

Journal of the House

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Dr. Shelly Lowe, Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

Message from the Senate No. 17

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 passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 256. An act relating to Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number plates with veteran designations.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee or placed on the Notice Calendar as follows:

H. 848

By Reps. Chase of Chester, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carroll of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, LaMont of Morristown, McGill of Bridport, Nicoll of Ludlow, Pajala of Londonderry, Priestley of Bradford, Small of Winooski, Stone of Burlington, Templeman of Brownington, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to updating the school branding and mascot law

To the Committee on Education.

H. 849

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2024 legislative session
Pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 256**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number
plates with veteran designations

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

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**H. 289**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a),
materially affecting the revenue of one or more municipalities, was referred to
the Committee on Ways and Means.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 43**

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 43. Joint resolution regarding weekend adjournment on February 9,
2024.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 9, 2024, it be to
meet again no later than Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 666**

Rep. Jerome of Brandon, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic
Development, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to escrow deposit bonds

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 27A V.S.A. § 4-110 is amended to read:

§ 4-110. ESCROW OF DEPOSITS

(a) ~~Any~~ Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any deposit made in connection with the purchase or reservation of a unit from a person required to deliver a public offering statement pursuant to subsection 4-102(c) of this title shall be placed in escrow and held either in this ~~state~~ State or in the state where the unit is located in an account designated solely for that purpose by a licensed real estate broker, an attorney licensed in that state, or a banking institution the accounts of which are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the government until the deposit is:

- (1) delivered to the declarant at closing;
- (2) delivered to the declarant after the purchaser's default under a contract to purchase; or
- (3) refunded to the purchaser.

(b)(1) If the agreement for purchase or reservation of a unit provides that deposit funds may be used for construction costs, the declarant obtains and maintains a surety bond as required by this subsection, and the declarant discloses the identity of the issuer of the surety bond to the purchaser, the declarant may withdraw escrow funds for purposes of construction. The funds shall only be used for actual building and construction costs of the project in which the unit is located.

(2) The bond shall be issued by a surety authorized to do business in the State of Vermont in favor of the purchaser in an amount adequate to cover the amount of the deposit to be withdrawn. The declarant shall not withdraw more than the face amount of the bond. The bond shall be payable to the purchaser if the purchaser obtains a determination by the issuer of the surety bond that a claim is payable to the purchaser under the terms of the bond, which shall be consistent with the terms of the agreement for purchase or reservation, or a final judgment against the declarant requiring the declarant to return the deposit pursuant to the agreement for purchase or reservation. The bond may be either in the form of an individual bond for each deposit accepted by the declarant or in the form of a blanket bond assuring the return of all deposits received by the declarant.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 751**

Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, for the Committee on General and Housing, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding equal pay protections

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

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