

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Bill for Second Reading

S. 317.

An act relating to repealing the unconstitutional Vermont statutes related to the performance of abortions.

By the Committee on Judiciary. (Senator Benning for the committee.)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 213.

An act relating to an employee's use of benefits.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this act is to promote a healthy work environment by ensuring that employers do not penalize employees who use employer-provided sick leave or any other employer-provided benefit.

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 496b is added to read:

§ 496b. EMPLOYEE USE OF BENEFITS

(a) An employer, employment agency, or labor organization shall not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against or penalize an employee because the employee has used, or attempted to use, accrued employer-provided sick leave or other employer-provided benefits.

(b) This section shall not:

(1) diminish any rights under this chapter or pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement;

(2) require an employer to provide sick leave or other benefits to employees; or

(3) prohibit the establishment and enforcement of other reasonable workplace policies that relate to an employee's use of benefits, such as policies addressing attendance incentives, tardiness or unexcused absences, procedures for using sick leave or other benefits, or seniority calculations.

(c) The provisions against retaliation in subdivision 495(a)(8) of this title and the penalty and enforcement provisions of section 495b of this title shall apply to this section.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 165.

An act relating to collective bargaining for deputy state's attorneys.

PENDING ACTION: Third reading of the bill.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

H.C.R. 222-229 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 13, 2014)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Rachel Smith of St. Albans – Member of the Vermont Economic Progress Council – By Sen. Collins for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (2/6/14)

Edward F. Flanagan of Montpelier – Member of the Vermont State Lottery Commission – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (2/11/14)

Timothy Briglin of Thetford Center – Member of the Vermont Economic Progress Council – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (2/11/14)

Thomas Nesbitt of Waterbury Center – Member of the Plumbers Examining Board – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (2/11/14)

Ron Shems of Moretown – Chair of the Natural Resources Board – By Sen. Hartwell for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (2/12/14)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Thursday, February 13, 2014 – House Chamber – 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. – Re: H.586 Improving the quality of State Waters – House Committee on Agriculture.

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 – Room 11 – 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Re: Governor’s Proposed FY 2015 State Budget – House Committee on Appropriations.

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 – Room 11 – 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. – Re: Judicial Retention of Judges – Joint Committee on Judicial Retention.

Friday, February 21, 2014 – Room 11 – 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Re: Governor’s Proposed FY 2015 State Budget – House Committee on Appropriations.

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 10:30 A.M. - Election of two (2) trustees for the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Candidates for the positions of trustee must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** not later than Thursday, February 13, 2014, by 5:00 P.M. pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSSOVER DEADLINES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

These deadlines may be waived for any bill or committee only with the consent of the Committee on Rules.

Note: The deadlines were determined by the Joint Rules Committee. The Senate will not act on House bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Miscellaneous Tax Bill).