

# Journal of the House

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Wednesday, February 11, 2009

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

## Devotional Exercises

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

## House Bills Introduced

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

### H. 199

By Reps. Komline of Dorset, Ainsworth of Royalton, Clark of Vergennes, Flory of Pittsford, McDonald of Berlin, Savage of Swanton and Scheuermann of Stowe,

An act relating to legislative fiscal notes for bills that would affect the expenditures or revenues of the state or a municipality;

To the committee on Government Operations.

### H. 200

By Reps. Komline of Dorset, Ainsworth of Royalton, Helm of Castleton, McAllister of Highgate, McDonald of Berlin, McNeil of Rutland Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe and Wright of Burlington,

An act relating to school choice for students who have been subject to harassment;

To the committee on Education.

### H. 201

By Rep. Komline of Dorset,

An act relating to ten percent household income limit on education property tax;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

**H. 202**

By Rep. Kitzmiller of Montpelier,  
An act relating to the long-term care partnership program;  
To the committee on Health Care.

**H. 203**

By Rep. Mrowicki of Putney,  
An act relating to a screening panel for medical injury claims;  
To the committee on Judiciary.

**House Resolution Referred to Committee****H.R. 8**

House resolution, entitled

House resolution urging the United States Congress to repeal the federal law authorizing a trade embargo with Cuba;

Offered by: Representatives Lorber of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Ancel of Calais, Aswad of Burlington, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Burke of Brattleboro, Cheney of Norwich, Clarkson of Woodstock, Condon of Colchester, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Edwards of Brattleboro, Emmons of Springfield, Fisher of Lincoln, French of Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Gilbert of Fairfax, Grad of Moretown, Haas of Rochester, Howrigan of Fairfield, Johnson of S. Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Leriche of Hardwick, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Mitchell of Barnard, Mook of Bennington, Nuovo of Middlebury, Obuchowski of Rockingham, Orr of Charlotte, Pellett of Chester, Peltz of Woodbury, Potter of Clarendon, Ram of Burlington, Rodgers of Glover, Shand of Weathersfield, Sharpe of Bristol, Smith of Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, Weston of Burlington, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Wright of Burlington, Zenie of Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington

Whereas, in 1961, Congress enacted 22 U.S.C. § 2370, authorizing the president “to establish and maintain a total embargo upon all trade between the United States and Cuba,” and an embargo was quickly established upon the enactment of this law, and

Whereas, the embargo, as originally established, permitted economic and personal contact between Americans and their Cuban relatives, but these provisions were severely restricted in recent years, and

Whereas, the United States and Cuba share the goal of economic stability, and

Whereas, the embargo is contrary to the spirit of free trade, and

Whereas, a new direction should be taken to facilitate commerce and educational and cultural exchanges, and

Whereas, trade between the United States and Cuba is now extremely low, but has a high growth potential, and a relaxing of the embargo would create new opportunities for trade and other exchanges, and

Whereas, trade with this nearby island nation can bring direct economic benefits, including employment, to both Cuba and Vermont, and

Whereas, this new international market would be beneficial to many Vermont industries and would increase their sense of economic security, and increased private sector revenue would also boost state tax receipts, and

Whereas, Vermont already has established groundwork for trade with Cuba including successful efforts to arrange for the sale of Vermont Holstein cows to Cuba, and

Whereas, athletic, artistic, and cultural exchanges would allow direct contact between Vermonters and Cubans far beyond the limited projects that have already occurred, such as a youth baseball team's and a few Vermont journalists' visits to Cuba, and

Whereas, the current economic crisis requires that Congress and the president examine all options to improve our nation's economic prospects, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to repeal the federal law authorizing the trade embargo with Cuba and also more immediately requests President Barack Obama to reverse the restrictions on Americans' direct economic assistance to, and personal contact with, their relatives who reside in Cuba, and be it further

Resolved: That the clerk of the house be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama, to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, to the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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Was read and referred to the committee on Commerce.

**Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**

**J.R.S. 15**

By Senator Shumlin,

Joint resolution relating to March recess.

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

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 27, 2009, or Saturday, February 28, 2009, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

This joint resolution supersedes J.R.S. 4.

Which was read and, in the Speaker's discretion, placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow under Rule 52.

**Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**

**J.R.S. 16**

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

That when the two House adjourn on Friday, February 13, 2009, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 17, 2009.

Was taken up, read and adopted in concurrence.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 166**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

**Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 58**

**Rep. McAllister of Highgate**, for the committee on Agriculture, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to standards for goat's milk production

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

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 2728 is added to read:

§ 2728. MANUFACTURING GRADE GOAT MILK

(a) “Manufacturing grade goat milk” is goat milk other than Grade A goat milk produced and distributed according to the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

(b) The maximum somatic cell count for manufacturing grade goat milk shall not exceed 1,500,000 per milliliter.

Sec. 2. SUNSET

6 V.S.A. § 2728 (manufacturing grade goat milk) shall be repealed when the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments amends the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance limit on somatic cell counts for goat milk to be equal to or higher than 1,500,000 per milliliter.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Agriculture agreed to and third reading ordered.

### **Adjournment**

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