

Journal of the House

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by teachers, Terry Frey, Sharon Somers and Linda Copping from the Barre City Elementary School.

House Bill Introduced

H. 786

By Rep. Sweaney of Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the town of Windsor;

To the committee on Government Operations.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time and referred as follows:

S. 202

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to regulation of flood hazard areas, river corridors, and stream alteration;

Was taken up, read the first time and referred to the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

S. 214

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to customer rights regarding smart meters;

Was taken up, read the first time and referred to the committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 53

By Senators Carris and Mullin,

J.R.S. 53. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, March 29, 2012, or, Friday, March 30, 2012, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

Was taken up read and adopted in concurrence.

Bill Ordered to Lie

H. 775

House bill, entitled

An act relating to allowed interest rates for installment loans

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up and pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Ralston of Middlebury** the bill was ordered to lie.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 535

House bill, entitled

An act relating to racial disparities in the Vermont criminal justice system

Was taken up and read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? **Rep. Lorber of Burlington** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 132. Nays, 7.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Acinapura of Brandon	Buxton of Tunbridge	Crawford of Burke
Ancel of Calais	Campion of Bennington	Dakin of Chester
Andrews of Rutland City	Canfield of Fair Haven	Davis of Washington
Atkins of Winooski	Cheney of Norwich	Deen of Westminster
Bartholomew of Hartland	Christie of Hartford	Degree of St. Albans City
Batchelor of Derby	Clark of Vergennes	Devereux of Mount Holly
Bissonnette of Winooski	Clarkson of Woodstock	Dickinson of St. Albans
Bohi of Hartford	Condon of Colchester	Town
Botzow of Pownal	Conquest of Newbury	Donovan of Burlington
Bouchard of Colchester	Consejo of Sheldon	Edwards of Brattleboro
Branagan of Georgia	Copeland-Hanzas of	Ellis of Waterbury
Brennan of Colchester	Bradford	Emmons of Springfield
Browning of Arlington	Corcoran of Bennington	Evans of Essex
Burke of Brattleboro	Courcelle of Rutland City	Fagan of Rutland City

Fisher of Lincoln	Lenes of Shelburne	Potter of Clarendon
Frank of Underhill	Leriche of Hardwick	Pugh of South Burlington
French of Shrewsbury	Lewis of Berlin	Ralston of Middlebury
French of Randolph	Lippert of Hinesburg	Ram of Burlington
Gilbert of Fairfax	Lorber of Burlington	Reis of St. Johnsbury
Grad of Moretown	Macaig of Williston	Russell of Rutland City
Greshin of Warren	Manwaring of Wilmington	Savage of Swanton
Haas of Rochester	Marcotte of Coventry	Scheuermann of Stowe
Head of South Burlington	Marek of Newfane	Shand of Weathersfield
Heath of Westford	Martin of Springfield	Sharpe of Bristol
Hebert of Vernon	Martin of Wolcott	Shaw of Pittsford
Helm of Fair Haven	Masland of Thetford	Smith of New Haven
Higley of Lowell	McCullough of Williston	South of St. Johnsbury
Hooper of Montpelier	McFaun of Barre Town	Spengler of Colchester
Hubert of Milton	McNeil of Rutland Town	Stevens of Waterbury
Jerman of Essex	Miller of Shaftsbury	Stevens of Shoreham
Jewett of Ripton	Mook of Bennington	Stuart of Brattleboro
Johnson of South Hero	Moran of Wardsboro	Sweaney of Windsor
Johnson of Canaan	Mrowicki of Putney	Taylor of Barre City
Kilmartin of Newport City	Munger of South Burlington	Till of Jericho
Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Myers of Essex	Townsend of Randolph
Klein of East Montpelier	Nuovo of Middlebury	Trieber of Rockingham
Koch of Barre Town	O'Brien of Richmond	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Komline of Dorset	Olsen of Jamaica	Webb of Shelburne
Krebs of South Hero	O'Sullivan of Burlington	Wilson of Manchester
Krowinski of Burlington	Partridge of Windham	Winters of Williamstown
Kupersmith of South Burlington	Pearce of Richford	Wizowaty of Burlington
Lanpher of Vergennes	Pearson of Burlington	Woodward of Johnson
Larocque of Barnet	Peltz of Woodbury	Wright of Burlington
Lawrence of Lyndon	Perley of Enosburgh	Yantachka of Charlotte
	Poirier of Barre City	Zagar of Barnard

Those who voted in the negative are:

Burditt of West Rutland	Eckhardt of Chittenden	Turner of Milton
Donaghy of Poultney	Lewis of Derby	
Donahue of Northfield *	Strong of Albany	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Aswad of Burlington	Malcolm of Pawlet	Toll of Danville
Howard of Cambridge	McAllister of Highgate	Young of Glover
Howrigan of Fairfield	Morrissey of Bennington	
Keenan of St. Albans City	Peaslee of Guildhall	

Rep. Donahue of Northfield explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I have three black nephews who have encountered racism in Vermont.

We have enough data to support more action, not just more data-gathering. We do too many studies that lead nowhere.”

Third Reading; Bills Passed

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

H. 773

House bill, entitled
An act relating to veterans' tax exemption

H. 774

House bill, entitled
An act relating to meat inspection, delivery of liquid fuels, dairy operations, and animal foot baths

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 780

House bill, entitled
An act relating to compensation for certain state employees
Was taken up and read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? **Rep. Leriche of Hardwick** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 135. Nays, 3.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Acinapura of Brandon	Campion of Bennington	Degree of St. Albans City
Ancel of Calais	Canfield of Fair Haven	Devereux of Mount Holly
Andrews of Rutland City	Cheney of Norwich	Donaghy of Poultney
Atkins of Winooski	Christie of Hartford	Donahue of Northfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Clarkson of Woodstock	Donovan of Burlington
Batchelor of Derby	Condon of Colchester	Eckhardt of Chittenden
Bissonnette of Winooski	Conquest of Newbury	Edwards of Brattleboro
Bohi of Hartford	Consejo of Sheldon	Ellis of Waterbury
Botzow of Pownal	Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Emmons of Springfield
Bouchard of Colchester	Corcoran of Bennington	Evans of Essex
Branagan of Georgia	Courcelle of Rutland City	Fagan of Rutland City
Brennan of Colchester	Crawford of Burke	Fisher of Lincoln
Browning of Arlington	Dakin of Chester	Frank of Underhill
Burditt of West Rutland	Davis of Washington	French of Shrewsbury
Burke of Brattleboro	Deen of Westminster	French of Randolph
Buxton of Tunbridge		Gilbert of Fairfax

Grad of Moretown	Lippert of Hinesburg	Ralston of Middlebury
Greshin of Warren	Lorber of Burlington	Ram of Burlington
Haas of Rochester	Macaig of Williston	Reis of St. Johnsbury
Head of South Burlington	Manwaring of Wilmington	Russell of Rutland City
Heath of Westford	Marcotte of Coventry	Savage of Swanton
Hebert of Vernon	Marek of Newfane	Scheuermann of Stowe
Helm of Fair Haven	Martin of Springfield	Shand of Weathersfield
Higley of Lowell	Martin of Wolcott	Sharpe of Bristol
Hooper of Montpelier	Masland of Thetford	Shaw of Pittsford
Hubert of Milton	McCullough of Williston	Smith of New Haven
Jerman of Essex	McFaun of Barre Town	South of St. Johnsbury
Jewett of Ripton	McNeil of Rutland Town	Spengler of Colchester
Johnson of South Hero	Miller of Shaftsbury	Stevens of Waterbury
Johnson of Canaan	Mook of Bennington	Stevens of Shoreham
Kilmartin of Newport City	Moran of Wardsboro	Sweeney of Windsor
Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Mrowicki of Putney	Taylor of Barre City
Klein of East Montpelier	Munger of South Burlington	Till of Jericho
Koch of Barre Town	Myers of Essex	Townsend of Randolph
Komline of Dorset	Nuovo of Middlebury	Trieber of Rockingham
Krebs of South Hero	O'Brien of Richmond	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Krowinski of Burlington	Olsen of Jamaica	Webb of Shelburne
Kupersmith of South Burlington	O'Sullivan of Burlington	Wilson of Manchester
Lanpher of Vergennes	Partridge of Windham	Winters of Williamstown
Larocque of Barnet	Pearce of Richford	Wizowaty of Burlington
Lawrence of Lyndon	Pearson of Burlington	Woodward of Johnson
Lenes of Shelburne	Peltz of Woodbury	Wright of Burlington
Leriche of Hardwick	Perley of Enosburgh	Yantachka of Charlotte
Lewis of Berlin	Poirier of Barre City	Young of Glover
Lewis of Derby	Potter of Clarendon	Zagar of Barnard
	Pugh of South Burlington	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Strong of Albany Turner of Milton *
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Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Aswad of Burlington	Keenan of St. Albans City	Peaslee of Guildhall
Clark of Vergennes	Malcolm of Pawlet	Stuart of Brattleboro
Howard of Cambridge	McAllister of Highgate	Toll of Danville
Howrigan of Fairfield	Morrissey of Bennington	

Rep. Turner of Milton explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I too appreciate the work and sacrifices of all state employees throughout this economic downturn. Many question whether we are actually out of this

recession so I cannot support pay increases that average 8% and some that top out at over 11%. This is not fiscally responsible and therefore I cannot support this bill.

Again, thank you to all state employees for all that they have done and continue to do for Vermont. Thank you.”

Bill Amended, Read Third Time and Passed

H. 782

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous tax changes for 2012

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Degree of St. Albans City** moved to amend the bill as follows:

By adding a Sec. 26a to read as follows:

Sec. 26a. LANDLORD CERTIFICATES

The commissioner of taxes shall report to the senate committee on finance and the house committee on ways and means no later than January 15, 2013 on how to develop an electronic system for the reporting and issuance of the landlord certificate under 32 V.S.A. § 6069. The commissioner’s report shall include recommendations for legislative changes to implement such a system.

Which was agreed to.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Degree of St. Albans City** moved to amend the bill as follows:

By striking Secs. 23 (determination of property tax adjustments), 24 (late filing penalties), and 25 (amendment of certain claims) of the bill and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 6066a is amended to read:

§ 6066a. DETERMINATION OF PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENTS

(a) Annually, the commissioner shall determine the property tax adjustment amount under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant. The commissioner shall notify the municipality in which the housesite is located of the amount of the property tax adjustment for the claimant for homestead property tax liabilities, on July 1 for ~~timely filed~~ timely filed claims and on ~~September 15~~ December 15 for late claims filed by ~~September 1~~ December 1. The tax adjustment of a claimant who was assessed property tax by a town which revised the dates of its fiscal year, however, is the excess of the property tax which was assessed in the last 12 months of the

revised fiscal year, over the adjusted property tax of the claimant for the revised fiscal year as determined under section 6066 of this title, related to a homestead owned by the claimant.

* * *

(c) The commissioner shall notify the municipality of any claim and refund amounts unresolved by ~~September 15~~ December 15 at the time of final resolution, including adjudication if any; provided, however, that towns will not be notified of any additional adjustment amounts after ~~September 15~~ December 15 of the claim year, and such amounts shall be paid to the claimant by the commissioner.

* * *

(f) Property tax bills.

(1) For amounts stated in the notice to towns on July 1, municipalities shall include on the homestead property tax bill notice to the taxpayer of the total amount allocated to payment of homestead education property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due. Municipalities shall apply the amount allocated under this chapter to current-year property taxes in equal amounts to each of the taxpayers' property tax installments that include education taxes.

(2) For property tax adjustment amounts for which municipalities receive notice on or after ~~September 15~~ December 15, municipalities shall issue a new homestead property tax bill with notice to the taxpayer of the total amount allocated to payment of homestead property tax liabilities and notice of the balance due.

* * *

(g) Annually, on August 1 and on ~~September 15~~ December 15, the commissioner of taxes shall pay to each municipality the amount of property tax adjustment of which the municipality was notified on July 1 for the August 1 transfer, or ~~September 15~~ December 15 for the ~~September 15~~ December 15 transfer, related to municipal property tax on homesteads within that municipality, as determined by the commissioner of taxes.

Sec. 24. 32 V.S.A. § 6068(b) and (c) are amended to read:

(b) Late-filing penalties. If the claimant fails to file a timely claim, the amount of the property tax adjustment under this chapter shall be reduced by \$15.00, but not below \$0.00, which shall be paid to the municipality for the cost of issuing an adjusted homestead property tax bill. No benefit shall be allowed in the calendar year unless the claim is filed with the commissioner on or before ~~September 1~~ December 1.

(c) No request for allocation of an income tax refund or for a renter rebate claim may be made after ~~September 1~~ December 1.

Sec. 25. 32 V.S.A. § 6074 is amended to read:

§ 6074. AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS

At any time within three years after the date for filing claims under subsection 6068(a) of this chapter, a claimant who filed a claim by ~~September 1~~ December 1 may file to amend that claim to correct the amount of household income reported on that claim.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by Rep. Degree of St. Albans City? **Rep. Degree of St. Albans City** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by Rep. Degree of St. Albans City? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 45. Nays, 93.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Rutland City	Eckhardt of Chittenden	Olsen of Jamaica
Batchelor of Derby	Fagan of Rutland City	Pearce of Richford
Bouchard of Colchester	French of Shrewsbury	Pearson of Burlington
Branagan of Georgia	Hebert of Vernon	Peaslee of Guildhall
Brennan of Colchester	Helm of Fair Haven	Perley of Enosburgh
Burditt of West Rutland	Higley of Lowell	Reis of St. Johnsbury
Buxton of Tunbridge	Hubert of Milton	Savage of Swanton
Canfield of Fair Haven	Kilmartin of Newport City	Scheuermann of Stowe
Consejo of Sheldon	Komline of Dorset	Shaw of Pittsford
Crawford of Burke	Larocque of Barnet	Smith of New Haven
Davis of Washington	Lawrence of Lyndon	Strong of Albany
Degree of St. Albans City *	Lewis of Berlin	Trieber of Rockingham
Devereux of Mount Holly	Lewis of Derby	Turner of Milton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Wright of Burlington
Donaghy of Poultney	McFaun of Barre Town	
	Myers of Essex	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Acinapura of Brandon	Cheney of Norwich	Donovan of Burlington
Ancel of Calais	Christie of Hartford	Edwards of Brattleboro
Atkins of Winooski	Clarkson of Woodstock	Ellis of Waterbury
Bartholomew of Hartland	Condon of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield
Bissonnette of Winooski	Conquest of Newbury	Evans of Essex
Bohi of Hartford	Corcoran of Bennington	Fisher of Lincoln
Botzow of Pownal	Courcelle of Rutland City	Frank of Underhill
Browning of Arlington	Dakin of Chester	French of Randolph
Burke of Brattleboro	Deen of Westminster	Gilbert of Fairfax
Campion of Bennington	Donahue of Northfield	Grad of Moretown

Greshin of Warren	Manwaring of Wilmington	Russell of Rutland City
Haas of Rochester	Marek of Newfane *	Shand of Weathersfield
Head of South Burlington	Martin of Springfield	Sharpe of Bristol
Heath of Westford	Martin of Wolcott	South of St. Johnsbury
Hooper of Montpelier	Masland of Thetford	Stevens of Waterbury
Jerman of Essex	McCullough of Williston	Stevens of Shoreham
Jewett of Ripton	McNeil of Rutland Town	Stuart of Brattleboro
Johnson of South Hero	Miller of Shaftsbury	Sweaney of Windsor
Johnson of Canaan	Mook of Bennington	Taylor of Barre City
Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Moran of Wardsboro	Till of Jericho
Klein of East Montpelier	Mrowicki of Putney	Townsend of Randolph
Koch of Barre Town	Munger of South Burlington	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Krebs of South Hero	Nuovo of Middlebury	Webb of Shelburne
Krowinski of Burlington	O'Brien of Richmond	Wilson of Manchester
Kupersmith of South Burlington	O'Sullivan of Burlington	Winters of Williamstown
Lanpher of Vergennes	Partridge of Windham	Wizowaty of Burlington
Lenes of Shelburne	Peltz of Woodbury	Woodward of Johnson
Leriche of Hardwick	Poirier of Barre City	Yantachka of Charlotte
Lippert of Hinesburg	Potter of Clarendon	Young of Glover
Lorber of Burlington	Pugh of South Burlington	Zagar of Barnard
Macaig of Williston	Ralston of Middlebury	
	Ram of Burlington	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Aswad of Burlington	Howard of Cambridge	McAllister of Highgate
Clark of Vergennes	Howrigan of Fairfield	Morrissey of Bennington
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Keenan of St. Albans City	Spengler of Colchester
	Malcolm of Pawlet	Toll of Danville

Rep. Degree of St. Albans City explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

It is a shame that at a time when Vermonters are struggling, we chose to slam the door of opportunity when it could offer relief to many low-income Vermonters. Instead of keeping it open for a little longer.”

Rep. Marek of Newfane explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Having already extended this filing deadline once in this session, shouldn't we at least see if that works before changing it again with a last-minute floor amendment? Such vacillation is not thoughtful legislating and it ill serves Vermonters and this body.”

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time.

Thereupon, **Rep. Pearson of Burlington** asked leave of the House to offer an amendment after third reading, which was disagreed to on a Division vote. Yeas, 40. Nays, 61.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? **Rep. Browning of Arlington** moved to recommit the bill to the committee on Ways and Means, which was disagreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? **Rep. Deen of Westminster** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 125. Nays, 14.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Acinapura of Brandon	Evans of Essex	Lorber of Burlington
Ancel of Calais	Fagan of Rutland City *	Macaig of Williston
Andrews of Rutland City	Fisher of Lincoln	Manwaring of Wilmington
Atkins of Winooski	Frank of Underhill	Marcotte of Coventry
Bartholomew of Hartland	French of Shrewsbury	Marek of Newfane
Bissonnette of Winooski	French of Randolph	Martin of Springfield
Bohi of Hartford	Gilbert of Fairfax	Martin of Wolcott
Botzow of Pownal	Grad of Moretown	Masland of Thetford
Branagan of Georgia	Greshin of Warren	McCullough of Williston
Browning of Arlington *	Haas of Rochester	McFaun of Barre Town
Burke of Brattleboro	Head of South Burlington	McNeil of Rutland Town
Buxton of Tunbridge	Heath of Westford	Miller of Shaftsbury
Campion of Bennington	Hooper of Montpelier	Mook of Bennington
Cheney of Norwich	Jerman of Essex	Moran of Wardsboro
Christie of Hartford	Jewett of Ripton	Mrowicki of Putney *
Clarkson of Woodstock	Johnson of South Hero	Munger of South Burlington
Condon of Colchester	Johnson of Canaan	Myers of Essex
Conquest of Newbury	Kilmartin of Newport City	Nuovo of Middlebury
Consejo of Sheldon	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	O'Brien of Richmond
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Klein of East Montpelier	Olsen of Jamaica
Corcoran of Bennington	Koch of Barre Town	O'Sullivan of Burlington
Courcelle of Rutland City	Komline of Dorset	Partridge of Windham
Crawford of Burke	Krebs of South Hero	Pearce of Richford
Dakin of Chester	Krowinski of Burlington	Pearson of Burlington
Deen of Westminster	Kupersmith of South Burlington	Peaslee of Guildhall
Degree of St. Albans City	Lanpher of Vergennes	Peltz of Woodbury
Devereux of Mount Holly	Larocque of Barnet	Perley of Enosburgh
Donahue of Northfield	Lawrence of Lyndon	Poirier of Barre City
Donovan of Burlington	Lenes of Shelburne	Potter of Clarendon
Eckhardt of Chittenden	Leriche of Hardwick	Pugh of South Burlington
Edwards of Brattleboro	Lewis of Berlin	Ralston of Middlebury
Ellis of Waterbury	Lewis of Derby	Ram of Burlington
Emmons of Springfield	Lippert of Hinesburg	Reis of St. Johnsbury
		Russell of Rutland City

Scheuermann of Stowe	Stuart of Brattleboro	Winters of Williamstown
Shand of Weathersfield	Sweaney of Windsor	Wizowaty of Burlington
Sharpe of Bristol	Taylor of Barre City	Woodward of Johnson
Shaw of Pittsford	Till of Jericho	Wright of Burlington *
Smith of New Haven	Townsend of Randolph	Yantachka of Charlotte
South of St. Johnsbury	Trieber of Rockingham	Young of Glover
Spengler of Colchester	Waite-Simpson of Essex	Zagar of Barnard
Stevens of Waterbury	Webb of Shelburne	
Stevens of Shoreham	Wilson of Manchester	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Batchelor of Derby	Dickinson of St. Albans	Higley of Lowell
Bouchard of Colchester	Town	Hubert of Milton
Brennan of Colchester	Donaghy of Poultney	Savage of Swanton
Burditt of West Rutland	Hebert of Vernon *	Strong of Albany
Canfield of Fair Haven	Helm of Fair Haven	Turner of Milton

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Aswad of Burlington	Howrigan of Fairfield	Morrissey of Bennington
Clark of Vergennes	Keenan of St. Albans City	Toll of Danville
Davis of Washington	Malcolm of Pawlet	
Howard of Cambridge	McAllister of Highgate	

Rep. Botzow of Pownal explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

H. 782 extends VEGI, an important economic development tool that delivers jobs to Vermonters and wealth to our communities. Our economic development folks at all levels from state to town need and appreciate this support for their hard work.”

Rep. Browning of Arlington explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I vote ‘yes’ because there are useful changes in this bill. But I will continue to raise the issue of how the costs of tax expenditures like VEGI are tracked and whether alternative uses for such funds are properly considered. We must be good stewards of the allocations of tax revenue by Ways & Means just as we are of actual appropriations by the Appropriations Committee.”

Rep. Fagan of Rutland City explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I would like to thank the Ways & Means Committee for their work to update antiquated language pertaining to Meals & Rooms Tax Provisions.

Residents of our state should not need to pay a meals tax on the meals they eat in their home. As such I vote 'yes'."

Rep. Hebert of Vernon explained his vote as follows:

"Mr. Speaker:

No. When Vermont breaches its contracts what message does this give to current Vermont businesses and new businesses contemplating coming to Vermont?"

Rep. Marek of Newfane explained his vote as follows:

"Mr. Speaker:

With the arrival of spring, claims of one-third of Vermont's electricity may suddenly have become inoperative and promises of low-cost electricity may suddenly have become inoperative, but at least we have not conferred a \$6 million gift for the privilege of being jilted."

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney explained his vote as follows:

"Mr. Speaker:

I voted to support the work and long deliberations of your committee on Ways & Means. I especially appreciate the idea that if a corporation that can pay its CEO an exorbitant salary that has 6 zeroes before the other numbers, won't look out for the future of its Vermont employees then we can exhibit the social and economic responsibility to plan for the future."

Rep. Kurt Wright of Burlington explained his vote as follows:

"Mr. Speaker:

My 'yes' vote reflects my belief that there are, in fact, many items that benefit taxpayers in this bill, including two items I had previously worked on – repeal of the double counting of interest and dividend income, which especially helps retirees, and creation of an appeal process for taxpayers to the Commissioner."

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 785

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and state bonding budget adjustment

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged to Senate Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the following bills were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith:

H. 535

House bill, entitled

An act relating to racial disparities in the Vermont criminal justice system

H. 773

House bill, entitled

An act relating to veterans' tax exemption

H. 774

House bill, entitled

An act relating to meat inspection, delivery of liquid fuels, dairy operations, and animal foot baths

H. 780

House bill, entitled

An act relating to compensation for certain state employees

H. 782

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous tax changes for 2012

H. 785

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and state bonding budget adjustment

Adjournment

At three o'clock and fifty-five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at twelve o'clock and fifty-five minutes in the afternoon.