

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Sam Boudreau from Bellows Free Academy, St. Albans, Vt. The 2014 State Champion of the Vermont Poetry Out Loud Contest.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Caroline Saba of Burlington led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communication from the Governor

“April 7, 2014

The Honorable Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Speaker Smith,

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed Tommy Walz of 157 Camp Street, Barre, Vt., 05641, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Washington 3, formerly held by Representative Tess Taylor.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Shumlin
Governor

PS/ss

Cc: Jim Condos, Secretary of State
Donald G. Milne, Clerk of the House”

Oath Administered to Tommy Walz

The Speaker directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to conduct Tommy Walz, the appointed member from House District Washington 3, to the bar of the House where he took the subscribed oath, administered by the First Assistant Clerk, William MaGill, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State.

New Member Seated

Tommy Walz, the newly appointed member, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the First Assistant Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was conducted to his seat by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

House Committee Bill Introduced**H. 891**

By the committee on Agriculture and Forest Products,

An act relating to the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to respond to and remediate potential public health hazards;

Under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**S. 314**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws related to motor vehicles

Appearing on the Calendar, affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule, was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time and passed:

H. 757

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exemptions to the Public Records Act;

H. 888

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Milton;

Third Reading; Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 47**

Joint Resolution, entitled

Joint resolution relating to the approval of State land transactions

Was taken up, read the third time and adopted in concurrence.

Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered

H. 886

Rep. Mook of Bennington, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the adoption and the codification of the charter of the Town of Panton

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.

Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered

H. 890

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

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington regarding the redistricting of City election areas

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.

Favorable Report; Resolution Adopted

H.R. 18

Rep. Bissonnette of Winooski, for the committee on Transportation, to which had been referred House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to passenger rail service to Montreal

Reported in favor of its adoption.

Thereupon, the resolution was adopted.

Favorable Report; Resolution Adopted

H.R. 19

Rep. Bissonnette of Winooski, for the committee on Transportation, to which had been referred House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to intercity passenger rail connecting New York to the Western Corridor of Vermont

Reported in favor of its adoption.

Thereupon, the resolution was adopted.

Favorable Report; Resolution Adopted

H.R. 20

Rep. Bissonnette of Winooski, for the committee on Transportation, to which had been referred House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to support of Agency of Transportation's TIGER grant application for Western Corridor rail improvements

Reported in favor of its adoption.

Thereupon, the resolution was adopted.

Message from the Senate No. 43

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

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 347. An act relating to veterinary dentistry.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 54. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

Bill Read Second Time; Consideration Interrupted by Recess

H. 552

Rep. O'Sullivan of Burlington, for the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to raising the Vermont minimum wage

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. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

(a) An employer shall not employ ~~an~~ any employee at a rate of less than ~~\$7.25, \$10.10, and, beginning January 1, 2007, 2016~~ and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest \$0.01. An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than ~~\$3.65 an hour, and beginning January 1, 2008, and on each January 1 thereafter, this basic tip wage rate shall be increased at the same percentage rate as the minimum wage rate~~ one-half the minimum wage. ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this subsection, “a service or tipped employee” means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than \$120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service. If the minimum wage rate established by the ~~United States~~ U.S. government is greater than the rate established for Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the ~~United States~~ U.S. government.

* * *

Sec. 2. MINIMUM WAGE STUDY

On or before January 15, 2016, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the impact that raising the minimum wage to the livable wage would have on:

- (1) low-wage working Vermonters;
- (2) Vermont businesses and jobs;
- (3) State and federal benefits; and
- (4) Vermont’s economy as a whole.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a) This section and Sec. 2 shall take effect on passage.
- (b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

Rep. Keenan of St. Albans City, for the committee on Appropriations recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended, as recommended by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up and read the second time.

Recess

At eleven o'clock and twenty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until one o'clock in the afternoon.

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

Consideration Resumed; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 552

Consideration resumed on House bill, entitled

An act relating to raising the Vermont minimum wage

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs? **Reps. Wright of Burlington, Marcotte of Coventry, Trieber of Rockingham and Young of Glover** moved to amend the recommendation of amendment offered by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs as follows:

By striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

(a) An employer shall not employ ~~an~~ any employee at a rate of less than ~~\$7.25, \$9.19. Beginning on January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.64. Beginning on January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.10, and, beginning on January 1, 2007, 2018~~ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.64. Beginning on January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.10, and, beginning on January 1, 2007, 2018 and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest \$0.01. An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than ~~\$3.65 an hour, and beginning January 1, 2008, and on each January 1 thereafter, this basic tip~~

~~wage rate shall be increased at the same percentage rate as the minimum wage rate one-half the minimum wage. For the purposes of~~ As used in this subsection, “a service or tipped employee” means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than \$120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service. If the minimum wage rate established by the ~~United States~~ U.S. government is greater than the rate established for Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the ~~United States~~ U.S. government.

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Sec. 2. MINIMUM WAGE STUDY

On or before January 15, 2016, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the impact that raising the minimum wage to the livable wage would have on:

- (1) low-wage working Vermonters;
- (2) Vermont businesses and jobs;
- (3) State and federal benefits; and
- (4) Vermont’s economy as a whole.

Sec. 3. MINIMUM WAGE BENEFIT REPORT

On or before December 15, 2014, the Agency of Human Services, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Department of Labor shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the House Committee on Human Services, the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare detailing:

- (1) the impact that a minimum wage rate of \$10.10 will have on low-wage workers, especially a low-wage worker who is a single parent with one child;
- (2) how to adjust government subsidy programs to provide a slope for low-wage workers who are single parents to reflect the government subsidies received by low-wage workers who are single with no children; and
- (3) the effect that an hourly wage rate of \$10.10 will have on any programs linked to the minimum wage.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 2 and 3 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

Pending the question, Shall the recommendation of amendment offered by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs be amended as recommended by Reps. Wright of Burlington, et al? **Rep. Wright of Burlington** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number.

Pending the call of the roll, **Rep. Pearson of Burlington** asked to divide the question and that Secs. 2, 3 and 4(a) be taken up first and Secs. 1 and 4(b) be taken up second.

Pending the question, Shall the report of the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs be amended as proposed in Sections 2, 3 and 4(a) of the amendment proposed by Rep. Wright of Burlington and others? **Rep. Donaghy of Poultney** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the report of the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs be amended as proposed in Sections 2, 3 and 4(a) of the amendment proposed by Rep. Wright of Burlington and others? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 144. Nays, 1.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Consejo of Sheldon	French of Randolph
Bartholomew of Hartland	Copeland-Hanzas of	Gage of Rutland City
Batchelor of Derby	Bradford	Gallivan of Chittenden
Beyor of Highgate	Corcoran of Bennington	Goodwin of Weston
Bissonnette of Winooski	Cross of Winooski	Grad of Moretown
Botzow of Pownal	Cupoli of Rutland City	Greshin of Warren
Bouchard of Colchester	Dakin of Chester	Haas of Rochester
Branagan of Georgia	Davis of Washington	Head of South Burlington
Brennan of Colchester	Devereux of Mount Holly	Heath of Westford
Browning of Arlington	Dickinson of St. Albans	Hebert of Vernon
Burditt of West Rutland	Town	Helm of Fair Haven
Burke of Brattleboro	Donaghy of Poultney	Higley of Lowell
Buxton of Tunbridge	Donahue of Northfield	Hooper of Montpelier
Campion of Bennington	Donovan of Burlington	Hoyt of Norwich
Canfield of Fair Haven	Ellis of Waterbury	Hubert of Milton
Carr of Brandon	Emmons of Springfield	Huntley of Cavendish
Christie of Hartford	Evans of Essex	Jerman of Essex
Clarkson of Woodstock	Fagan of Rutland City	Jewett of Ripton
Cole of Burlington	Fay of St. Johnsbury	Johnson of South Hero
Condon of Colchester	Feltus of Lyndon	Johnson of Canaan
Connor of Fairfield	Fisher of Lincoln	Juskiewicz of Cambridge
Conquest of Newbury	Frank of Underhill	Keenan of St. Albans City

Kilmartin of Newport City	Mitchell of Fairfax	South of St. Johnsbury
Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Mook of Bennington	Spengler of Colchester
Koch of Barre Town	Moran of Wardsboro	Stevens of Waterbury
Komline of Dorset	Morrissey of Bennington	Stevens of Shoreham
Krebs of South Hero	Mrowicki of Putney	Strong of Albany
Krowinski of Burlington	Myers of Essex	Stuart of Brattleboro
Kupersmith of South Burlington	Nuovo of Middlebury	Sweaney of Windsor
Lanpher of Vergennes	O'Brien of Richmond	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Larocque of Barnet	O'Sullivan of Burlington	Toleno of Brattleboro
Lawrence of Lyndon	Partridge of Windham	Toll of Danville
Lenes of Shelburne	Pearce of Richford	Townsend of South Burlington
Lewis of Berlin	Pearson of Burlington	Trieber of Rockingham
Lippert of Hinesburg	Peltz of Woodbury	Turner of Milton
Macaig of Williston	Poirier of Barre City	Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Malcolm of Pawlet	Potter of Clarendon	Vowinkel of Hartford
Manwaring of Wilmington	Pugh of South Burlington	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Marcotte of Coventry	Quimby of Concord	Walz of Barre City
Marek of Newfane	Rachelson of Burlington	Webb of Shelburne
Martin of Springfield	Ralston of Middlebury	Weed of Enosburgh
Martin of Wolcott	Ram of Burlington	Wilson of Manchester
Masland of Thetford	Russell of Rutland City	Winters of Williamstown
McCarthy of St. Albans City	Ryerson of Randolph	Woodward of Johnson
McCormack of Burlington	Savage of Swanton	Wright of Burlington
McCullough of Williston	Scheuermann of Stowe	Yantachka of Charlotte
McFaun of Barre Town	Sharpe of Bristol	Young of Glover
Michelsen of Hardwick	Shaw of Pittsford	Zagar of Barnard
Miller of Shaftsbury	Shaw of Derby	
	Smith of New Haven	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Deen of Westminster

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Klein of East Montpelier

Till of Jericho

Wizowaty of Burlington

Pending the question, Shall the report of committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs be amended as recommended by Rep. Wright of Burlington, et al, in sections 1 and 4(b)? **Rep. Wright of Burlington** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the report of committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs be amended as recommended by Rep. Wright of Burlington, et al in sections 1 and 4(b)? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 63. Nays, 82.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Batchelor of Derby
Beyor of Highgate

Bouchard of Colchester
Branagan of Georgia

Brennan of Colchester
Browning of Arlington

Burditt of West Rutland	Hebert of Vernon	Pearce of Richford
Buxton of Tunbridge	Helm of Fair Haven	Quimby of Concord
Canfield of Fair Haven	Higley of Lowell	Ralston of Middlebury
Christie of Hartford	Hubert of Milton	Savage of Swanton
Condon of Colchester	Huntley of Cavendish	Scheuermann of Stowe
Connor of Fairfield	Johnson of Canaan	Shaw of Pittsford
Conquest of Newbury	Juskiewicz of Cambridge	Shaw of Derby
Consejo of Sheldon	Kilmartin of Newport City	Smith of New Haven
Corcoran of Bennington	Koch of Barre Town	Stevens of Shoreham
Cupoli of Rutland City	Komline of Dorset	Strong of Albany
Dakin of Chester	Krebs of South Hero	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Devereux of Mount Holly	Larocque of Barnet	Toll of Danville
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Lawrence of Lyndon	Trieber of Rockingham
Donahue of Northfield	Lewis of Berlin	Turner of Milton
Fagan of Rutland City	Marcotte of Coventry	Wilson of Manchester
Feltus of Lyndon	Martin of Wolcott	Winters of Williamstown
Gage of Rutland City	McFaun of Barre Town	Wright of Burlington
Goodwin of Weston	Mitchell of Fairfax	Young of Glover
Greshin of Warren	Morrissey of Bennington	
	Myers of Essex	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Ancel of Calais	Heath of Westford	O'Brien of Richmond
Bartholomew of Hartland	Hooper of Montpelier	O'Sullivan of Burlington
Bissonnette of Winooski	Hoyt of Norwich	Partridge of Windham
Botzow of Pownal	Jerman of Essex	Pearson of Burlington
Burke of Brattleboro	Jewett of Ripton	Peltz of Woodbury
Campion of Bennington	Johnson of South Hero	Poirier of Barre City
Carr of Brandon	Keenan of St. Albans City	Potter of Clarendon
Clarkson of Woodstock	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Pugh of South Burlington
Cole of Burlington	Krowinski of Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Lanpher of Vergennes	Ram of Burlington
Cross of Winooski	Lenes of Shelburne	Russell of Rutland City
Davis of Washington	Lippert of Hinesburg	Ryerson of Randolph
Deen of Westminster	Macaig of Williston	Sharpe of Bristol
Donaghy of Poultney	Malcolm of Pawlet	South of St. Johnsbury
Donovan of Burlington	Manwaring of Wilmington	Spengler of Colchester
Ellis of Waterbury	Marek of Newfane	Stevens of Waterbury
Emmons of Springfield	Martin of Springfield	Stuart of Brattleboro
Evans of Essex	Masland of Thetford	Sweaney of Windsor
Fay of St. Johnsbury	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Till of Jericho
Fisher of Lincoln	McCormack of Burlington	Toleno of Brattleboro
Frank of Underhill	McCullough of Williston	Townsend of South Burlington
French of Randolph	Michelsen of Hardwick	Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Gallivan of Chittenden	Miller of Shaftsbury	Vowinkel of Hartford
Grad of Moretown	Mook of Bennington	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Haas of Rochester	Moran of Wardsboro	Walz of Barre City
Head of South Burlington	Mrowicki of Putney	Webb of Shelburne
	Nuovo of Middlebury	

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Sec. 2. MINIMUM WAGE STUDY

On or before January 15, 2016, the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the impact that raising the minimum wage to the livable wage would have on:

- (1) low-wage working Vermonters;
- (2) Vermont businesses and jobs;
- (3) State and federal benefits; and
- (4) Vermont's economy as a whole.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a) This section and Sec. 2 shall take effect on passage.
- (b) Sec. 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

Thereupon, **Rep. Pearson of Burlington** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, as amended? **Rep. Turner of Milton** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, as amended? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 87. Nays, 57.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Donovan of Burlington	Jewett of Ripton
Bartholomew of Hartland	Ellis of Waterbury	Johnson of South Hero
Bissonnette of Winooski	Emmons of Springfield	Keenan of St. Albans City
Botzow of Pownal	Evans of Essex	Kitzmiller of Montpelier
Burke of Brattleboro	Fay of St. Johnsbury *	Krowinski of Burlington
Campion of Bennington	Fisher of Lincoln	Lanpher of Vergennes
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Dakin of Chester	Heath of Westford	Martin of Springfield
Davis of Washington *	Hooper of Montpelier	Martin of Wolcott
Deen of Westminster	Hoyt of Norwich	Masland of Thetford
	Jerman of Essex	McCarthy of St. Albans City

McCormack of Burlington	Poirier of Barre City	Toleno of Brattleboro
McCullough of Williston	Potter of Clarendon	Toll of Danville
McFaun of Barre Town	Pugh of South Burlington	Townsend of South
Michelsen of Hardwick	Rachelson of Burlington	Burlington
Miller of Shaftsbury	Ralston of Middlebury	Vowinkel of Hartford
Mook of Bennington	Ram of Burlington	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Moran of Wardsboro	Russell of Rutland City *	Walz of Barre City
Mrowicki of Putney	Ryerson of Randolph	Webb of Shelburne
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Partridge of Windham	Stuart of Brattleboro	Yantachka of Charlotte
Pearson of Burlington	Sweaney of Windsor	Young of Glover
Peltz of Woodbury	Till of Jericho *	Zagar of Barnard

Those who voted in the negative are:

Batchelor of Derby	Feltus of Lyndon	Morrissey of Bennington
Beyor of Highgate	Gage of Rutland City	Myers of Essex *
Bouchard of Colchester	Goodwin of Weston	Pearce of Richford
Branagan of Georgia	Greshin of Warren	Quimby of Concord
Brennan of Colchester	Hebert of Vernon	Savage of Swanton *
Browning of Arlington	Helm of Fair Haven	Scheuermann of Stowe
Burditt of West Rutland	Higley of Lowell	Shaw of Pittsford *
Canfield of Fair Haven	Hubert of Milton	Shaw of Derby
Christie of Hartford	Huntley of Cavendish	Smith of New Haven
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Cupoli of Rutland City	Komline of Dorset	Trieber of Rockingham
Devereux of Mount Holly	Krebs of South Hero	Turner of Milton
Dickinson of St. Albans	Larocque of Barnet	Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Town	Lawrence of Lyndon	Winters of Williamstown
Donaghy of Poultney	Lewis of Berlin	Wright of Burlington *
Donahue of Northfield	Marcotte of Coventry	
Fagan of Rutland City	Mitchell of Fairfax	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Buxton of Tunbridge	Kupersmith of South	Wizowaty of Burlington
Klein of East Montpelier	Burlington	

Rep. Conquest of Newbury explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I do support raising the minimum wage and I hope to have another chance this session to show that support with my vote. But my concern about

implementing the increase without giving small businesses the time they need to plan and adjust prevents me from doing so now.”

Rep. Davis of Washington explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

A raise in the minimum wage puts money into the pockets of low-income consumers, who immediately spend it at local businesses. Recent surveys available show that businesses across the US are not as concerned what their employees make but rather how much their customers have in their pockets to spend. I vote for independence: a raise in the minimum wage and putting more money directly into the pockets of our low wage workers!”

Rep. Fay of St. Johnsbury explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Vermont needs sustainable jobs that allow people working full time to provide for their basic needs and those of their family. It’s time to explore supports for small businesses that allow them to thrive alongside their employees.”

Rep. Myers of Essex explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I would have been happy to support the Governor’s proposal to increase Vermont’s minimum wage in step increases to \$10.10 by 2017. But I cannot support an immediate raise to \$10.10 due to the effect it will have on Vermont businesses and their ability to support such an increase.”

Rep. Russell of Rutland City explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Our actions today will make whole our entire community. A rising tide floats all boats! I vote yes for both Vermont workers and business.”

Rep. Savage of Swanton explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I voted no on this bill. If the amendment offered by the member from Burlington and others had passed, I would have voted yes. I do not want to be in the position to explain to my constituent who lost their job as a result of this bill that ‘Oh well, you were one in an estimated 250 who are now unemployed because of my vote.’”

Rep. Shaw of Pittsford explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

A minimum wage rate of \$10.10 per hour is a reasonable rate of compensation for our Vermonters. How we get to this rate is very important to our Vermont employers. A reasonable tiered approach is the best way to arrive at this new wage rate. As we have defeated a reasonable amendment to do so I cannot support a one step fits all approach and hence my no vote.”

Rep. Spengler of Colchester explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Let’s hope this modest increase gives some hope to our lowest paid Vermonters struggling to get by.”

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Let’s make believe I got a raise of \$40 today. I spend \$4.79 for Vermont milk, \$3.69 for Vermont cheese, \$3 for a can of Vermont beer, \$4.99 for a box of cereal for my kids, \$10 at Old Navy for a pair of pants on sale to work in, a bag of potatoes for \$3.99, a bag of apples for \$3.99, \$3.00 for a rose for my bride, and a gallon of gas for the car.”

Rep. Terenzini of Rutland Town explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Small business died on the floor of the Vermont General Assemble today – rest in peace.”

Rep. Till of Jericho explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Even with this increase the minimum wage will provide less buying power than it did in 1968. With income inequality at an all-time high in this country and still growing rapidly, this increase must be just the first step toward regrowing the middle class.”

Rep. Wright of Burlington explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I wanted to vote for an increase in the minimum wage. But the majority position of a \$1.37 increase in one year, with no consideration on the impact on the very people it is meant to help, or on small business, the backbone of

Vermont, made it impossible to support this bill. I hope the Senate takes note of the strong minority vote for the phased in approach.”

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 878

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prevailing wages

Was taken up and pending the reading of the report of the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs, on motion of **Rep. Moran of Wardsboro**, action on the bill was postponed until the next legislative day.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 543

House bill, entitled

An act relating to records and reports of the Auditor of Accounts

Was taken up and pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment? on motion of **Rep. Cole of Burlington**, action on the bill was postponed until the next legislative day.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and fifty-three 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.