventry, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Priestley of Bradford, Sammis of Castleton, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City

Whereas, Vermont is a global destination for dining, lodging, art, history, and outdoor recreation, and this creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and incentivizes Vermonters to stay, and

Whereas, tourism and hospitality are vital to the sustainability of rural and urban communities alike across all 14 of Vermont's counties, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Travel Association, in 2023, tourists spent \$3 billion in Vermont, a \$200 million increase over the prior year, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Labor has reported that, through September 2023, 11.5 percent of the State's workforce was employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, consisting of 30,287 persons in accommodations and food services and 5,356 individuals in arts and recreation, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Taxes has estimated that through most of 2023, tourism-related tax revenue equaled \$417,300,000, and

Whereas, the Vermont Ski Areas Association tallied 4,134,832 skier visits for the season ending in the spring of 2023, a marked expansion over the 3,762,047 visits for the prior season, and

Whereas, meaningful representation and inclusion are essential to ensure that Vermont is welcoming to everyone so that all people, regardless of background, can experience the joy of visiting the State, and

Whereas, industry leaders embody destination stewardship as they center community values in their work, and

Whereas, the strong and positive impact of tourism on Vermont's economy is cause for great celebration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and to Ski Vermont.

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 213

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary

Offered by: Representative Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, every U.S. state and territory has an agency to finance the construction of affordable housing, and, on April 11, 1974, Governor Salmon signed the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Act, which became Act 260, and

Whereas, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency's (VHFA) mission is to "finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters," and

Whereas, since 1974, VHFA has assisted 31,000 home buyers and supported the development of 9,600 affordable apartments, and

Whereas, VHFA is a strong partner to the lenders, municipalities, utilities, developers, real estate professionals, investors, and each branch of government, and

Whereas, several housing shocks—including the Great Recession, Tropical Storm Irene, COVID-19, an increasing number of natural disasters, inflation, and varying interest rates—put pressure on housing affordability, accessibility, and safety, and VHFA deftly navigated through these crises, and

Whereas, recently, VHFA rose to address the State’s evolving housing needs, launching several new programs, including expanding access to weatherization; paying off mortgage, utility, and tax arrearages; funding for-sale home construction; expanding employer-supported housing; and supporting first-generation homebuyers, and

Whereas, VHFA started the Vermont Housing Investment Fund in 2020, which has already added \$17 million in philanthropic, federal, and in-state funding to address critical housing funding gaps, and

Whereas, the Agency provides crucial data, tools, and resources for the State and local communities through its Vermont Housing Data website and regular publications, and

Whereas, VHFA operates through its values of integrity, innovation, belonging, and equity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the VHFA.

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

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 543

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

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

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 proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Amendments to Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence With Proposal of Amendment**

S. 25

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to regulating cosmetic and menstrual products containing certain chemicals and chemical classes and textiles and athletic turf fields containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Higley of Lowell and Marcotte of Coventry** moved that the House Proposal of Amendment be amended as follows:

In Sec. 2, 9 V.S.A. § 2494b, in subsection (e), by striking out "five" and inserting in lieu thereof "ten"

Speaker presiding.

Pending the question, Shall the House amend its proposal of amendment as offered by Rep. Higley of Lowell and Rep. Marcotte of Coventry?, **Rep. Cole of Hartford** 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 House amend its proposal of amendment as offered by Rep. Higley of Lowell and Rep. Marcotte of Coventry?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 101. Nays, 28.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Dolan of Essex Junction	City
Anthony of Barre City	Dolan of Waitsfield	McCoy of Poultney
Arrison of Weathersfield	Donahue of Northfield	McFaun of Barre Town
Arsenault of Williston	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mihaly of Calais
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Minier of South Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Galfetti of Barre Town	Morris of Springfield
Bartley of Fairfax	Garofano of Essex	Morrissey of Bennington
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Goldman of Rockingham	Mrowicki of Putney
Birong of Vergennes	Goslant of Northfield	Nicoll of Ludlow
Black of Essex	Graham of Williamstown	Notte of Rutland City
Bluemle of Burlington	Graning of Jericho	Noyes of Wolcott
Bongartz of Manchester	Gregoire of Fairfield	Ode of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Hango of Berkshire	Page of Newport City
Bradley of Williston	Harrison of Chittenden	Pajala of Londonderry
Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Pearl of Danville
Brown of Richmond	Holcombe of Norwich	Peterson of Clarendon
Brownell of Pownal	Hooper of Burlington	Quimby of Lyndon
Brumsted of Shelburne	Houghton of Essex Junction	Roberts of Halifax
Burditt of West Rutland	Howard of Rutland City	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Scheu of Middlebury
Burrows of West Windsor	Jerome of Brandon	Shaw of Pittsford
Buss of Woodstock	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Labor of Morgan	Smith of Derby
Canfield of Fair Haven	LaBounty of Lyndon	Squirrell of Underhill
Carpenter of Hyde Park	Lalley of Shelburne	Stevens of Waterbury
Carroll of Bennington	LaLonde of South	Taylor of Milton
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Burlington	Taylor of Colchester
Coffey of Guilford	Lanpher of Vergennes	Toleno of Brattleboro
Conlon of Cornwall	Laroche of Franklin	Toof of St. Albans Town
Demar of Enosburgh	Long of Newfane	Troiano of Stannard
Demrow of Corinth	Maguire of Rutland City	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	White of Bethel
Dodge of Essex	Masland of Thetford	Williams of Barre City
	Mattos of Milton	Williams of Granby
	McCarthy of St. Albans	Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Berbeco of Winooski	Hyman of South Burlington	Sammis of Castleton
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Bos-Lun of Westminster	Krasnow of South	Sims of Craftsbury
Casey of Montpelier	Burlington	Small of Winooski
Christie of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Stebbins of Burlington
Cina of Burlington	McGill of Bridport	Stone of Burlington
Cole of Hartford	Nugent of South Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard
Corcoran of Bennington	Pouech of Hinesburg	Templeman of Brownington
Cordes of Lincoln	Priestley of Bradford	Torre of Moretown
Elder of Starksboro	Rachelson of Burlington	Whitman of Bennington
Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Rice of Dorset	

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

Andriano of Orwell	Hooper of Randolph	Oliver of Sheldon
Brennan of Colchester	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Parsons of Newbury
Chapin of East Montpelier	Lipsky of Stowe	Patt of Worcester
Chase of Chester	Logan of Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Chase of Colchester	McCann of Montpelier	Walker of Swanton
Clifford of Rutland City	Morgan of Milton	
Headrick of Burlington	O'Brien of Tunbridge	

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Whitman of Bennington** moved that the House Proposal of Amendment be further amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12, in section 2494b, in subsection (b), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Second: In Sec. 3, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12a, in section 2494n, in the first sentence of subsection (a) and in subdivision (a)(2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Third: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494s, in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Fourth: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494t, in subsection (a), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Fifth: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494u, in subsection (a), in subdivision (2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Sixth: In Sec. 8, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12c, in section 2494z, in subsection (a), in subdivision (2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Seventh: In Sec. 9, community engagement plan, in subsection (b), by striking out “members of communities” and inserting in lieu thereof “individuals with shared characteristics”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read a third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Whitman of Bennington** 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 in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 130. Nays, 0.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morris of Springfield
Anthony of Barre City	Elder of Starksboro	Morrissey of Bennington
Arrison of Weathersfield	Emmons of Springfield	Mrowicki of Putney
Arsenault of Williston	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Nicoll of Ludlow
Austin of Colchester	Galfetti of Barre Town	Notte of Rutland City
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Noyes of Wolcott
Bartley of Fairfax	Goldman of Rockingham	Nugent of South Burlington
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Goslant of Northfield	Ode of Burlington
Berbeco of Winooski	Graham of Williamstown	Page of Newport City
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Pajala of Londonderry
Black of Essex	Gregoire of Fairfield	Pearl of Danville
Bluemle of Burlington	Hango of Berkshire	Peterson of Clarendon
Bongartz of Manchester	Harrison of Chittenden	Pouech of Hinesburg
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Higley of Lowell	Priestley of Bradford
Boyden of Cambridge	Holcombe of Norwich	Quimby of Lyndon
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Branagan of Georgia	Houghton of Essex Junction	Rice of Dorset
Brown of Richmond *	Howard of Rutland City	Roberts of Halifax *
Brownell of Pownal	Hyman of South Burlington	Sammis of Castleton
Brumsted of Shelburne	James of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burditt of West Rutland	Jerome of Brandon	Scheu of Middlebury
Burke of Brattleboro	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Shaw of Pittsford
Burrows of West Windsor	Krasnow of South	Sheldon of Middlebury
Buss of Woodstock	Burlington	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Labor of Morgan	Sims of Craftsbury
Canfield of Fair Haven	LaBounty of Lyndon	Small of Winooski
Carpenter of Hyde Park	Lalley of Shelburne	Smith of Derby
Carroll of Bennington	LaLonde of South	Squirrell of Underhill
Casey of Montpelier	Burlington	Stebbins of Burlington
Chesnut-Tangerman of	LaMont of Morristown	Stevens of Waterbury
Middletown Springs	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stone of Burlington
Christie of Hartford	Laroche of Franklin	Surprenant of Barnard
Cina of Burlington	Lipsky of Stowe	Taylor of Milton
Coffey of Guilford	Long of Newfane	Taylor of Colchester
Cole of Hartford	Maguire of Rutland City	Templeman of Brownington

Corcoran of Bennington	Marcotte of Coventry	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cordes of Lincoln	Masland of Thetford	Toof of St. Albans Town
Demar of Enosburgh	Mattos of Milton	Torre of Moretown
Demrow of Corinth	McCarthy of St. Albans	Troiano of Stannard
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	City	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dodge of Essex	McCoy of Poultney	White of Bethel
Dolan of Essex Junction	McFaun of Barre Town	Whitman of Bennington
Dolan of Waitsfield *	McGill of Bridport	Williams of Barre City
Donahue of Northfield	Mihaly of Calais	Williams of Granby
	Minier of South Burlington	Wood of Waterbury *

Those who voted in the negative are: none

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

Andriano of Orwell	Conlon of Cornwall	Morgan of Milton
Brennan of Colchester	Headrick of Burlington	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Chapin of East Montpelier	Hooper of Randolph	Oliver of Sheldon
Chase of Chester	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Parsons of Newbury
Chase of Colchester	Logan of Burlington	Patt of Worcester
Clifford of Rutland City	McCann of Montpelier	Walker of Swanton

Rep. Brown of Richmond explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

S.25 takes an important additional step to protect Vermonters from PFAs and the associated health risks. By prohibiting these chemicals in personal care products, textiles, artificial turf, and cookware, we act to protect public health and the environment with more work still ahead of us.”

Rep. Dolan of Waitsfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I support this bill as an important next step for Vermont to reduce public exposure to harmful PFA chemicals, known disturbingly as ‘forever chemicals.’”

Rep. Roberts of Halifax explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Ever wonder why so many of our cats and dogs are getting cancer? Because the ‘forever chemicals’ are themselves bonded so strongly. PFA treatments don’t stick well to textiles, carpeting, and consumer goods. Research shows that chemicals like these end up in household dust, making pets and babies the canaries in today’s coal mines. But in working with building product manufacturers, I’ve found they don’t want to poison their

customers and they don't want to include ineffective chemical treatments in their product formulations. S.25 is a standardized, scientific regulation that manufacturers can procure against and clean up their own supply chains.”

Rep. Wood of Waterbury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I enthusiastically cast my vote in favor of S.25 to reduce hazardous chemicals from our environment and our bodies.”

Adjournment

At two o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.