

House Calendar

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

104th DAY OF BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P. M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 297

An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Morristown Corners Water Corporation.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 446

An act relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

(Rep. Cheney of Norwich will speak for the Committee on **Natural Resources and Energy.**)

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 4, 30 V.S.A. § 8005(b)(2)(A), by inserting after the last sentence:

(v) The prices stated in this subdivision shall be subject to the provisions of subdivision (2)(E) of this subsection.

Second: In Sec. 4, 30 V.S.A. § 8005(b)(2)(E), in the first sentence, by striking “the generic cost element of” and inserting after the word “price” the words “that would otherwise be”

Third: By striking Sec. 9 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read:

Sec. 9. 32 V.S.A. § 5822(d) is amended to read:

(d) A taxpayer shall be entitled to a credit against the tax imposed under this section of 24 percent of each of the credits allowed against the taxpayer’s federal income tax for the taxable year as follows: elderly and permanently totally disabled credit, investment tax credit attributable to the Vermont-property portion of the investment, and child care and dependent care credits. A taxpayer shall also be entitled to a credit against the tax imposed

under this section of 76 percent of the Vermont-property portion of the business solar energy investment tax credit component of the federal investment tax credit allowed against the taxpayer's federal income tax for the taxable year under Section 48 of the Internal Revenue Code; provided, however, that a taxpayer who receives any grants or similar funding from any public or private program that assists in providing capital investment for a renewable energy project is not eligible to claim the business solar energy tax credit for that project. Any unused business solar energy investment tax credit under this section may be carried forward for no more than five years following the first year in which the credit is claimed.

Fourth: By striking Sec. 9a in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9a to read:

Sec. 9a. 32 V.S.A. § 5930z is amended to read:

§ 5930z. PASS-THROUGH OF FEDERAL ENERGY CREDIT FOR
CORPORATIONS

(a) A taxpayer of this state shall be eligible for a credit against the tax imposed under section 5832 of this title in an amount equal to 100 percent of the Vermont-property portion of the business solar energy investment tax credit component of the federal investment tax credit allowed against the taxpayer's federal income tax for the taxable year under Section 48 of the Internal Revenue Code; provided, however, that a taxpayer who receives any grants or similar funding from any public or private program that assists in providing capital investment for a renewable energy project is not eligible to claim the business solar energy tax credit for that project.

* * *

(c) Any unused credit for business solar energy investment under this section may be carried forward for no more than five years following the first year in which the credit is claimed.

Fifth: By adding Secs. 9b, 9c, 9d, and 9e to read:

Sec. 9b. 32 V.S.A. § 5822(d) is amended to read:

(d) A taxpayer shall be entitled to a credit against the tax imposed under this section of 24 percent of each of the credits allowed against the taxpayer's federal income tax for the taxable year as follows: elderly and permanently totally disabled credit, investment tax credit attributable to the Vermont-property portion of the investment, and child care and dependent care credits. ~~A taxpayer shall also be entitled to a credit against the tax imposed under this section of 76 percent of the Vermont-property portion of the business solar energy investment tax credit component of the federal~~

~~investment tax credit allowed against the taxpayer's federal income tax for the taxable year under Section 48 of the Internal Revenue Code; provided, however, that a taxpayer who receives any grants or similar funding from any public or private program that assists in providing capital investment for a renewable energy project is not eligible to claim the business solar energy tax credit for that project. Any unused business solar energy investment tax credit under this section may be carried forward for no more than five years following the first year in which the credit is claimed.~~

Sec. 9c. REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 5930z (related to business solar energy investment tax credits for corporations) is repealed for investments made on or after January 1, 2011.

Sec. 9d. TRANSITION RULES

(a) A taxpayer who claimed the 76-percent business solar energy investment tax credit component of the federal investment tax credit pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5822(d) prior to January 1, 2011 shall be entitled to carry forward the unused portion of the credit for up to five years.

(b) A taxpayer who claimed the business solar energy investment tax credit pursuant to 32 V.S.A § 5930z prior to January 1, 2011 shall be entitled to carry forward the unused portion of the credit for up to five years.

Sec. 9e. 10 V.S.A. § 6523(d)(6) is amended to read:

(6) The A sum of \$20,000.00 equal to the cost of the business solar energy income tax credits authorized in subsections 5822(d) and 5930z(a) of Title 32 shall be transferred annually from the clean energy development fund to the general fund to support the cost of the solar energy income tax credits.

Sixth: By striking Sec. 10 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 10 to read:

Sec. 10. Sec. 29 of No. 92 of the Acts of the 2007 Adj. Sess. (2008) is amended to read:

Sec. 29. EFFECTIVE DATE OF BUSINESS ENERGY TAX CREDIT

~~Secs. 27 and 28 of this act (business energy tax credits) shall apply to carry-through and recapture of federal credits, including recapture, related to taxable year 2008 and after.~~

Seventh: By striking Sec. 16 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 16 to read:

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage with the following exceptions:

(1) Secs. 9 and 9a (relating to business solar energy tax credits) shall apply to credits related to investments made on or after January 1, 2009; and

(2) Sec. 9b (relating to the repeal of the 76-percent portion of the business solar energy tax credit) shall apply to credits related to investments made on or after January 1, 2011.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Klein of East Montpelier to H. 446

First: In Sec. 4, 30 V.S.A. § 8005(b), by striking each occurrence of “July 15, 2009” and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 2009”

Second: In Sec. 4, 30 V.S.A. § 8005(b)(2), by striking subdivision (B) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof:

(B) In accordance with the provisions of this subdivision, the board by order shall set the price to be paid to a plant owner under a standard offer, including the owner of a plant described in subdivisions (2)(A)(i)–(iv) of this subsection.

(i) The board shall use the following criteria in setting a price under this subdivision:

(I) The board shall determine a generic cost, based on an economic analysis, for each category of generation technology that constitutes renewable energy. Within each such category, the board shall consider different generic costs for plants of different plant capacities.

(II) The board shall include a rate of return not less than the highest rate of return received by a Vermont investor-owned retail electric service provider under its board-approved rates as of the date a standard offer goes into effect.

(III) The board shall include such adjustment as the board determines to be necessary to ensure that the price provides sufficient incentive for the rapid development and commissioning of plants and does not exceed the amount needed to provide such an incentive.

(ii) No later than September 15, 2009, the board shall open and complete a noncontested case docket to accomplish each of the following tasks:

(I) Determine whether there is a substantial likelihood that one or more of the prices stated in subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection do not constitute a reasonable approximation of the price that would be paid applying the criteria of subdivision (2)(B)(i).

(II) If the board determines that one or more of the prices stated in subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection do not constitute such an approximation, set interim prices that constitute a reasonable approximation of the price that would be paid applying the criteria of subdivision (2)(B)(i). Once the board sets such an interim price, that interim price shall be used in subsequent standard offers until the board sets prices under subdivision (B)(iii) of this subdivision (2).

(iii) Regardless of its determination under subdivision (2)(B)(ii) of this subsection, the board shall proceed to set, no later than January 15, 2010, the price to be paid to a plant owner under a standard offer applying the criteria of subdivision (2)(B)(i) of this subsection.

Third: In Sec. 4, 30 V.S.A. § 8005(b)(2)(C), in the first sentence, by striking “2013” and inserting in lieu thereof “2012”

Rep. Johnson of South Hero, for the Committee on **Appropriations**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on **Ways and Means**.

(Committee Vote: 6-4-1)

S. 26

An act relating to recovery of profits from crime.

Rep. Flory of Pittsford, for the Committee on **Judiciary**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5351(8) is added to read:

(8) “Profits from crimes” means:

(A) any property obtained through or income generated from the commission of a crime in which the defendant was convicted;

(B) any property obtained by or income generated from the sale, conversion, or exchange of proceeds of a crime, including any gain realized by such sale, conversion, or exchange;

(C) any property that the defendant obtained or any income generated as a result of having committed the crime, including any assets obtained through the use of unique knowledge acquired during the commission of or in preparation for the commission of the crime, as well as any property obtained or income generated from the sale, conversion, or exchange of such property and any gain realized by such sale, conversion, or exchange, and

(d) any property defendant obtained or any income generated from the sale of tangible property the value of which is increased by the notoriety gained from the conviction of an offense by the person accused or convicted of the crime.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. chapter 167, subchapter 4 is added to read:

Subchapter 4. Profits from Crime

§ 5421. NOTICE OF PROFITS FROM A CRIME

(a) Every person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity which knowingly contracts for, pays, or agrees to pay any profits from a crime, as defined in subdivision 5351(8) of this title, to a person charged with or convicted of that crime shall give written notice to the attorney general of the payment or obligation to pay as soon as is practicable after discovering that the payment is or will be a profit from a crime.

(b) The attorney general, upon receipt of notice of a contract, agreement to pay, or payment of profits of the crime shall send written notice of the existence of such profits to all known victims of the crime at their last known addresses.

§ 5422. ACTIONS TO RECOVER PROFITS FROM A CRIME

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any statute of limitations, any crime victim shall have the right to bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover money damages from a person convicted of that crime, or the legal representative of that convicted person, within three years of the discovery of any profits from the crime. Any damages awarded in such action shall be recoverable only up to the value of the profits of the crime. This section shall not limit the right of a victim to proceed or recover under another cause of action.

(b) The attorney general may, within three years of the discovery of any profits from the crime, bring a civil action on behalf of the state to enforce the subrogation rights described in section 5357 of this title.

(c) If the full value of any profits from the crime has not yet been claimed by either the victim of the crime or the victim's representative, the attorney general, or both, within three years of the discovery of such profits, then the state may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover the costs incurred by providing the defendant with counsel, if any, and other costs reasonably incurred or to be incurred in the incarceration of the defendant.

(d) Upon the filing of an action pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the victim shall deliver a copy of the summons and complaint to the attorney general. Upon receipt of a copy of the summons and complaint, the attorney

general shall send written notice of the alleged existence of profits from the crime to all other known victims at their last known addresses.

(e) To avoid the wasting of assets identified in the complaint as newly discovered profits of the crime, the attorney general, acting on behalf of the plaintiff and all other victims, shall have the right to apply for all remedies that are also otherwise available to the victim.

Sec. 3. 14 V.S.A. chapter 85 is added to Part 3 to read:

CHAPTER 85. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

§ 1971. INTENTIONAL KILLING; OFFENDER NOT TO BENEFIT

(a) The acquisition of any property, interest, power, or benefit by a person as the result of the person's commission of an intentional and unlawful killing shall be treated in accordance with the principle that a killer cannot profit from his or her wrong, and a court shall have the power to distribute, reform, revoke, or otherwise dispose of such property, interest, power, or benefit in accord with the principles of this section.

(b) This section shall apply retroactively to any property, interest, power, or benefit acquired as the result of the commission of an intentional and unlawful killing committed prior to the effective date of this act.

Sec. 4. REPEAL

Chapters 41, 43, and 45 of Title 14 are repealed.

Sec. 5. 14 V.S.A. chapter 42 is added to Part 2 to read:

CHAPTER 42. DESCENT AND SURVIVORS' RIGHTS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 301. INTESTATE ESTATE

(a) Any part of a decedent's estate not effectively disposed of by will passes by intestate succession to the decedent's heirs, except as modified by the decedent's will.

(b) A decedent's will may expressly exclude or limit the right of an individual or a class to inherit property. If such an individual or member of such a class survives the decedent, the share of the decedent's intestate estate which would have passed to that individual or member of such a class passes subject to any such limitation or exclusion set forth in the will.

(c) Nothing in this section shall preclude the surviving spouse of the decedent from making the election and receiving the benefits provided by section 319 of this title.

§ 302. DOWER AND CURTESY ABOLISHED

The estates of dower and curtesy are abolished.

§ 303. AFTERBORN HEIRS

For purposes of this chapter and chapter 1 of this title relating to wills, an individual in gestation at a particular time is treated as living at that time if the individual lives 120 hours or more after birth.

Subchapter 2. Survivors' Rights and Allowances

§ 311. SHARE OF SURVIVING SPOUSE

After payment of the debts, funeral charges, and expenses of administration, the intestate share of the decedent's surviving spouse is as follows:

(1) The surviving spouse shall receive the entire intestate estate if no descendant of the decedent survives the decedent or if all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the surviving spouse.

(2) In the event there shall survive the decedent one or more descendants of the decedent who are not descendants of the surviving spouse and are not excluded by the decedent's will from inheriting from the decedent, the surviving spouse shall receive one-half of the intestate estate.

§ 312. SURVIVING SPOUSE TO RECEIVE HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Upon motion, the surviving spouse of a decedent may receive out of the decedent's estate all furnishings and furniture in the decedent's household when the decedent leaves no descendants who object. If any objection is made by any of the descendants, the court shall decide what, if any, of such personalty shall pass under this section. Goods and effects so assigned shall be in addition to the distributive share of the estate to which the surviving spouse is entitled under other provisions of law. In making a determination pursuant to this section, the court may consider the length of the decedent's marriage, or civil union, the sentimental and monetary value of the property, and the source of the decedent's interest in the property.

§ 313. SURVIVING SPOUSE; VESSEL, SNOWMOBILE, OR

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE

Whenever the estate of a decedent who dies intestate consists principally of a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, and title to the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle shall automatically pass to the surviving spouse. The surviving spouse may register the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle pursuant to section 3816 of Title 23.

§ 314. SHARE OF HEIRS OTHER THAN SURVIVING SPOUSE

(a) The balance of the intestate estate not passing to the decedent's surviving spouse under section 311 of this title passes to the decedent's descendants by right of representation.

(b) If there is no taker under subsection (a) of this section, the intestate estate passes in the following order:

(1) to the decedent's parents equally if both survive or to the surviving parent;

(2) to the decedent's siblings and the descendants of any deceased siblings by right of representation;

(3) one-half of the intestate estate to the decedent's paternal grandparents equally if they both survive or to the surviving paternal grandparent and one-half of the intestate estate to the decedent's maternal grandparents equally if they both survive or to the surviving maternal grandparent and if decedent is survived by a grandparent, or grandparents on only one side, to that grandparent or those grandparents;

(4) in equal shares to the next of kin in equal degree.

(c) If property passes under this section by right of representation, the property shall be divided into as many equal shares as there are children or siblings of the decedent, as the case may be, who either survive the decedent or who predecease the decedent leaving surviving descendants.

§ 315. PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP

For the purpose of intestate succession, an individual is the child of his or her parents, regardless of their marital status, but a parent shall not inherit from a child unless the parent has openly acknowledged the child and not refused to support the child. The parent and child relationship may be established in parentage proceedings under subchapter 3A of chapter 5 of Title 15.

§ 316. SUPPORT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE AND FAMILY DURING SETTLEMENT

The probate court may make reasonable allowance for the expenses of maintenance of the surviving spouse and minor children or either, constituting the family of a decedent, out of the personal estate or the income of real or personal estate from date of death until settlement of the estate, but for no longer a period than until their shares in the estate are assigned to them or, in case of an insolvent estate, for not more than eight months after administration is granted. This allowance may take priority, in the discretion of the court, over debts of the estate.

§ 317. ALLOWANCE TO CHILDREN BEFORE PAYMENT OF DEBTS

When a person dies leaving children under 18 years of age, an allowance may be made for the necessary maintenance of such children until they become 18 years of age. Such allowance shall be made before any distribution of the estate among creditors, heirs, or beneficiaries by will.

§ 318. ALLOWANCE TO CHILDREN AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBTS

Before any partition or division of an estate among the heirs or beneficiaries by will, an allowance may be made for the necessary expenses of the support of the children of the decedent under 18 years of age until they arrive at that age. The probate court may order the executor or administrator to retain sufficient estate assets for that purpose, except where some provision is made by will for their support.

§ 319. WAIVER OF WILL BY SURVIVING SPOUSE

(a) A surviving spouse may waive the provisions of the decedent's will and in lieu thereof elect to take one-half of the balance of the estate, after the payment of claims and expenses.

(b) The surviving spouse must be living at the time this election is made. If the surviving spouse is mentally disabled and cannot make the election personally, a guardian or attorney in fact under a valid durable power of attorney may do so.

§ 320. EFFECT OF DIVORCE ORDER

A final divorce order from any state shall have the effect of nullifying a gift by will or inheritance by operation of law to an individual who was the decedent's spouse at the time the will was executed if the decedent was no longer married to or in a civil union with that individual at the time of death, unless his or her will specifically states to the contrary.

§ 321. CONVEYANCES TO DEFEAT SPOUSE'S INTEREST

A voluntary transfer of any property by an individual during a marriage or civil union and not to take effect until after the individual's death, made without adequate consideration and for the primary purpose of defeating a surviving spouse in a claim to a share of the decedent's property so transferred, shall be void and inoperative to bar the claim. The decedent shall be deemed at the time of his or her death to be the owner and seised of an interest in such property sufficient for the purpose of assigning and setting out the surviving spouse's share.

§ 322. UNLAWFUL KILLING AFFECTING INHERITANCE

Notwithstanding sections 311 through 314 of this title or provisions

otherwise made, in any case where an individual is entitled to inherit or receive property under the last will of a decedent, or otherwise, such individual's share in the decedent's estate shall be forfeited and shall pass to the remaining heirs or beneficiaries of the decedent if such person intentionally and unlawfully

kills the decedent. In any proceedings to contest the right of an individual to inherit or receive property under a will, the record of such person's conviction of intentionally and unlawfully killing the decedent shall be admissible evidence that such person did intentionally kill the decedent.

Subchapter 3. Descent, Omitted Issue, and Lapsed Legacies

§ 331. DEGREES; HOW COMPUTED: KINDRED OF HALF-BLOOD

Kindred of the half-blood shall inherit the same share they would inherit if they were of the whole blood.

§ 332. SHARE OF AFTERBORN CHILD

When a child of a testator is born after the making of a will and provision is not therein made for that child, he or she shall have the same share in the estate of the testator as if the testator had died intestate unless it is apparent from the will that it was the intention of the testator that provision should not be made for the child.

§ 333. SHARE OF CHILD OR DESCENDANT OF CHILD OMITTED FROM WILL

When a testator omits to provide in his or her will for any of his or her children, or for the descendants of a deceased child, and it appears that the omission was made by mistake or accident, the child or descendants, as the case may be, shall have and be assigned the same share of the estate of the testator as if the testator had died intestate.

§ 334. AFTERBORN AND OMITTED CHILD; FROM WHAT PART OF ESTATE SHARE TAKEN

When a share of a testator's estate is assigned to a child born after the making of a will, or to a child or the descendant of a child omitted in the will, the share shall be taken first from the estate not disposed of by the will, if there is any. If that is not sufficient, so much as is necessary shall be taken from the devisees or legatees in proportion to the value of the estate they respectively receive under the will. If the obvious intention of the testator, as to some specific devise, legacy, or other provision in the will, would thereby be defeated, the specific devise, legacy, or provision may be exempted from such apportionment and a different apportionment adopted in the discretion of the court.

§ 335. BENEFICIARY DYING BEFORE TESTATOR: DESCENDANTS

TO TAKE

When a testamentary gift is made to a child or other kindred of the testator, and the designated beneficiary dies before the testator, leaving one or more descendants who survive the testator, such descendants shall take the gift that the designated beneficiary would have taken if he or she had survived the testator, unless a different disposition is required by the will.

§ 336. INDIVIDUAL ABSENT AND UNHEARD OF; SHARE OF ESTATE

If an individual entitled to a distributive share of the estate of a decedent is absent and unheard of for six years, two of which are after the death of the decedent, the probate court in which the decedent's estate is pending may order the share of the absent individual distributed in accordance with the terms of the decedent's will or the laws of intestacy as if such absent individual had not survived the decedent. If the absent individual proves to be alive, he or she shall be entitled to the share of the estate notwithstanding prior distribution, and may recover in an action on this statute any portion thereof which any other individual received under order. Before an order is made for the payment or distribution of any money or estate as authorized in this section, notice shall be given as provided by the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

§ 337. REQUIREMENT THAT INDIVIDUAL SURVIVE DECEDENT FOR 120 HOURS

Except as provided in the decedent's will, an individual who fails to survive the decedent by 120 hours is deemed to have predeceased the decedent for purposes of homestead allowance, exempt property, intestate succession, and taking under decedent's will, and the decedent's heirs and beneficiaries shall be determined accordingly. If it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an individual who would otherwise be an heir or beneficiary survived the decedent by 120 hours, it is deemed that the individual failed to survive for the required period. This section is not to be applied if its application would result in escheat.

§ 338. DISTRIBUTION; ORDER IN WHICH ASSETS APPROPRIATED; ABATEMENT

(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, shares of distributees given under a will abate, without any preference or priority as between real and personal property, in the following order:

(A) property not disposed of by the will;

(B) residuary devises and bequests;

(C) general devises and bequests;

(D) specific devises and bequests.

(2) For purpose of abatement, a general devise or bequest charged on any specific property or fund is a specific devise or bequest to the extent of the value of the property on which it is charged, and upon the failure or insufficiency of the property on which it is charged, a general devise or bequest to the extent of the failure or insufficiency. Abatement within each classification is in proportion to the amounts of property each of the beneficiaries would have received if full distribution of the property had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

(b) If the will expresses an order of abatement or if the testamentary plan or the express or implied purpose of a devise or bequest would be defeated by the order of abatement listed in subsection (a) of this section, the shares of the distributees shall abate as may be necessary to give effect to the intention of the testator.

(c) If the subject of a preferred devise or bequest is sold or used incident to administration, abatement shall be achieved by appropriate adjustments in, or contribution from, other interests in the remaining assets.

Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2023 is amended to read:

§ 2023. TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN VEHICLE

(a) If an owner transfers his or her interest in a vehicle, other than by the creation of a security interest, he or she shall, at the time of delivery of the vehicle, execute an assignment and warranty of title to the transferee in the space provided therefor on the certificate or as the commissioner prescribes, and of the odometer reading or hubometer reading or clock meter reading of the vehicle at the time of delivery in the space provided therefor on the certificate, and cause the certificate and assignment to be mailed or delivered to the transferee or to the commissioner. Where title to a vehicle is in the name of more than one person, the nature of the ownership must be indicated by one of the following on the certificate of title:

- (1) TEN ENT (tenants by the entirety);
- (2) JTEN (joint tenants);
- (3) TEN COM (tenants in common); ~~or~~
- (4) PTNRS (partners); or
- (5) TOD (transfer on death).

(b) Upon request of the owner or transferee, a lienholder in possession of the certificate of title shall, unless the transfer was a breach of his or her security agreement, either deliver the certificate to the transferee for delivery to the commissioner or, upon receipt from the transferee of the owner's assignment, the transferee's application for a new certificate and the required fee, mail or deliver them to the commissioner. The delivery of the certificate does not affect the rights of the lienholder under his security agreement.

(c) If a security interest is reserved or created at the time of the transfer, the certificate of title shall be retained by or delivered to the person who becomes the lienholder, and the parties shall comply with the provisions of section 2043 of this title.

(d) Except as provided in section 2024 of this title and as between the parties, a transfer by an owner is not effective until the provisions of this section and section 2026 of this title have been complied with; however, an owner who has delivered possession of the vehicle to the transferee and has complied with the provisions of this section and section 2026 of this title requiring action by him or her is not liable as owner for any damages thereafter resulting from operation of the vehicle.

(e) Notwithstanding other provisions of the law, whenever the estate of an individual who dies intestate consists principally of an automobile, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the motor vehicle and title to the same shall automatically and by virtue hereof pass to said surviving spouse. Registration of the vehicle in the name of the surviving spouse shall be effected by payment of a transfer fee of \$7.00. This transaction is exempt from the provisions of the purchase and use tax on motor vehicles.

(1) Notwithstanding other provisions of the law, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, whenever the estate of an individual consists in whole or in part of a motor vehicle, and the person's will or other testamentary document does not specifically address disposition of motor vehicles, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the motor vehicle and title to the motor vehicle shall automatically pass to the surviving spouse. Registration and title of the motor vehicle in the name of the surviving spouse shall be effected by payment of a transfer fee of \$7.00. This transaction is exempt from the provisions of the purchase and use tax on motor vehicles.

(2) This subsection shall apply to no more than two motor vehicles, and shall not apply if the motor vehicle is titled in the name of one or more persons other than the decedent and the surviving spouse.

(f) Where the title identifies a person who will become the owner upon the death of the principal owner (transfer on death), the principal owner shall have

all rights of ownership and rights of transfer until his or her death. The designated transferee shall have no rights of ownership until such time as the principal owner has died as established by a valid death certificate. At that time, the transferee shall become the owner of the vehicle subject to any existing security interests.

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 3816 is amended to read:

§ 3816. TRANSFER OF INTEREST IN VESSEL

* * *

(e) Pursuant to the provisions of 14 V.S.A. § ~~403a~~ 313, whenever the estate of an individual who dies intestate consists principally of a vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, the surviving spouse shall be deemed to be the owner of the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle and title to the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle shall automatically pass to the surviving spouse. The surviving spouse may register the vessel, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle by paying a transfer fee not to exceed \$2.00.

Sec. 8. 27 V.S.A. §§ 101 and 102 are amended to read:

§ 101. DEFINITION; EXEMPTION FROM ATTACHMENT AND EXECUTION

The homestead of a natural person consisting of a dwelling house, outbuildings and the land used in connection therewith, not exceeding ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 in value, and owned and used or kept by such person as a homestead together with the rents, issues, profits, and products thereof, shall be exempt from attachment and execution except as hereinafter provided.

§ 102. DESIGNATING HOMESTEAD IN CASE OF LEVY

When an execution is levied upon real estate of the person of which a homestead is a part or upon that part of a homestead in excess of the limitation of ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 in value, that person may designate and choose the part thereof, not exceeding the limited value, to which the exemption created in section 101 of this title shall apply. Upon designation and choice or refusal to designate or choose, the officer levying the execution, if the parties fail to agree upon appraisers, shall appoint three disinterested freeholders of the vicinity who shall be sworn by him or her and who shall fix the location and boundaries of the homestead to the amount of ~~\$75,000.00~~ \$125,000.00 in value. The officer shall then proceed with the sale of the residue of the real estate on the execution as in other cases, and the doings in respect to the homestead shall be stated in the return upon the execution.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 of this act shall take effect upon passage. Sec. 5 of this act shall apply only to the estates of persons dying on or after the effective date of Sec. 5 this act.

(b) Secs. 6 and 8 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

(Committee vote: 9-0-2)

Senate Proposals of Amendment

H. 11

An act relating to the disposition of property upon death, transfer or interest in vehicle upon death, and homestead exemption.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a new Sec. 1a to read as follows:

Sec. 1a. 4 V.S.A. § 278 is added to read:

§ 278. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANT JUDGES TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF PROBATE JUDGE

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an assistant judge or a candidate for the office of assistant judge may also seek election to the office of probate judge, and if elected to both offices, may serve both as an assistant judge and as probate judge.

(b) In the event a probate matter arises in the superior court over which an assistant judge is also the probate judge that presides, or has presided, over the same or related probate matter in the probate court, the assistant judge shall be disqualified from hearing and deciding the probate matter in the superior court.

(c) In the event a probate matter arises in the probate court over which a probate judge is also an assistant judge that presides, or has presided, over the same or related probate matter in the superior court, the probate judge shall be disqualified from hearing and deciding the probate matter in the probate court.

Second: In Sec. 2, 14 V.S.A. § 314, in subdivision (b)(2), by striking out the word “or” and inserting in lieu thereof the word and

Third: In Sec. 2, 14 V.S.A. § 322, by striking out § 322 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new § 322 to read as follows:

§ 322. UNLAWFUL KILLING AFFECTING INHERITANCE

(a) Notwithstanding sections 311 through 314 of this title or provisions otherwise made, in any case in which an individual is entitled to inherit or receive property under the last will of a decedent or otherwise or stands to benefit under the terms of any trust of a decedent, the individual’s share in the

decedent's estate or benefits from any trust shall be forfeited and shall pass to the remaining heirs or beneficiaries of the decedent if the individual intentionally and unlawfully kills the decedent or intentionally and unlawfully kills another person and, by doing so, stands to inherit under the decedent's will or otherwise or to become a beneficiary under any trust of the decedent. In any proceedings to contest the right of an individual to inherit or receive property under a will or otherwise or to benefit under the terms of any trust, the record of that individual's conviction of intentionally and unlawfully killing the decedent or other person shall be admissible evidence for purposes of this section.

(b) This section shall apply retroactively to any individual who stands to inherit or receive property under a will or otherwise or benefit under the terms of any trust as the result of committing an intentional and unlawful killing prior to or after the effective date of this section.

Fourth: In Sec. 2, 14 V.S.A. § 336, by striking out the last sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new sentence to read: Before an order is made for the payment or distribution of any money or estate as authorized in this section, notice shall be given as provided by the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 6 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) Secs. 1, 1a, 2, 4, and 6 of this act shall take effect upon passage. Sec. 2 of this act shall apply only to the estates of persons dying on or after the effective date of Sec. 2 of this act.

(b) Secs. 3 and 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Sixth: By adding a new Sec. 7 to read as follows:

Sec. 7. 27 V.S.A. § 1270 is amended to read:

§ 1270. DECEASED OWNERS; MULTIPLE CLAIMANTS

(a) If the treasurer holds unclaimed property in the name of a deceased owner, the treasurer may deliver the property as follows:

(1) In the case of an open estate, to the administrator or executor.

(2) In the case of a closed estate and the unclaimed property is valued at less than ~~\$2,500.00~~ \$5,000.00, in accordance with the probate court decree of distribution.

(3) In the absence of an open estate or probate court decree of distribution, and the unclaimed property is valued at less than ~~\$2,500.00~~ \$5,000.00 to the surviving spouse of the deceased owner, or, if there is no surviving spouse, then to the next of kin according to section 551 of Title 14.

(4) In all other cases where the treasurer holds property in the name of a deceased owner, a probate estate shall be opened by the claimant, or other interested party, in order to determine the appropriate distribution of the unclaimed property. Where an estate is opened solely to distribute unclaimed property under this section, the probate court may waive any filing fees.

(b) If the treasurer holds unclaimed property valued at ~~\$100.00~~ \$250.00 or less which more than one person owns, the treasurer may deliver the property as follows:

(1) If the property has been listed on the treasurer's website for less than one year, a proportionate share to each of the persons who owns the property and who files a claim.

(2) If the property has been listed on the treasurer's website for a year or more, to the first person who files a claim and who owns at least a share of the property.

Seventh: By adding a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. REPEAL

Sec. 2a of No. 161 of the Acts of the 2005 Adj. Sess. (2006) is repealed.

H. 34

An act relating to a maximum retail price for milk.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 907(d)(1), after the words “person’s acts or omissions” by adding the following: with respect to such use, ownership, or training in the operation of an AED

H. 186

An act relating to authorizing the department of fish and wildlife to administer polygraph examinations to applicants for law enforcement positions.

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 21 V.S.A. § 494b(1), by inserting after the words “for applicants for law enforcement positions;” the words the department of liquor control and the liquor control board for applicants for investigator positions;

Action Postponed Until Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Report Committee of Conference

H. 232

An act relating to fiscal year 2009 budget adjustment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16

The following concurrent resolutions will be adopted automatically unless a member requests floor consideration before the end of today's legislative session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Clerk of the House or to a member of his staff

H.C.R. 103

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Chelsea High School Red Devils 2009 Division IV girls' basketball championship team

H.C.R. 104

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 Spaulding High School Division I Crimson Tide championship girls' basketball team

H.C.R. 105

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Spaulding High School students honored as Times Argus athletes of the year

H.C.R. 106

House concurrent resolution honoring the career accomplishments of former Spaulding High School wrestling coach William Young

H.C.R. 107

House concurrent resolution in memory of George Gibby of Topsham

H.C.R. 108

House concurrent resolution praising the bravery of Maersk Alabama Captain Richard Phillips of Underhill and congratulating the U.S. Navy SEALs and the FBI on his dramatic rescue

H.C.R. 109

House concurrent resolution welcoming to the state house the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders

H.C.R. 110

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Champlain Valley Union High School Red Hawks 2008 Division I championship field hockey team

H.C.R. 111

House concurrent resolution congratulating the University of Vermont Lady Catamounts 2009 America East championship women's basketball team

H.C.R. 112

House concurrent resolution honoring libraries, librarians and library workers during National Library Week

H.C.R. 113

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winners in the second annual Jr. Iron Chef competition

H.C.R. 114

House concurrent resolution in memory of Mark Bennett of Brattleboro

H.C.R. 115

House concurrent resolution honoring the Granges of Vermont

H.C.R. 116

House concurrent resolution congratulating South Burlington on its designation as a Tree City U.S.A.

H.C.R. 117

House concurrent resolution honoring George Buzzell for his exemplary public service as Orleans County state forester

H.C.R. 118

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 University of Vermont Catamount skiers on their team and individual accomplishments

H.C.R. 119

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Champlain Valley Union High School Redhawks 2009 Division I championship boys' ice hockey team

S.C.R. 19

Senate concurrent resolution honoring Joanie Binns for her accomplishments as manager of the Quimby Country resort.

S.C.R. 20

Senate concurrent resolution expressing appreciation of the state house staff and Buildings and General Services security patrol for the professionalism they displayed during the legislative proceedings related to civil marriage legislation.

S.C.R. 21

Senate concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont court diversion program on its 30th anniversary.

INFORMATION NOTICE

The following item was recently received by the Joint Fiscal Committee:

JFO #2378 — \$92,888.00 grant from the National Institute of Justice to Public Safety – Criminal Justice Services. These grant funds will support a limited service position for research and development in the area of controlled substance detection and analysis.

[*JFO received 4/16/09*]