

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 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. 1

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its 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. 32. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

S. 182.

On motion of Senator Ram Hinsdale, the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs was relieved of further consideration of Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to contractor liability related to subcontractor work, and the bill was committed to the Committee on Finance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 34.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Kitchel,

J.R.S. 34. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at one o'clock in the afternoon to receive the budget message of the Governor.

Joint Resolution Referred**J.R.S. 35.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Vyhovsky,

J.R.S. 35. Joint resolution urging Congress to support statehood and all accompanying legal rights and privileges for the District of Columbia.

Whereas, the U.S. Constitution, as ratified following the Constitutional Convention of 1787, granted the right to vote for congressional representation to qualified voters in all the states, including those living in the sections of Maryland and Virginia that the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801 (the Act) later designated as the nation's capital (the District), and

Whereas, the Act disenfranchised citizens residing in the District because they were no longer the residents of any state, and

Whereas, in 1961, the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave the District's electorate the right to vote in presidential elections, and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted 2 U.S.C. § 25a authorizing the District's voters to elect a nonvoting delegate to Congress but not providing for U.S. Senate representation, and

Whereas, in 1973, Congress enacted the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (now known as the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act) establishing an elected mayoralty and city council whose independence is limited, and

Whereas, on occasion, Congress has overridden locally adopted laws, such as the recently enacted criminal code revision, and the jurisdiction's annual budget is subject to congressional amendment, and

Whereas, the mayor of the District lacks the independent authority to call up the D.C. National Guard regardless of the circumstances, and

Whereas, the District and its citizens retain unequal and inferior sovereignty, electoral, and representational rights compared to those existing in the 50 states, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to support statehood and all accompanying legal rights and privileges for the District of Columbia, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Thereupon, the President, in his discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Government Operations.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 210.

By Senators Hardy, Harrison and White,
An act relating to motor vehicle and pedestrian safety.
To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 211.

By Senators Lyons, Clarkson and Kitchel,
An act relating to health care reform and to the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.
To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 212.

By Senators Clarkson, Hardy, Campion, Gulick, Perchlik, Watson, White and Wrenner,
An act relating to the open carry of firearms at polling places, political debates, and public demonstrations.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 213.

By Senators Bray, Baruth, Clarkson, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, McCormack, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson, Westman and White,

An act relating to the regulation of wetlands, river corridor development, and dam safety.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 214.

By Senators Hardy, Gulick, Hashim, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky and White,

An act relating to emergency orders against stalking or sexual assault.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 215.

By Senators Hardy, Cummings, Gulick and Lyons,

An act relating to 3SquaresVT.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Senate Resolution Adopted

S.R. 14.

Senate resolution entitled:

Senate resolution relating to updating the Senate disclosure form

Appearing on the Calendar for action, was taken up and adopted.

Pursuant to S.R. 14, the Senate Disclosure Form was ordered printed in the Senate Journal and is as follows:

Senate Disclosure Form

PRINT NAME

1. Sources of income – For you, your spouse or your domestic partner as defined in 17 V.S.A. § 2414 (e)(1), or both of you together, disclose each source of income that totals more than \$5,000.00. You do not need to provide the actual dollar amount.

A. Employment income – List each employer and employer business address. If you are self-employed, describe the nature of your employment.

- Neither I nor my spouse/domestic partner have sources of employment income required to be listed.

Employer Name	Employer Business Address or description of work if self-employed	Senator/Spouse or Domestic Partner/Joint

B. Investment income – For you, your spouse or your domestic partner, or both of you together, disclose each source of investment income that totals more than \$5,000.00. You do not need to provide the actual dollar amount.

Sources of investment income may include, but are not limited to, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, income-producing property, joint ventures and business interests not included in Part 3 below. Brokerage firms may be listed; individual stock holdings need not be disclosed unless stock ownership represents 10% or more, in which case the ownership should be listed in Part 3 below. Retirement holdings need not be listed.

Neither I nor my spouse/domestic partner have investments required to be listed.

Source	Nature of Investment	Senator/Spouse or Domestic Partner /Joint

C. Other Sources of Income - For you, your spouse or your domestic partner, or both of you together, disclose each additional source of income not mentioned above, that totals more than \$5,000.00. You do not need to provide the actual dollar amount.

- Neither I nor my spouse/domestic partner have any other sources of income required to be listed.

Source of Income	Senator/Spouse or Domestic Partner/Joint

2. **Service** – List each board, commission, or other entity that is regulated by law or that receives funding from the State of Vermont on which you serve and your position on it.

- I have no service to list.

Board, Commission, other Entity	Position held

3. **Company Ownership** – List any company which you, or your spouse or domestic partner, or both together own more than 10 percent.

- Neither I nor my spouse/domestic partner have businesses required to be listed.

Business Name	Business Address	Senator/Spouse or Domestic Partner/Joint

4. Lease or Contract with the State – List any lease or contract with the State held or entered into by (a) you or your spouse or domestic partner; or (b) a company of which you or your spouse or domestic partner, or both together owned more than 10 percent.

Neither I nor my spouse/domestic partner have leases or contracts required to be listed.

Type of lease or contract	Senator/Spouse or Domestic Partner /Joint

5. Lobbying Activities – If your spouse or domestic partner is a lobbyist, enter the name of your spouse or domestic partner below and, if applicable, the name of his or her lobbying firm.

My spouse/domestic partner has no lobbying activities required to be listed.

Name of spouse/domestic partner	Name of lobbying firm

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Signature

Date

Adjournment

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