

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2013

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 55.

By Senators Pollina, Ayer, French, McAllister and White,

An act relating to increasing efficiency in state government finance and lending operations.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 56.

By Senators Ayer and Bray,

An act relating to the posting of land and access to land and water for hunting, fishing, and trapping.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 57.

By Senators Fox, Ashe, Ayer, Baruth, Campbell, Cummings, Galbraith, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Mullin, Pollina, Snelling, White and Zuckerman,

An act relating to equal pay.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 58.

By Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Cummings, Fox, Galbraith, MacDonald, McAllister, McCormack, Pollina, Rodgers, White and Zuckerman,

An act relating to Act 250 and oil pipelines.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 47.

An act relating to fiscal year 2013 budget adjustment.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

Joint Resolution Referred**J.R.H. 1.**

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution relating to the history and legacy of the Vermont State Hospital and the preservation of its cemetery.

Whereas, in 1888, the trustees of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane in Brattleboro (renamed the Brattleboro Retreat in 1892 to avoid confusion with the Waterbury facility) reported that the facility was beyond its designed capacity, and Dr. Don D. Grout, the member from Stowe and a future superintendent of the Vermont State Asylum for the Insane (renamed the Vermont State Hospital for the Insane in 1898), introduced legislation that became Act 94, “An act providing for the care, custody and treatment of the insane poor and insane criminals of the state,” and

Whereas, the state purchased 500 acres of land in Waterbury for the new facility, and after initial construction, the first 25 patients arrived by train from Brattleboro on August 8, 1891, and

Whereas, during its 120 years of service, the Vermont State Hospital played a powerful role in the lives of many Vermonters, including many patients and staff, and

Whereas, from early on, the Vermont State Hospital confronted a continuing struggle to secure sufficient financing to provide the best quality of care, and in recent decades, it had been recognized that the facilities in Waterbury no longer allowed for state-of-the-art care, and the existing hospital needed to be closed, and

Whereas, in November 1927, and again at the end of August 2011, the staff and patients at the Vermont State Hospital undertook extraordinary measures to respond to devastating floods, and

Whereas, the severe damage that the Vermont State Hospital sustained in Tropical Storm Irene required an immediate relocation or replacement of services previously provided at the Vermont State Hospital, and

Whereas, as a new chapter in mental health care in Vermont begins, it should be one that integrates mental health care with other health care services, focuses on community supports and treatment close to home, avoids unnecessary hospitalization, and never abandons those with mental health needs, and

Whereas, with the closure of the historic Vermont State Hospital Waterbury campus, it is important to remember those individuals buried at the hospital's cemetery in use from the hospital's inception until 1912 and which includes a memorial stone with an inscription that reads:

This beautiful knoll overlooking the grounds of the Vermont State Hospital is matched in splendor only by the twenty or so residents of the Hospital who were buried here between 1891 and 1912. May their spirits soar, you are remembered, and

Whereas, the preservation of this cemetery and of the memory of those individuals is of lasting importance, and

Whereas, the names of those buried there have been gathered in the past, and may still be able to be located and preserved so that these individuals will not be left unknown, and

Whereas, there is evidence that at least two and perhaps more patients from the Vermont State Hospital were buried at different locations on the grounds in unmarked graves that are likely to never be identified which would be a grievous indication of past indifference to the lives of these individuals, a practice that should never again be permitted to occur in this state, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly observes the powerful role that the Vermont State Hospital played in the history of mental health treatment in Vermont and requests the State to maintain and preserve perpetually the hospital's cemetery, and be it further

Resolved: That the Department of Mental Health is requested to seek to identify from past records those individuals who were buried at different locations, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Mental Health and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was treated as a bill and referred to the Committee on Institutions.

Message from the House No. 9

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. H. Gwynn Zakov, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 10. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Richmond Land Trust on its 25th anniversary.

H.C.R. 11. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2011 South Burlington High School Division I championship boys' soccer team.

H.C.R. 12. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Old First Church of Bennington on its 250th anniversary.

H.C.R. 13. House concurrent resolution honoring Sandra Barton on her outstanding career as a Vermont state employee and for her civic accomplishments.

H.C.R. 14. House concurrent resolution designating the week of January 20, 2013 as National Nurse Anesthetists Week in Vermont.

H.C.R. 15. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Oreste Valsangiacomo Sr. of Barre City.

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

The House has considered concurrent resolutions originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S.C.R. 1. Senate resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Middlesex.

S.C.R. 2. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Angeleno's Pizza on its 30th anniversary.

S.C.R. 3. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the professional and civic contributions of Dr. David Butsch.

S.C.R. 4. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the 2012 Northfield High School Marauders Division III championship baseball team and its illustrious retiring head coach, Frank Pecora.

S.C.R. 5. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the town of Berlin on its sestercentennial (250th) anniversary.

S.C.R. 6. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Rosemary Miller for her three decades of outstanding work at the Vermont Center for Independent Living.

S.C.R. 7. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Waterbury.

S.C.R. 8. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the original chartering of Goddard College.

S.C.R. 9. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Worcester.

S.C.R. 10. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Moretown.

S.C.R. 11. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the Town of Duxbury.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Senate Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted on the part of the Senate:

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

By Representatives Grad and Greshin,

S.C.R. 10.

Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the town of Moretown.

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

By Representative Grad and others,

S.C.R. 11.

Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the sestercentennial anniversary of the Town of Duxbury.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Representative O'Brien,

H.C.R. 10.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Richmond Land Trust on its 25th anniversary.

By Representative Pugh and others,

H.C.R. 11.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2011 South Burlington High School Division I championship boys' soccer team.

By Representative Campion and others,

By Senators Hartwell and Sears,

H.C.R. 12.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Old First Church of Bennington on its 250th anniversary.

By Representative Poirier and others,

H.C.R. 13.

House concurrent resolution honoring Sandra Barton on her outstanding career as a Vermont state employee and for her civic accomplishments.

By Representative Keenan and others,

By Senators Ayer, Fox and Lyons,

H.C.R. 14.

House concurrent resolution designating the week of January 20, 2013 as National Nurse Anesthetists Week in Vermont.

By Representative Poirier and others,

By Senators Doyle, Cummings and Pollina,

H.C.R. 15.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Oreste Valsangiacomo Sr. of Barre City.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Campbell, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 29, 2013, at nine o'clock and thirty in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 8.