

# Senate Calendar

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014

SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 168.**

An act relating to making miscellaneous amendments to laws governing municipalities.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator French for the Committee on Government Operations.**

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

\* \* \* Municipal Animal Control \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 351 is amended to read:

§ 351. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(4) “Humane officer” or “officer” means any law enforcement officer as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(11);<sub>2</sub> auxiliary ~~state police~~ State Police officers;<sub>2</sub> deputy game wardens;<sub>2</sub> humane society officer, employee,<sub>2</sub> or agent, ~~elected animal control officer,~~<sub>2</sub> animal control officer appointed by the legislative body of a municipality;<sub>2</sub> local board of health officer or agent;<sub>2</sub> or any officer authorized to serve criminal process.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3549 is amended to read:

§ 3549. DOMESTIC PETS OR WOLF-HYBRIDS, REGULATION BY TOWNS

The legislative body of a city or town by ordinance may regulate the licensing, keeping, leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment, and destruction of domestic pets or wolf-hybrids and their running at large except that a legislative body of a city or town shall not prohibit or regulate the barking or running at large of a working farm dog when it is on the property being farmed

by the person who registered the working farm dog, pursuant to subsection 3581(a) of this title, in the following circumstances:

(1) If the working farm dog is barking in order to herd or protect livestock or poultry or to protect crops.

(2) If the working farm dog is running at large in order to herd or protect livestock or poultry or to protect crops.

Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 3550 is amended to read:

§ 3550. PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT; MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODY; SECRETARY

\* \* \*

(k) A municipality may adopt ordinances inconsistent with this section imposing penalties for violation of any provisions of subchapter 1 or 2, refusal to obtain a kennel permit, or refusal to comply with an order issued by a municipal officer under subchapter 5 of this chapter, in which case those ordinances shall apply.

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 3621 is amended to read:

§ 3621. ISSUANCE OF WARRANT TO IMPOUND; COMPLAINT

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers ~~or~~, constables, or pound keepers, ~~or~~ ~~elected or appointed animal control officers~~, directing them to proceed forthwith to impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers thereof.

(2) A dog or wolf-hybrid impounded by a municipality under this section may be transferred to an animal shelter or rescue organization for the purpose of finding an adoptive home for the dog or wolf-hybrid. If the dog or wolf-hybrid cannot be placed in an adoptive home or transferred to a humane society or rescue organization within ten days, or a greater number of days established by the municipality, the dog or wolf-hybrid may be destroyed in a humane way. The municipality shall not be liable for expenses associated with keeping the dog or wolf-hybrid at the animal shelter or rescue organization beyond the established number of days.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Current and Delinquent Tax Collectors \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2646 is amended to read:

§ 2646. TOWN OFFICERS; QUALIFICATION; ELECTION

At the annual meeting, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters the following town officers, who shall serve until the next annual meeting and until successors are chosen, unless otherwise provided by law:

\* \* \*

(8) ~~A collector of current taxes, if the town so orders;~~ [Repealed.]

(9) A collector of delinquent taxes, if the town so orders, for a term of one year unless a town votes that a collector of delinquent taxes shall be elected for a term of three years. When a town votes for a three-year term for the collector of delinquent taxes, that three-year term shall remain in effect until the town rescinds it by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose;

\* \* \*

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2651d is added to read:

§ 2651d. COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES; APPOINTMENT;  
REMOVAL

(a) A municipality may vote by Australian ballot at an annual or special meeting to authorize the legislative body to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes, who may be the municipal treasurer. A collector of delinquent taxes so appointed may be removed by the legislative body for just cause after notice and hearing.

(b) When a municipality votes to authorize the legislative body to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes, the legislative body's authority to make such appointment shall remain in effect until the municipality rescinds that authority by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

(c) Any collector of delinquent taxes appointed under this section shall be paid a salary or other compensation for collecting delinquent taxes in lieu of fees and commissions. Fees and commissions collected by the collector of delinquent taxes shall be turned over to the municipal treasurer at least once a month.

\* \* \* Incompatible Offices; Cemetery Commissioners and  
Treasurers \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2647 is amended to read:

§ 2647. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES

(a)(1) An auditor shall not be town clerk, town treasurer, selectboard member, first constable, collector of current or delinquent taxes, trustee of public funds, town manager, road commissioner, water commissioner, sewage system commissioner, sewage disposal commissioner, cemetery commissioner, or town district school director; nor shall a spouse of or any person assisting any of these officers in the discharge of official duties be eligible to hold office as auditor.

(2) A selectboard member or school director shall not be first constable, collector of taxes, town treasurer, auditor, or town agent. A selectboard member shall not be lister or assessor.

(3) A cemetery commissioner shall not be town treasurer.

~~(3)~~(4) A town manager shall not hold any elective office in the town or town school district.

~~(4)~~(5) Election officers at local elections shall be disqualified as provided in section 2456 of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if a school district prepares and reports its budget independently from the budget of the town and the school district is audited by an independent public accountant, a person shall be eligible to hold office as auditor even if that person's spouse holds office as a school director.

\* \* \* Town Clerks; Public Record Redaction Authority \* \* \*

Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 1164 is amended to read:

§ 1164. CERTIFIED COPIES; FORM

(a) A town clerk shall furnish certified copies of any instrument on record in his or her office, or any instrument or paper filed in his or her office pursuant to law, on the tender of ~~his~~ the clerk's fees therefor, and his or her attestation shall be a sufficient authentication of the copies, except that the town clerk shall not copy the word "illegitimate" from any birth certificate he or she furnishes. The town clerk may redact Social Security numbers from copies of any instrument or record in his or her office.

(b) Copies of vital records for events occurring outside the ~~state~~ State, filed with a town clerk pursuant to ~~section 5015 of Title 18~~ V.S.A. § 5015, shall not be copied and certified.

\* \* \* Planning and Advisory Commissions \* \* \*

Sec. 9. 24 V.S.A. § 4433 is amended to read:

§ 4433. ADVISORY COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Municipalities may at any time create one or more advisory commissions, which for the purposes of this chapter include committees, or a combination of advisory commissions to assist the legislative body or the planning commission in preparing, adopting, and implementing the municipal plan. Advisory commissions authorized under this section and under chapter 118 of this title may advise appropriate municipal panels, applicants, and interested parties in accordance with the procedures established under section 4464 of this title.

(1) Creation of an advisory commission. Advisory commissions not authorized in chapter 118 of this title shall be created as follows:

(A) An advisory commission may be created at any time when a municipality votes to create one, or through adoption of bylaws, or ~~if the charter of a municipality permits it~~, when the legislative body of the municipality votes to create one.

(B) An advisory commission shall have ~~not less~~ no fewer than three members. All members should be residents of the municipality, except that historic preservation, or design advisory, ~~or conservation~~ commissions may be composed of professional and lay members, a majority of whom shall reside within the municipality creating the commission.

\* \* \*

(2) Procedures for advisory commissions. Advisory commissions not authorized in chapter 118 of this title shall establish the following procedures:

(A) At its organizational meeting, an advisory commission shall adopt by majority vote of those present and voting such rules as it deems necessary and appropriate for the performance of its functions. It shall annually elect a ~~chairperson, a treasurer,~~ chair and a clerk.

(B) Times and places of meetings of an advisory commission shall be publicly posted in the municipality, and its meetings shall be open to the public in accordance with the terms of the open meeting law, ~~subchapter 2 of chapter 5 of Title 1~~ set forth in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

\* \* \*

(3) Duties and powers of historic preservation commissions. In addition to the requirements set forth in subdivision (2) of this section, all historic preservation commissions shall comply with all the following:

\* \* \*

(C) Have responsibilities set forth in ~~the commission's rules of procedure~~ a written document approved by a majority vote of the local legislative body at a regular or special meeting that may include:

(i) Preparation of reports and recommendations on standards for the planning commission in creating a local historic district bylaw under this chapter.

(ii) Advising and assisting the legislative body, planning commission, and other entities on matters related to historic preservation.

(iii) Advising the appropriate municipal panel and administrative officer in development review and enforcement pursuant to subdivision 4414(2)(C) ~~4414(1)(F)~~ and section 4464 of this title.

(iv) If provided in the bylaw, advising and assisting the legislative body, appropriate municipal panel, and administrative officer in creating and administering a design review district or downtown or village center district pursuant to subdivision 4414(1)(A) or ~~(B)~~(E) of this title.

(v) If provided in a bylaw developed in cooperation with the division for historic preservation, those procedural and advisory powers required of a Certified Local Government under the National Historic Preservation Act.

(4) Powers and duties of design review commissions. In addition to the requirements set forth in subdivision (2) of this section, all design review commissions shall:

(A) To the extent possible, have among their members professionals in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, historic preservation, and related disciplines.

(B) Have responsibilities identified by the legislative body that may include:

(i) Preparation of reports and standards for the planning commission in creating a design review district bylaw under this chapter.

(ii) Advising and assisting the legislative body, planning commission, and other entities on design-related matters in the creation of plans and bylaws and planning for public improvements.

(iii) Advising appropriate municipal panels and the administrative officer in development review and enforcement pursuant to subdivisions 4414(1)(E) and (F) and section 4464 of this title.

(5) Powers and duties of housing commissions. In addition to the requirements set forth in subdivision (2) of this section, housing commissions may have responsibilities identified by the local legislative body that include:

(A) ~~Make~~ Making an inventory of the current stock of housing units in the municipality and identify any gaps in the housing stock according to household incomes or special needs of the community. The inventory may include documentation of the affordable housing cost index for an average citizen of the municipality, the average cost of rental units and vacancy rates, and the annual average sales price of homes.

(B) ~~Review~~ Reviewing the zoning ordinances, subdivision bylaws, building codes, and the development review process of the municipality, make recommendations to facilitate the development of affordable housing in the municipality, and promote bylaws that increase densities for the purpose of providing affordable housing.

(C) ~~Assist~~ Assisting the local appropriate municipal panels pursuant to section 4464 of this title and the district environmental commission by providing advisory testimony on the housing needs of the municipality, where pertinent to applications made to those bodies, for permits for development.

(D) ~~Cooperate~~ Cooperating with the local legislative body, planning commission, zoning board of adjustment, road committee, or other municipal or private organizations on matters affecting housing resources of the municipality. This may include working with the municipality on a wastewater and water allocation policy that reserves a percentage of the capacity for future affordable housing.

(E) ~~Collaborate~~ Collaborating with not-for-profit housing organizations, government agencies, developers, and builders in pursuing options to meet the housing needs of the local residents.

Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 4460 is amended to read:

§ 4460. APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL PANELS

\* \* \*

(c) In the case of an urban municipality or of a rural town where the planning commission does not serve as the board of adjustment or the development review board, members of the board of adjustment or the development review board shall be appointed by the legislative body, the number and terms of office of which shall be determined by the legislative body subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section. The municipal legislative body may appoint alternates to a planning commission, a board of adjustment, or a development review board for a term to be determined by the

legislative body. Alternates may be assigned by the legislative body to serve on the planning commission, the board of adjustment, or the development review board in situations when one or more members of the board are disqualified or are otherwise unable to serve. Vacancies shall be filled by the legislative body for the unexpired terms and upon the expiration of such terms. Each member of a board of adjustment or a development review board may be removed for cause by the legislative body upon written charges and after public hearing. If a development review board is created, provisions of this subsection regarding removal of members of the board of adjustment shall not apply.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Required Frontage for Land Development \* \* \*

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development provisions shall apply in every municipality:

\* \* \*

(3) Required frontage on, or access to, public roads, ~~class 4 town highways,~~ or public waters. Land development may be permitted on lots that do not have frontage either on a public road, ~~class 4 town highway,~~ or public waters, provided that access through a permanent easement or right-of-way has been approved in accordance with standards and process specified in the bylaws. This approval shall be pursuant to subdivision bylaws adopted in accordance with section 4418 of this title, or where subdivision bylaws have not been adopted or do not apply, through a process and pursuant to standards defined in bylaws adopted for the purpose of assuring safe and adequate access. Any permanent easement or right-of-way providing access to such a road or waters shall be at least 20 feet in width.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Municipal Law Enforcement Authority \* \* \*

Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 2358(c)(4) is added to read:

(4) “Exercise of law enforcement authority” does not include the enforcement of civil municipal ordinances, except civil municipal ordinances relating to the operation or use of motor vehicles which are adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapters 59 and 117.

\* \* \* General Municipal Regulatory Authority \* \* \*

Sec. 13. 24 V.S.A. § 2291 is amended to read:

§ 2291. ENUMERATION OF POWERS

For the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience, a town, city, or incorporated village shall have the following powers:

\* \* \*

(10) To regulate the keeping of dogs, and to provide for their licensing, leashing, muzzling, restraint, impoundment, and destruction.

\* \* \*

(16) To name and rename streets and to number and renumber lots pursuant to section 4463 of this title, and to require the owner of a house or other building to which a number has been assigned to affix the number, including the assigned 911 address, to the structure, sign, or number post so that it is clearly visible from the road.

\* \* \*

(26) When a disaster or emergency has been declared by the Governor, a municipal building inspector, health officer, fire marshal, or zoning administrator may declare a property that has been damaged in the disaster or emergency and is dangerous to life, health, or safety due to the disaster-related damage, condemned to be destroyed.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

**Third Reading**

**S. 304.**

An act relating to public school principals and nonrenewal of contracts.

**Amendment to S. 304 to be Offered by Senators Mullin and Flory before  
Third Reading**

Senators Mullin and Flory move to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 1, in 16 V.S.A. § 243(c), by striking out subdivision (2) in its

entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read:

(2) Nonrenewal may be based upon elimination of the position, performance deficiencies, or other reasons. The written notice shall recite the grounds for nonrenewal. If nonrenewal is based on performance deficiencies, the written notice shall be accompanied by an evaluation performed by the superintendent. At its discretion, the school board may allow a period of remediation of performance deficiencies prior to issuance of the written notice.

**Amendment to S. 304 to be Offered by Senator Nitka before Third Reading**

Senator Nitka moves to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, in 16 V.S.A. § 243(c), by striking out subdivision (1) its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (1) to read:

(1) A principal ~~who has been continuously employed for more than two years in the same position~~ has the right either to have his or her contract renewed, or to receive written notice of nonrenewal ~~at least 90 days before the existing contract expires;~~

(A) on or before February 1, if the principal has been continuously employed for more than two years in the same position;

(B) on or before April 1, if the principal has been continuously employed for two years or less in the same position; and

(C) at least 30 days before the existing contract expires, if the final day of the existing contract is other than June 30.

Second: In Sec. 1, in 16 V.S.A. § 243(c)(3), in the second sentence, by striking out the word “five” and inserting in lieu thereof the numeral 10

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Third Reading**

**H. 583.**

An act relating to the charge of the Vermont Child Poverty Council.

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 275.**

An act relating to the Court's jurisdiction over youthful offenders.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.**

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. 33 V.S.A. § 5204a is amended to read:

§ 5204a. JURISDICTION OVER ADULT DEFENDANT FOR CRIME COMMITTED WHEN DEFENDANT WAS UNDER ~~AGE~~ 18 YEARS OF AGE

\* \* \*

(b)(1) The Family Division shall, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, transfer a petition filed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Criminal Division if the Family Division finds that:

\* \* \*

(2)(A) The Family Division may order that the defendant be treated as a youthful offender consistent with the applicable provisions of subchapter 5 of chapter 52 of this title if the defendant is under ~~23~~ 22 years of age and the Family Division:

(i) makes the findings required by subdivisions (1)(A), (B), and (C) of this subsection;

(ii) finds that the youth is amenable to treatment or rehabilitation as a youthful offender; and

(iii) finds that there are sufficient services in the Family Division system and the Department for Children and Families or the Department of Corrections to meet the youth's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

(B) If the Family Division orders that the defendant be treated as a youthful offender, the Court shall approve a disposition case plan and impose conditions of probation on the defendant.

(C) If the Family Division finds after hearing that the defendant has violated the terms of his or her probation, the Family Division may:

(i) maintain the defendant's status as a youthful offender, with modified conditions of probation if the Court deems it appropriate; or

(ii) revoke the defendant's youthful offender status and transfer the petition to the Criminal Division pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

\* \* \*

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

**S.C.R. 42** (For text of Resolution, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 20, 2014)

**H.C.R. 230-234** (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 20, 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.

Patti Pallito of Richmond – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. French for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Shirley A. Jefferson of South Royalton – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. McAllister for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**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.

## 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).**