

House Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009

72nd DAY OF BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P. M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 83

An act relating to underground storage tanks and the petroleum cleanup fund.

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Marcotte of Coventry to H. 83

Moves that the bill be amended by striking Sec. 8 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 8. PETROLEUM CLEANUP FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STUDY

(a) The petroleum cleanup fund advisory committee, in consultation with the Vermont departments of taxes and of motor vehicles, shall examine whether the department of motor vehicles should collect the fee assessed pursuant to subsection 1942(b) of Title 10.

(b) The petroleum cleanup fund advisory committee shall examine how disbursements from the petroleum cleanup fund are authorized when an owner or operator of an underground storage tank removes a tank for inspection, replacement, or remediation. The committee shall review whether an owner or operator of an underground storage tank should be compensated the maximum eligible amount for expenses related to remediation when contamination is identified and such contamination was caused by a prior spill or leaking underground storage tank that previous remediation failed to address.

(c) A summary of the advisory committee's discussion and its recommendations under this section shall be included in the 2010 annual report submitted to the general assembly.

H. 135

An act relating to wireless communication facilities and project approvals for municipal and cooperative utilities.

H. 145

An act relating to composting.

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Turner of Milton to H. 145

Moves that the bill be amended by inserting a Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD RULEMAKING

On or before July 1, 2009, the natural resources board shall initiate rulemaking to identify activities or categories of activities that should be exempt from the permitting requirement of 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 because such activities provide the same or similar environmental benefit and economic value as composting to the state of Vermont. Prior to filing a final proposal of rules under section 841 of Title 3, the natural resources board shall submit the rules to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources and the senate committee on natural resources and energy.

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Krawczyk of Bennington to H. 145

Moves that the bill be amended in Sec. 5 by striking the second sentence of subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“The committee shall issue a final report of its findings to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the house and senate committees on natural resources and energy, and the house and senate committees on agriculture by January 15, 2010.”

Committee Bills for Second Reading

H. 348

An act relating to interstate pest control compact.

(Rep. Toll of Danville will speak for the Committee on Agriculture.)

H. 427

An act relating to making miscellaneous amendments to education law.

(Rep. Mook of Bennington will speak for the Committee on Education.)

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Donovan of Burlington to H. 427

Moves that the bill be amended in Sec. 22 by striking subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new subsections to read:

(c) Sec. 13 of this act shall apply retroactively to proposed school district budgets for the 2009–2010 academic year and after.

(d) Sec. 14 of this act shall apply to proposed school district budgets for the 2010–2011 academic year and after.

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Botzow of Pownal to H. 427

Moves to amend the bill by adding a Sec. 2a to read:

Sec. 2a. 17 V.S.A. § 2647 is amended to read:

§ 2647. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES

(a) An auditor shall not be town clerk, town treasurer, selectman, first constable, collector of current or delinquent taxes, trustee of public funds, town manager, road commissioner, water commissioner, sewage system commissioner, sewage disposal commissioner, or town district school director; nor shall a spouse of or any person assisting any of these officers in the discharge of ~~their~~ official duties be eligible to hold office as auditor. A selectman or school director shall not be first constable, collector of taxes, town treasurer, auditor, or town agent. A selectman shall not be lister. A town manager shall not hold any elective office in the town or town school district. Election officers at local elections shall be disqualified as provided in section 2456 of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if a school district prepares and reports its budget independently from the budget of the town and the school district is audited by an independent public accountant, a person shall be eligible to hold office as auditor even if that person's spouse holds office as a school director.

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

J. R. S. 22

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of three Superior Judges, and one District Judge.

The Senate has concurred in the House proposal of amendment with a proposal of amendment as follows:

By striking out the following: "ten o'clock" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: eight o'clock

To Be Offered

J. R. H. 13

Joint resolution urging Congress to support the International Violence Against Women Act.

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Ancel of Calais, Baker of West Rutland, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Corcoran of Bennington, Courcelle of Rutland City, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Geier of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Hooper of Montpelier, Howard of Rutland City, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of Canaan, Klein of East Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lorber of Burlington, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Miller of Shaftsbury, Minter of Waterbury, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Nuovo of Middlebury, Orr of Charlotte, Partridge of Windham, Peltz of Woodbury, Pugh of South Burlington, Smith

of Mendon, South of St. Johnsbury, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Wizowaty of Burlington and Zenie of Colchester

Whereas, since 1996, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been the epicenter of the deadliest war since World War II, leading to the deaths of nearly six million people, and

Whereas, combatants on all sides routinely use rape and sexual violence as a weapon to destroy women, families, and communities, and over 200,000 women have been raped in the course of combat, and

Whereas, Vermont is home to 175 new families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many of them from areas that remain embattled in conflict, and

Whereas, rape is unfortunately a not-uncommon event here in Vermont, and Congolese women share the grief Vermont women experience, but rape in a war situation forces additional levels of trauma upon women, including being gang raped, enduring the violence in a family situation with their children and husbands serving as forced onlookers, and the lack of any medical care, and

Whereas, however, the international community has failed to sanction the looting of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's spectacular wealth, and consequently, poverty in this nation is extremely high, and 80 percent of the population lives on 30 cents or less per day, and

Whereas, the International Violence Against Women Act that Vice President Biden introduced while in the U.S. Senate, and that Representative Howard Berman of California introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, will be reintroduced in Congress during the coming weeks, and it would establish in the Department of State an Advisory Commission on International Violence Against Women, and

Whereas, the bill would among other directives provide that foreign assistance programs, as well as U.S. training of foreign military and police forces, include measures designed to prevent violence against women, and

Whereas, assistance to reduce violence against women would be beneficial for many countries but it is desperately needed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and

Whereas, enactment of the International Violence Against Women Act would provide both political support and tangible assistance to the struggling women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and

Whereas, U.S. Senator Leahy has also included funding in appropriations legislation to assist women and girls who are victims of sexual violence in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to train and support prosecutors and judges who handle these cases, and

Whereas, Congokazi Vermont is an organization of women in Vermont who came from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and who are fighting to end sexual violence being perpetrated against women and children in their native country, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to support the International Violence Against Women Act and to include the Democratic Republic of the Congo among those nations specifically targeted to be assisted in the effort to stop this egregious violence, and be it further

Resolved: That the secretary of state be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation and Congokazi Vermont.

CROSSOVER

Joint Rules Committee has adopted the following:

All bills must be reported out by the committees of reference by the end of the day of Friday, March 20.

Bills that are then referred to a money committee must be reported out of the money committees by the end of the day of the following Friday, March 27.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations, Transportation, Capital, and Miscellaneous Taxes) and other bills as determined by the President *pro tempore* and the Speaker.