

# Senate Calendar

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010

1st DAY OF ADJOURNED SESSION

**SENATE CONVENES AT: 10:00 A.M.**

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF MARCH 25, 2009**

**Third Reading**

**S. 99.**

An act relating to amending the Act 250 criteria relating to traffic, scattered development, and rural growth areas.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF APRIL 30, 2009**

**Joint Resolution for Action**

**J.R.H. 15.**

Joint resolution relating to the designation of commemorative observances in concurrent resolutions.

**PENDING ACTION:** Shall the resolution be read the third time?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of March 31, 2009, page 493.)

**REPORTS ON FILE**

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §20(c), one (1) hard copy of the following reports is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Effective January 2010, pursuant to Act No. 192, Adj. Sess. (2008) §5.005(g) some reports will automatically be sent by electronic copy only and can be found on the State of Vermont webpage.

1. Act 61 Stroke Report – 2009 Recommendations of the Stroke Workshop. (Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems) (November 2009)
2. Executive Orders: Boards and Commissions Authorized to Receive Per Diems. (Agency of Administration, Office of the Secretary) (November 2009).
3. Report on 2009 Vermont Tax Amnesty. (Agency of Administration, Department of Taxes) (December 2009).
4. Vermont Criminal Information Center report regarding changes to the Sex Offender Registry as required by Act 58, Section 23. (Department of Public Safety) (December 2009)

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**J.R.S. 36**

By Senator Shumlin,

**J.R.S. 36.** Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, January 7, 2010, at two o'clock in the afternoon to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

**J.R.S. 37**

By Senator Shumlin,

**J.R.S. 37.** Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 26, 2010, or Saturday, February 27, 2010, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

**J.R.S. 38**

By Senators Ayer, Giard and Shumlin,

**J.R.S. 38.** Joint resolution strongly supporting the expenditure of a maximum of \$1 million from Vermont's 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocation to assist Addison County businesses and nonprofit institutions that have sustained severe economic losses due to the closure of the Lake Champlain bridge at Crown Point

*Whereas*, in 1929, the governors of New York and Vermont dedicated the Lake Champlain bridge which crosses Lake Champlain with a roadway linking Chimney Point, Vermont and Crown Point, New York, and

*Whereas*, for eight decades, the Lake Champlain bridge served as an essential transportation thoroughfare and economic engine for residents and businesses in both states, enabling thousands of persons to travel to their jobs and avail themselves of vital services, including health care, in an efficient and timely manner, and

*Whereas*, in recent years, 3,500 cars traveled cross the bridge on a typical day, and

*Whereas*, on Friday, October 16, 2009, the New York Department of Transportation closed the bridge to all traffic due to its severe deterioration and the department's fears for the public's safety, and

*Whereas*, the immediate economic impact on individuals and local communities has been close to catastrophic, and within days of the bridge's closing, Vermont Secretary of Transportation David Dill declared an emergency, and

*Whereas*, although emergency interim measures, including the continuation of the Ticonderoga ferry service beyond its normal seasonal closing date and the initiation of a pedestrian ferry between the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes and Westport, New York, have slightly eased the new burdens forced on area businesses, the hardships that their employees have suffered, including inordinately long 100-mile commutes or, alternatively, five-day weekly separations of families, remain, and

*Whereas*, businesses close to the bridge have been severely hampered, if not crippled, and other businesses and nonprofit institutions, located further from the water's edge, have also experienced major negative economic consequences, and

*Whereas*, although a new ferry located close to the now demolished bridge's site is planned, the construction of a permanent replacement span will require many months, if not years, and in the meantime, economic relief is essential for Vermont businesses and nonprofit organizations that have been so seriously harmed, and

*Whereas*, in a joint press conference held on December 1, 2009, House Speaker Shap Smith and Senate Pro Tempore Peter Shumlin proposed that a maximum of \$1 million from Vermont's 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocation be directed to assist Addison County businesses and nonprofit institutions that have sustained economic losses due to the closure of the Lake Champlain bridge at Crown Point, and

*Whereas*, Governor James Douglas has offered a similar proposal, and

*Whereas*, within the week, the state of Vermont must submit an application to the federal government for release of the state's 2010 federal monetary allocation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and it is important that a written expression of the General Assembly's support for this expenditure accompany that application, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly strongly supports the expenditure of a maximum of \$1 million from Vermont's 2010 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocation to assist Addison County businesses and

nonprofit institutions that have sustained economic losses due to the closure of the Lake Champlain bridge at Crown Point, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont office of stimulus and economic recovery for submission as part of the upcoming application for federal stimulus funding to Governor James Douglas and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

**S.R. 16**

By the Committee on Rules,

**S.R. 16.** Senate resolution relating to meeting dates of the Senate.

**Resolved by the Senate:**

That for the adjourned session of the 2009 biennium, beginning with the week of January 5 and extending through the end of the biennial session, Rule 7 of the Permanent Rules of the Senate is suspended and the following Temporary Rule 7 is adopted:

**Temporary Senate Rule 7.** The Senate shall meet every Tuesday at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon and Friday at eight o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, unless otherwise ordered. In the discretion of the President *pro tempore* additional sessions of the Senate may be called on short notice.