

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Karen Mendes of Burlington.

Message from the House No. 23

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

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

J.R.S. 15. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the House No. 24

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House bill entitled:

H. 145. An act relating to fiscal year 2023 budget adjustments.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The Speaker appointed as members of such Committee on the part of the House:

Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes
Rep. Scheu of Middlebury
Rep. Squirrell of Underhill.

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

H.C.R. 37. House concurrent resolution honoring former Halifax Fire Chief Wayne Courser for his exemplary volunteer leadership and community service.

H.C.R. 38. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship boys' indoor track team.

H.C.R. 39. House concurrent resolution honoring former Waterbury Municipal Manager William Shepeluk in recognition of his extraordinary public service career.

H.C.R. 40. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School girls' volleyball team on winning a second consecutive State championship.

H.C.R. 41. House concurrent resolution honoring South Burlington City Clerk Donna Kinville for her dedicated municipal public service.

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

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

S. 99.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 101.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale and Clarkson,

An act relating to miscellaneous workers' compensation amendments.

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

S. 102.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, McCormack, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson, White and Wrenner,

An act relating to expanding employment protections and collective bargaining rights.

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

S. 103.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Chittenden, Clarkson, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination.

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

S. 104.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Baruth, Bray, Brock, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Ingalls, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Norris, Perchlik, Sears, Starr, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams and Wrenner,

An act relating to designating August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 105.

By Senators Sears, Westman, Campion and Ram Hinsdale,

An act relating to sports wagering.

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

S. 106.

By Senator Baruth,

An act relating to employer communications regarding religious or political matters.

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

S. 107.

By Senator Westman,

An act relating to authorizing off-site tasting rooms for alcoholic beverage manufacturers.

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

Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 16.**

Joint Senate resolution entitled:

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, was taken up and adopted on the part of the Senate.

Bill *Not* Committed

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, Senator Ingalls moved that the rules be suspended and that Senate bill entitled:

S. 9. An act relating to the authority of the State Auditor to examine the books and records of State contractors.

be committed to the Committee on Institutions with the report of the Committee on Government Operations *intact*,

Thereupon pending the question, Shall the rules be suspended and the bill be committed to the Committee on Institutions with the report of the Committee on Government Operations intact?, Senator Ingalls requested and was granted leave to withdraw his motion.

Committee of Conference Appointed**H. 145.**

An act relating to fiscal year 2023 budget adjustments.

Was taken up. Pursuant to the request of the House, the President announced the appointment of

Senator Kitchel
Senator Perchlik
Senator Westman

as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the Senate to consider the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

Point of Personal Privilege Journalized

During announcements on a point of personal privilege, Senator Vyhovsky addressed the Chair, and on a motion of Senator McCormack, her remarks were ordered enter in the Journal, are as follow:

“Thank you Mr. President,

I rise on a point of personal privilege. Today marks one year since the government in Russia, under direction of Vladimir Putin, invaded the free and sovereign nation of Ukraine. For one year the Ukrainian people, under the brave leadership of President Zelenskyy, have been fighting for their freedom.

Last year, the General Assembly supported me in adopting a joint resolution standing in solidarity with Ukraine and some of you may recall my emotional floor speech on that resolution. The Ukrainian people are no strangers to fighting for their freedom – this fight is tied directly to me as a member of my own family was a leader in the Cossack Revolution many generations ago. The last year has been difficult on me and my family and all Ukrainian Americans worried about their family in Ukraine, and devastated as their homeland is destroyed. This unprovoked and devastating war, while deeply personal to me, is also a much larger attack and threat to democracy everywhere.

Tonight at 5:30 p.m., there will be a vigil for Ukraine on the State House Lawn to renew our support of Ukraine and their fight for freedom and to stand with all Ukrainian Americans. I hope you will consider joining us. I know it is cold but it is cold in Ukraine as well, where people are still sheltering in subways and destroyed buildings with the constant chorus of air raid sirens overhead.

Thank you.”

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 Rep. Roberts,

H.C.R. 37.

House concurrent resolution honoring former Halifax Fire Chief Wayne Courser for his exemplary volunteer leadership and community service.

By Reps. Cole and Christie,

By Senators White, Clarkson and McCormack,

H.C.R. 38.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship boys' indoor track team.

By Reps. Stevens and Wood,

H.C.R. 39.

House concurrent resolution honoring former Waterbury Municipal Manager William Shepeluk in recognition of his extraordinary public service career.

By Reps. Dodge and others,

By Senators Baruth, Gulick, Vyhovsky and Wrenner,

H.C.R. 40.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School girls' volleyball team on winning a second consecutive State championship.

By Reps. Krasnow and others,

By Senator Chittenden,

H.C.R. 41.

House concurrent resolution honoring South Burlington City Clerk Donna Kinville for her dedicated municipal public service.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Clarkson, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 15.