

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Taihaku of East Calais.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 20.

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

By Senator Ashe,

J.R.S. 20. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 24, 2017, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Senate Resolution Referred

S.R. 7.

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

Senate resolution commending the friendly bilateral relations between Taiwan and both the United States and the State of Vermont and supporting Taiwan's full participation in the international community.

By Senators Mullin and Ayer,

S.R. 7. Senate resolution relating to commending the friendly bilateral relations between Taiwan and both the United States and the State of Vermont and supporting Taiwan's full participation in the international community.

Whereas, both the United States and the State of Vermont share warm relationships with the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its 23.52 million residents that are based on commonly held political and economic values, and

Whereas, on May 20, 2016, democratic Taiwan inaugurated Tsai Ing-wen as the island's first woman president in a peaceful transition of power, and she has promoted improved relations with the United States and peace in the AsiaPacific region, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of November 2015, Taiwan ranked as the United States' 10th largest trading partner with yeartodate bilateral trade standing at \$65.4 billion, and as of the close of 2015, Vermont exported products worth \$109.54 million to Taiwan, making Taiwan the State's ninth largest export market, and

Whereas, Taiwan and Vermont established a sister state relationship in 1999, and this strong bilateral relationship includes trade, educational and cultural exchanges, scientific and technological interests, and tourism, and

Whereas, Taiwan has jurisdiction over the geographically large Taipei Flight Information Region and deserves membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization, and

Whereas, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in Paris in 2015, is a major global environmental protection effort, and Taiwan desires to participate fully in this undertaking, and

Whereas, Taiwan's inclusion in the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Health Organization would bring its innovative economic and proudly democratic voice to these important organizations, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont commends the friendly bilateral relations between Taiwan and both the United States and the State of Vermont and supports Taiwan's full participation in the international community, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, and Scott Lai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

Thereupon, the President, in his discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 88.

By Senators Clarkson, Lyons, Branagan and Pollina,

An act relating to increasing the smoking age from 18 to 21 years of age.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 89.

By Senator Clarkson,

An act relating to the manner in which average daily membership is computed for public high school students exercising school choice.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 90.

By Senators Lyons, Ayer, Balint, Branagan, Clarkson, Collamore, Ingram, Pearson, Pollina and Sirotkin,

An act relating to coordinating Vermont's response to adverse childhood and family experiences.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bill Passed in Concurrence**H. 53.**

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

An act relating to permitting planting projects in flood hazard areas.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.