

# Journal of the House

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**Tuesday, April 2, 2013**

At ten o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Kevin Christie of Hartford, Vt.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Page Madison Mooney of Milton** led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Committee Bill Introduced**

### **H. 533**

**Rep. Emmons of Springfield**, for the committee on Corrections and Institutions, introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and state bonding

Which was read the first time and, pursuant to rule 35a was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

## **Senate Bills Referred**

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

### **S. 11**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Austine School;

To the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

### **S. 26**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to providing state financial support for school meals for children of low-income households;

To the committee on Education.

**S. 30**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to siting of electric generation plants;

To the committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**S. 61**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to alcoholic beverages;

To the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

**S. 132**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and the service of process;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**S. 152**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Green Mountain Care Board's rate review authority;

To the committee on Health Care.

**S. 157**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to modifying the requirements for hemp production in the State of Vermont;

To the committee on Agriculture and Forest Products.

**Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered****H. 169**

**Rep. Bouchard of Colchester**, for the committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to relieving employers' experience-rating records

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 1325 is amended to read:

§ 1325. EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE-RATING RECORDS;  
DISCLOSURE TO SUCCESSOR ENTITY; ~~EMPLOYEE PAID  
\$1,000.00 OR LESS DURING BASE PERIOD~~

(a)(1) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall maintain an experience-rating record for each employer. Benefits paid shall be charged against the experience-rating record of each subject employer who provided base-period wages to the eligible individual. Each subject employer's experience-rating charge shall bear the same ratio to total benefits paid as the total base-period wages paid by that employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all base-period employers. The experience-rating record of an individual subject base-period employer shall not be charged for benefits paid to an individual under any of the following conditions:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) The individual's employment with that employer was terminated under disqualifying circumstances.

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) The individual's employment or right to reemployment with that employer was terminated by retirement of the individual pursuant to a retirement or lump-sum retirement pay plan under which the age of mandatory retirement was agreed upon by the employer and its employees or by the bargaining agent representing those employees.

~~(3)(C)~~ (C) As of the date on which the individual filed an initial claim for benefits, the individual's employment with that employer had not been terminated or reduced in hours.

~~(4)(D)~~ (D) The individual was employed by that employer as a result of another employee taking leave under subchapter 4A of chapter 5 of this title, and the individual's employment was terminated as a result of the reinstatement of the other employee under subchapter 4A of chapter 5 of this title.

~~(5)(E)~~ (E) [Repealed.]

(2) If an individual's unemployment is directly caused by a major natural disaster declared by the President of the United States pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 5122 and the individual would have been eligible for federal disaster unemployment assistance benefits but for the receipt of regular benefits, an employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to the individual with respect to any week of unemployment occurring due to the natural disaster up to a maximum amount of four weeks.

Sec. 2. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION; EMPLOYERS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS OCCURRING IN 2011

(a) The Department of Labor shall establish a system to provide unemployment compensation tax relief to employers paying a higher rate of contributions due to layoffs directly caused by federally declared natural disasters occurring in 2011.

(b) Unemployment compensation tax relief shall be available to an employer provided that the employer's employees were separated from employment as a direct result of the disaster. Benefits paid beyond eight weeks shall remain chargeable to the employer.

(c) The relief described in subsection (b) of this section shall not be available to employers electing to make payments in lieu of contributions pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1321.

(d) Benefit charge relief provided under subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not result in the recalculation of previously assigned rate classes for nondisaster-impacted employers.

(e) The Department shall notify employers in the counties covered by the federal disaster relief declaration of the provisions of this section. An employer seeking relief shall apply to the Department within 20 days of notification by the Department. The application shall be made in a manner prescribed and approved by the Commissioner and shall be accompanied by a certified statement of the employer that the employees were separated from employment as a direct result of the disaster and would have not been otherwise. False statements made in connection with the certification shall subject the employer to the provisions of 21 V.S.A. § 1369. The employer shall provide the Department with the name, address, last known phone number, and social security number of each employee alleged to have been separated from employment as a result of the disaster.

(f) If an employer's application for relief is denied, the employer may appeal the decision pursuant to 21 V.S.A. §§ 1348 and 1349.

Sec. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED SERVICE POSITIONS

The Commissioner of Labor is authorized to hire two limited service positions in order to assist in providing the unemployment compensation tax relief in Sec. 2 of this act.

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION

Up to \$40,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Labor for the costs of postage necessary to notify employers of the unemployment compensation tax relief program described in Sec. 2 of this act.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**Rep. Manwaring of Wilmington**, for the committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and when further amended as follows:

First: by striking out Secs. 3 and 4 in their entirety

Second: by inserting a new Sec. 3 to read:

Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION

Of the appropriations made to the Department of Labor in Sec. B.400 of House Bill 530 (An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government), the amount of \$60,000.00 is appropriated for the costs of postage and for hiring temporary positions necessary to implement the unemployment compensation tax relief program described in Sec. 2 of this act.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committees on Commerce and Economic Development and Appropriations agreed to and third reading ordered.

**Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 474**

**Rep. Townsend of South Burlington**, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to amending the membership and charge of the Government Accountability Committee

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

**Rules Suspended; Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 169**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to relieving employers' experience-rating records

On motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage.

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

#### **Adjournment**

At ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.