

Journal of the House

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Taysir Al-Khatib, Essex Junction, Islamic Society of Vermont.

Message from the Senate No. 10

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 considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 158. An act relating to the beverage container redemption system.

And has sustained such veto.

House Bill Introduced

H. 840

By Reps. Harrison of Chittenden, Birong of Vergennes, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Morgan of Milton, and Sibia of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to specialty license plates for veterans

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 38

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 38. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect an Adjutant and Inspector General to serve a two-year term commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2026, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to serve four-year terms commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2028. In case such election shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until said vacancy is filled.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**J.R.S. 39**

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 39. Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2024.

Whereas, in recent years it has become increasingly necessary to shorten the length of time spent by the General Assembly in joint session for the election of various officials, and

Whereas, if elections for multiple vacancies were to be decided by a plurality vote, then a great savings of time can be effectuated, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That, notwithstanding the current provisions of Joint Rule 10, and for this election only, the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation at a Joint Assembly to be held on February 15, 2024, shall be governed by the following procedure:

(1) All candidates for the office of Trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be two.

(2) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the two vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the Trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for a vacant position, then voting shall continue on successive ballots for the unfilled position until the vacancy has been filled by election declared of the candidate receiving the larger number of votes.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 40

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 40. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 26, 2024.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 26, 2024, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 586

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury moved that the Committee on Environment and Energy be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to flood protection and climate resilience infrastructure and financing

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Ways and Means, which was agreed to.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 673

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury moved that the Committee on Environment and Energy be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's outdoor recreation economy

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 518

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex

H. 554

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of South Hero

H. 659

House bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

Adjournment

At three o'clock and twenty-seven minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.