

# Journal of the House

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Wednesday, February 25, 2009

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

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Linda Radtke, Civil War Songstress.

## Message from the Senate No. 20

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted Senate concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

**S.C.R. 9.** Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Energizer in Bennington on the development of the world's first mercury-free hearing aid battery and on the company's receipt of a Governor's Commission on Healthy Aging Award.

**S.C.R. 10.** Senate concurrent resolution congratulating 1st Lt. Kurt Hunt of Coventry on his designation as a member of the 2009 All Army soccer team.

**S.C.R. 11.** Senate concurrent resolution honoring retired Caledonia state's attorney Robert Butterfield for his outstanding public service.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

**H.C.R. 54.** House concurrent resolution in memory of David M. Turner of Irasburg.

**H.C.R. 55.** House concurrent resolution honoring Charlotte Neer Annis.

**H.C.R. 56.** House concurrent resolution in memory of retired Vermont Air National Guard Lt. Col. David L. Bombard of Burlington.

**H.C.R. 57.** House concurrent resolution honoring Springfield High School field hockey coach Joy Benson.

**H.C.R. 58.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Bob Obdrzalek of Springfield on his designation as USA Boxing New England's Vermont Coach of the Year.

**H.C.R. 59.** House concurrent resolution honoring Jane McLuckie Lendway for 33 years of outstanding service to the state of Vermont.

**H.C.R. 60.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Diana Leddy on being named the 2009 Vermont Teacher of the Year.

**H.C.R. 61.** House concurrent resolution welcoming home from military service in Iraq U.S. Army Reserve Specialist First Class Sally Cole of Johnson.

**H.C.R. 62.** House concurrent resolution honoring Deborah Lisi-Baker for her leadership role as an advocate for disabled and deaf Vermonters.

### **House Bills Introduced**

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

#### **H. 287**

By Reps. Botzow of Pownal, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Bissonnette of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Bray of New Haven, Clerkin of Hartford, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donovan of Burlington, Lorber of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Potter of Clarendon, Shand of Weathersfield, Smith of Mendon, Sweaney of Windsor, Turner of Milton and Wilson of Manchester,

An act relating to Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act;

To the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

#### **H. 288**

By Reps. Hube of Londonderry, Branagan of Georgia, Komline of Dorset and McDonald of Berlin,

An act relating to reducing the number of school districts to between one and 12 and eliminating supervisory unions;

To the committee on Education.

#### **H. 289**

By Rep. Howard of Rutland City,

An act relating to providing reasonable assistance to a person exposed to physical harm;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 290**

By Reps. Turner of Milton, Hubert of Milton, Adams of Hartland, Branagan of Georgia, Devereux of Mount Holly, Higley of Lowell, Myers of Essex, O'Donnell of Vernon, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Savage of Swanton and Townsend of Randolph,

An act relating to miscellaneous education initiatives intended to decrease education spending and increase efficiencies;

To the committee on Education.

**Rules Suspended; Resolution Read Second Time; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to and Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Resolution Read Third Time and Passed; Rules Suspended and Resolution Ordered Messaged to the Senate Forthwith**

**J.R.S. 21**

On motion of **Rep. Komline of Dorset**, the rules were suspended and Joint resolution entitled

Joint resolution in support of the United States dairy industry;

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

**Rep. Ainsworth of Royalton**, for the committee on Agriculture, to which the bill had been referred, reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

By striking all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

*Whereas*, the dairy industry is a keystone industry which not only supports rural communities but enhances other sections of agriculture and provides open space for recreation, sports and tourism, and

*Whereas*, the dairy industry provides an economic impact of an estimated national average of \$14,000.00 per cow per year, primarily in local economies, and

*Whereas*, the absence of profitable prices in the dairy industry for farmers, the lack of competition in milk processing ownership, as well as outdated regulations are causing an economic crisis in the dairy industry, and

*Whereas*, in the past few weeks, the price that milk processors pay farmers for their milk has dropped as much as 50 percent, and

*Whereas*, the legal vehicle for assisting farmers when the price of milk drops precipitously is the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) payment program established in the 2002 Farm Bill, and

*Whereas*, the amount of funding included in the 2008 Farm Bill for the MILC-X (Milk Income Loss Contract-Extended) payment program did not anticipate this sudden decline in the price that farmers receive from the processors, and

*Whereas*, the MILC-X payment program is targeted primarily at smaller dairy farms of the size typical in Vermont, and

*Whereas*, without additional funding in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill for the MILC-X payment program, a large number of dairy farmers, including many in Vermont, will cease operations permanently, and

*Whereas*, a significant loss of capacity would create a dependence on imported milk and other dairy products and reduce our nation's food security, and

*Whereas*, the federal 2008 Farm Bill creates a review process for federal milk marketing orders, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly of the State of Vermont urges the President, Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture to acknowledge the importance of the dairy industry nationwide as well as the unique aspects of the dairy

industry region-by-region through:

1) Providing for increased funding in the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill for the MILC-X payment program;

2) Funding and implementing the federal milk marketing order study as outlined in the 2008 Farm Bill, with regional representation from producers, processors, and state policy-makers;

3) Implementation of fair tariffs on imported dairy solids; and

4) Setting regional prices to reflect accurately and realistically the cost of production, *now therefore be it*

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

That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack,

United States Senator Patrick Leahy, United States Senator Bernard Sanders, and United States Representative Peter Welch.

Thereupon, the resolution was read the second time, the House proposal of amendment was agreed to and third reading ordered.

On motion of **Rep. Komline of Dorset**, the rules were suspended and the resolution placed on all remaining stages of passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the resolution was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment and, on motion of **Rep. Komline of Dorset**, the rules were suspended and the resolution was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

### **Third Reading; Bills Passed**

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time and passed:

#### **H. 3**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections to the public institutions and corrections statutes;

#### **H. 36**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the charter of the Enosburg Falls Incorporated School District;

#### **H. 95**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the approval of an amendment to the charter of the city of Burlington.

### **Adjournment**

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