Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 36

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. H. Gwynn Zakov, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

- **H. 37.** An act relating to telemedicine.
- **H. 523.** An act relating to revising the state highway condemnation law.
- H. 524. An act relating to the regulation of professions and occupations.
- **H. 764.** An act relating to health insurance brokers' fees.
- **H. 765.** An act relating to the mental health needs of the corrections population.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

- **J.R.H. 27.** Joint resolution supporting the Vermont State Hospital employees.
- **J.R.H. 30.** Joint resolution authorizing 2012 Green Mountain Girls' State to conduct a civic education program at the State House.
- **J.R.H. 31.** Joint resolution urging Congress to designate March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 292. House concurrent resolution designating March 12–18 as Multiple Sclerosis Week in Vermont.

- **H.C.R. 293.** House concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service.
- **H.C.R. 294.** House concurrent resolution honoring and thanking the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene.
- **H.C.R. 295.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments.
- **H.C.R. 296.** House concurrent resolution honoring Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence.
- **H.C.R. 297.** House concurrent resolution honoring Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott.
- **H.C.R. 298.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary.
- **H.C.R. 299.** House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph.
- **H.C.R. 300.** House concurrent resolution honoring Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort.
- **H.C.R. 301.** House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont.
- **H.C.R.** 302. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Mary Shelby Paull.
- **H.C.R. 303.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II girls' championship Nordic skiing team.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered concurrent resolutions originating in the Senate of the following titles:

- **S.C.R. 39.** Senate concurrent resolution honoring former Representative and Senator Robert T. Gannett on his 95th birthday.
- **S.C.R. 40.** Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Ross Connelly and Thomas F. Kearney on their induction into the New England Newspaper Hall of Fame.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

Senator Cummings moved that the rules be suspended and that Senate bill entitled:

S. 200. An act relating to the reporting requirements of health insurers.

be committed to the Committee on Finance with the report of the Committee on Health and Welfare *intact*,

Which was agreed to.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

S. 222.

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Campbell, the rules were suspended and Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to cost-sharing for employer-sponsored insurance assistance plans.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Health and Welfare, Senator Campbell moved that Senate Rule 49 be suspended in order to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with the report of the Committee on Health and Welfare *intact*,

Which was agreed to.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 37.

An act relating to telemedicine.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. 469.

An act relating to potable water supply and wastewater system isolation distances.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

H. 523.

An act relating to revising the state highway condemnation law.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 524.

An act relating to the regulation of professions and occupations.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

H. 764.

An act relating to health insurance brokers' fees.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 765.

An act relating to the mental health needs of the corrections population.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Joint Resolution Referred

J.R.H. 27.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution supporting the Vermont State Hospital employees.

Whereas, on August 28, 2011, the severe flooding resulting from Tropical Storm Irene forced the immediate closing of the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, and

Whereas, this sudden disaster required quick and decisive decisions to be implemented, and

Whereas, the Vermont State Hospital employees safely evacuated every patient, and the patients were all relocated to alternative locations across the state, and

Whereas, the employees continued to provide outstanding care to the patients wherever they were temporarily assigned, including hospital psychiatric units, step-down facilities, and even correctional units, and

Whereas, at great personal sacrifice to themselves and their families, the employees voluntarily moved to 12-hour shifts and stayed at hotels near where their patients were being treated, and

Whereas, the employees' heroic efforts have been widely credited for preventing tragedy and a complete breakdown of Vermont's mental health system, and

Whereas, the department of mental health's announcement on February 24, 2012 that approximately 80 of these excellent state employees will soon be

separated from state service is a devastating blow to these extremely conscientious and dedicated individuals, and

Whereas, the working Vermonters legislative caucus is gravely concerned about the future of the entire mental health system, including the welfare of the patients and the fair treatment of state employees, and

Whereas, every reasonable effort to provide continuing employment for these individuals must be made, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly strongly urges the department of mental health and the department of human resources to agree to the following:

<u>First</u>: That should an interim state mental health care facility be opened, the laid-off state employees will be given the first rights to accept the jobs required to operate this temporary mental health care facility;

<u>Second</u>: That for one year after a new permanent state hospital is opened, the laid-off state employees will be granted reduction in force (RIF) rights, even if they have been working outside state government in the interim, and

<u>Third</u>: That the department of human resources and the Vermont State Employees Association will collaborate on potential alternatives to employee layoffs including possible retirement options, and

<u>Fourth</u>: That the employees will be provided with job counseling and assistance in finding immediate employment either in or outside state government, and be it further

<u>Resolved</u>: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Peter Shumlin, Commissioner of Mental Health Patrick Flood, and Commissioner of Human Resources Kate Duffy.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was treated as a bill and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

Joint Resolutions Placed on Calendar J.R.H. 30.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution authorizing 2012 Green Mountain Girls' State to conduct a civic education program at the State House.

Whereas, for many years, the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored the annual Green Mountain Girls' State (Girls' State) civic education program, and

Whereas, Girls' State enables young women in high school to gain a first-hand experience and understanding of state government's procedures in all three branches of government, and

Whereas, a highlight of Girls' State is the day at the State House, featuring mock legislative committee meetings and chamber debate on proposed bills that focus on leading public policy issues, and students shadowing senior officials in the executive and judicial branches, and

Whereas, legislative staff have offered their professional support services, helping the students gain a better appreciation of Vermont's legislative process, and

Whereas, in 2012, Girls' State is scheduled to convene at the State House on June 20, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly authorizes Green Mountain Girls' State to use the House and Senate chambers, the legislative committee meeting rooms, and the governor's ceremonial office on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, and be it further

<u>Resolved</u>: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

J.R.H. 31.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution urging Congress to designate March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 United States troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, ending American military involvement in what was the longest war in our country's history, and

Whereas, the President designated March 29, 1974 as Vietnam Veterans Day, and

Whereas, the 58,195 honorable and brave souls who fought and died during the Vietnam War, the many who remain missing in action, and all those who

have died since from the consequences of that war deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of our nation, and

Whereas, the men and women who served with dedication, honor, and pride during the Vietnam War era in Vietnam, elsewhere overseas, or in the United States merit special honor and recognition, and

Whereas, the families whose loved ones gave their lives for our country during the Vietnam War should always be in our thoughts, and

Whereas, many men and women came home from Vietnam with physical and emotional wounds, and their families are committed to a lifetime of care and support for their loved one, and these families should be honored, and

Whereas, the citizens who stood by and supported, without reservation, the families of the fallen as well as the Vietnam veterans who returned and their families all are worthy of praise, and

Whereas, the professionals and volunteers who committed themselves to the loving care and healing of the bodily and emotionally wounded from the Vietnam War are special individuals who deserve recognition, and

Whereas, allied personnel who served with dedication, honor, and pride alongside our nation's defenders during the Vietnam War deserve our respect and gratitude, and

Whereas, this expression of respect and gratitude for the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families will give hope and assurance to current and future generations of our nation's defenders and their families that our nation will honor and remember their sacrifice, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to designate March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day, and be it further

<u>Resolved</u>: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 214.

Senator MacDonald, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to customer rights regarding smart meters.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 2811 is added to read:

§ 2811. SMART METERS; CUSTOMER RIGHTS; REPORTS

- (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - (1) "Smart meter" means a wired smart meter or a wireless smart meter.
- (2) "Wired smart meter" means an advanced metering infrastructure device using a fixed wire for two-way communication between the device and an electric company.
- (3) "Wireless smart meter" means an advanced metering infrastructure device using radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the device and an electric company.
- (b) Customer rights. Notwithstanding any law, order, or agreement to the contrary, an electric company may install a wireless smart meter on a customer's premises, provided the company:
- (1) provides prior written notice to the customer indicating that the meter will use radio or other wireless means for two-way communication between the meter and the company and informing the customer of his or her rights under subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection;
- (2) allows a customer to choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, at no additional monthly or other charge, unless such charge is approved by the public service board pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; and
- (3) allows a customer to require removal of a previously installed wireless smart meter for any reason and at an agreed-upon time, without incurring any charge for such removal.
- (c) Fees. Upon full deployment of its advanced metering infrastructure, an electric company may charge an opt-out fee to customers who choose not to have a wireless smart meter installed, or who have a wireless smart meter removed, provided the fee is cost based and approved by the board.
- (d) Reports. On January 1, 2014 and again on January 1, 2016, the commissioner of public service shall publish a report on the energy savings realized through the use of smart meters, as well as on the occurrence of any breaches to a company's cyber security infrastructure. The reports shall be based on electric company data requested by and provided to the commissioner of public service and shall be in a form and in a manner the commissioner

deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this subsection. The reports shall be submitted to the senate committees on finance and on natural resources and energy and the house committees on commerce and economic development and on natural resources and energy.

(e) Health report. On or before January 15, 2013, the commissioner of health shall submit a report to the senate committee on finance and the house committee on commerce and economic development which shall include: an update of the department of health's 2012 report entitled "Radio Frequency Radiation and Health: Smart Meters"; a summary of the department's activities monitoring the deployment of wireless smart meters in Vermont, including a representative sample of postdeployment radio frequency level testing; and recommendations relating to evidence-based surveillance on the potential health effects of wireless smart meters.

Sec. 2. INSTALLED WIRELESS SMART METERS

If an electric company has installed a wireless smart meter, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 2811(a)(3), prior to the effective date of this act, the company shall provide notice of the installation to the applicable customers, and such notice shall include a statement of customer rights as described under 30 V.S.A. § 2811(b).

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed

S. 226.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to prohibiting synthetic stimulants.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Campbell and Benning moved to amend the bill by in Sec. 7, by adding subdivisions (b)(6)–(9) to read as follows:

(6) An attorney appointed by the criminal law section of the Vermont Bar Association.

- (7) A state's attorney appointed by the executive committee of the department of state's attorneys and sheriffs.
 - (8) A senator appointed by the president pro tempore.
 - (9) A representative appointed by the speaker of the house.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Bills Passed

Senate bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed:

- **S. 239.** An act relating to ensuring the humane treatment and slaughter of animals.
- **S. 244.** An act relating to referral to court diversion for driving with a suspended license.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 201.

Senator Mullin, for the Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to expanding public school choice for elementary and high school students.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 822 is amended to read:

\S 822. SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OR PAY TUITION; TUITION

- (a) Each school district shall provide, furnish, and maintain one or more approved high schools in which <u>it provides</u> high school education is provided for its <u>resident</u> pupils unless:
- (1) The the electorate authorizes the school board to elose an existing high school and to provide for the high school education of its resident pupils solely by paying tuition in accordance with law. Tuition for its pupils shall be paid pursuant to this chapter to a public high school, an approved independent high school, or an independent school meeting school quality standards, to be selected by the parents or guardians of the pupil, within or without outside the state; or

- (2) The the school district is organized to provide only elementary education for its pupils.
- (b) For purposes of this section, a school district which provides, furnishes and maintains a program of education for the first eight years of compulsory school attendance shall be obligated to pay tuition for its pupils for at least four additional years. [Repealed.]
- (c) The school board may both maintain a high school and furnish high school education by paying tuition to a public school as in the judgment of the board may best serve the interests of the pupils, or A district that maintains a high school may pay tuition pursuant to this chapter to an approved independent school or an independent school meeting school quality standards on behalf of one or more pupils if the school board judges that a pupil has unique educational needs that cannot be served within the district or at a nearby another public school. Its judgment shall be final in regard to the institution the pupils may attend at public cost.
- Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 822a is added to read:

§ 822a. PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE

(a) Definitions. In this section:

- (1) "High school" means a public school or that portion of a public school that offers grades 7 through 12 or some subset of those grades.
- (2) "Student" means a student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor or under guardianship and means a student himself or herself if the student is not a minor.
- (b) Limits on transferring students. A sending high school board may limit the number of resident students who transfer to another high school under this section in each year; provided that in no case shall it limit the potential number of new transferring students to fewer than five percent of the resident students enrolled in the sending high school as of October 1 of the academic year in which the calculation is made or 10 students, whichever is fewer; and further provided that in no case shall the total number of transferring students in any year exceed 10 percent of all resident high school students or 40 students, whichever is fewer.
- (c) Capacity. On or before February 1 each year, the board of a high school district shall define and announce its capacity to accept students under this section. The commissioner shall develop, review, and update guidelines to assist high school district boards to define capacity limits. Guidelines may include limits based on the capacity of the program, class, grade, school

<u>building</u>, measurable adverse financial impact, or other factors, but shall not be based on the need to provide special education services.

(d) Lottery.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, if more than the allowable number of students wish to transfer to a school under this section, then the board of the receiving high school district shall devise a nondiscriminatory lottery system for determining which students may transfer.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, if more than the allowable number of students wish to transfer from a school under this section, then the board of the sending high school district shall devise a nondiscriminatory lottery system for determining which students may transfer; provided, however:
- (A) a board shall give preference to the transfer request of a student whose request to transfer from the school was denied in a prior year; and
- (B) a board that has established limits under subsection (b) of this section may choose to waive those limits in any year.

(e) Application and notification.

- (1) A high school district shall accept applications for enrollment until March 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student is applying.
- (2) A high school district shall notify each student of acceptance or rejection of the application by April 1 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student is applying.
- (3) An accepted student shall notify both the sending and the receiving high schools of his or her decision to enroll or not to enroll in the receiving high school by April 15 of the school year preceding the school year for which the student has applied.
- (4) After sending notification of enrollment, a student may enroll in a school other than the receiving high school only if the student, the receiving high school, and the high school in which the student wishes to enroll agree. If the student becomes a resident of a different school district, the student may enroll in the high school maintained by the new district of residence.
- (5) If a student who is enrolled in a high school other than in the school district of residence notifies the school district of residence by July 15 of the intent to return to that school for the following school year, the student shall be permitted to return to the high school in the school district of residence without requiring agreement of the receiving district or the sending district.

- (f) Continued enrollment. An enrolled nonresident student shall be permitted to remain enrolled in the receiving high school without renewed applications in subsequent years unless:
 - (1) the student graduates;
 - (2) the student is no longer a Vermont resident; or
- (3) the student is expelled from school in accordance with adopted school policy.
 - (g) Tuition and other costs.
- (1) Unless the sending and receiving schools agree to a different arrangement, no tuition or other cost shall be charged by the receiving district or paid by the sending district for a student transferring to a different high school under this section; provided, however, a sending high school district shall pay special education and technical education costs for resident students pursuant to the provisions of this title.
- (2) A student transferring to a different high school under this section shall pay no tuition, fee, or other cost that is not also paid by students residing in the receiving district.
- (3) A district of residence shall include within its average daily membership any student who transfers to another high school under this section; a receiving school district shall not include any student who transfers to it under this section.
- (h) Special education. If a student who is eligible for and receiving special education services chooses to enroll in a high school other than in the high school district of residence, then the receiving high school shall carry out the individualized education plan, including placement, developed by the sending high school district. If the receiving high school believes that a student not on an individualized education plan may be eligible for special education services or that an existing individualized education plan should be altered, it shall notify the sending high school district. When a sending high school district considers eligibility, development of an individualized education plan, or changes to a plan, it shall give notice of meetings to the receiving high school district and provide an opportunity for representatives of that district to attend the meetings and participate in making decisions.
- (i) Suspension and expulsion. A sending high school district is not required to provide services to a resident student during a period of suspension or expulsion imposed by another high school district.

- (j) Transportation. Jointly, the superintendent of each supervisory union shall establish and update a statewide clearinghouse providing information to students about transportation options among the high school districts.
- (k) Nonapplicability of other laws. The provisions of subsections 824(b) and (c) (amount of tuition), 825(b) and (c) (maximum tuition rate), and 826(a) (notice of tuition change) and section 836 (tuition overcharge and undercharge) of this chapter shall not apply to enrollment in a high school pursuant to this section.
- (1) Waiver. If a high school board determines that participation under this section would adversely affect students in its high school, then it may petition the commissioner for an exemption. The commissioner's decision shall be final.
- (m) Report. Annually, on or before January 15, the commissioner shall report to the senate and house committees on education on the implementation of public high school choice as provided in this section, including a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the program's impact on the quality of educational services available to students and the expansion of educational opportunities.
- Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 4001(1) is amended to read:
- (1) "Average daily membership" of a school district, or if needed in order to calculate the appropriate homestead tax rate, of the municipality as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 5401(9), in any year means:
- (A) The full-time equivalent enrollment of pupils, as defined by the state board by rule, who are legal residents of the district or municipality attending a school owned and operated by the district, attending a public school outside the district under an interdistrict agreement section 822a of this title, or for whom the district pays tuition to one or more approved independent schools or public schools outside the district during the annual census period. The census period consists of the 11th day through the 30th day of the school year in which school is actually in session.

* * *

Sec. 4. REPEAL

16 V.S.A. §§ 1621 and 1622 (public high school choice regions) are repealed.

Sec. 5. REPORT

On or before January 15, 2013, the department of education shall evaluate the funding system set forth in Sec. 2 of this act at 16 V.S.A. § 822a(g) and

present to the senate and house committees on education its recommendations for changes, if any.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; IMPLEMENTATION

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012; provided, however, that this act shall apply to enrollment in academic year 2013–2014 and after.

After passage, the title of the bill is to be amended to read:

An act relating to creating full public school choice for high school students.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Representative Krebs and others,

H.C.R. 292.

House concurrent resolution designating March 12–18 as Multiple Sclerosis Week in Vermont.

By Representatives Hooper and Kitzmiller,

By Senators Cummings, Doyle and Pollina,

H.C.R. 293.

House concurrent resolution honoring Montpelier city clerk and treasurer Charlotte Hoyt for her outstanding public service.

By All Members of the House,

By All Members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 294.

House concurrent resolution honoring and thanking the individuals, institutions, and organizations who lent their assistance so generously during and after Tropical Storm Irene.

By Representative Jewett,

H.C.R. 295.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Emery Tillman of Cornwall on her kayaking accomplishments.

By Representative Miller,

By Senators Hartwell and Sears,

H.C.R. 296.

House concurrent resolution honoring Elizabeth Benedict for her lifelong commitment to educational excellence.

By Representative Martin,

H.C.R. 297.

House concurrent resolution honoring Belinda H. Clegg for her outstanding public service to the town of Wolcott.

By Representative Stuart and others,

By Senators Galbraith and White,

H.C.R. 298.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Marlboro College on its 65th anniversary.

By Representative Townsend and others,

By Senator MacDonald,

H.C.R. 299.

House concurrent resolution recognizing the outstanding health care services provided by Gifford Medical Center in Randolph.

By Representative Edwards and others,

By Senators Galbraith and White,

H.C.R. 300.

House concurrent resolution honoring Brattleboro radio station WKVT AM/FM for its outstanding Tropical Storm Irene community support effort.

By Representative Pugh and others,

By Senator Ayer,

H.C.R. 301.

House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding efforts of those who care for, educate, and advocate for our young children in Vermont.

By Representative Batchelor and others,

By Senators Illuzzi and Starr,

H.C.R. 302.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Mary Shelby Paull.

By Representative Nuovo and others,

H.C.R. 303.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Middlebury Union High School Tigers' 2012 Division II girls' championship Nordic skiing team.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Campbell, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 49.