

Journal of the House

Thursday, February 6, 2014

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by John Killacky, Executive Director of the Flynn Center for Performing Arts in Burlington, Vt.

Message from the Senate No. 15

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 283. An act relating to the changing of the name of the Vermont Criminal Information Center.

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

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the fourth day of February, 2014, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 25. An act relating to public advocacy in utility matters.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 283

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the changing of the name of the Vermont Criminal Information Center

Was read and referred to the committee on Judiciary.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed to Committee

H. 581

On motion of **Rep. Wizowaty of Burlington**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to An act relating to guardianship of minors;

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Pending the reading of the report of the committee on Judiciary, **Rep. Wizowaty of Burlington** moved that the bill be committed to the committee on Human Services, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 578

House bill, entitled

An act relating to administering State funds for loans to individuals for replacement of failed wastewater systems and potable water supplies

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 612

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Gas Pipeline Safety Program penalties

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Bouchard of Colchester**, action on the bill was postponed until Wednesday, February 12, 2014, which was agreed to.

Resolution Amended; Third Reading Ordered

J.R.H. 14

Rep. Marcotte of Coventry, for the committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution requesting the United States Congress to pass the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

First: By amending the final Whereas clause to read:

Whereas, Representative Waters, ranking member of the House Committee on Financial Services, said she is committed to fixing the “unintended consequences” of the 2012 law and passing legislation to delay most rate changes for three years “to give FEMA the opportunity to ensure its maps are accurate and allow Congress to make certain rates are affordable,” ~~now~~ therefore be it and

Second: By adding four new Whereas clauses immediately preceding the first Resolve clause to read:

Whereas, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 5122, the President has declared several major Vermont natural disasters as sufficiently severe to qualify for federal financial support for recovery efforts, and

Whereas, many Vermonters have direct experience with the specific nature of flood damage caused by such natural disasters, in particular Tropical Storm Irene, and

Whereas, that experience underscores the inequity that would result if the same insurance rate were applied to improved properties in a floodplain if one had a finished basement below the base flood elevation level and another had an unfinished basement with all electrical components placed above the base flood elevation level, and

Whereas, many Vermonters have unfinished basements as described in the preceding clause and principles of fairness suggest that they should be offered a discounted flood insurance rate, now therefore be it

Third: By striking the first Resolve clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

That the General Assembly supports and urges the United States Congress to pass the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013 currently pending before Congress as H.R. 3370 and S. 1610, which will delay the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program changes until two years after the Federal Emergency Management Agency completes the affordability study on the impact of the rate increases, and be it further

Resolved: That the affordability study should include an assessment of the specific disaster recovery issues which have occurred as a result of recent major floods in Vermont and reflect the inequity which would result if the same insurance rate were applied to what are in fact very dissimilar properties, and be it further

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

Adjournment

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