

House Calendar

Thursday, February 04, 2016

31st DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 pm

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 575

An act relating to eliminating the role of town service officers in administering General Assistance benefits

Rep. Fiske of Enosburgh, for the Committee on **Human Services**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 3901 is amended to read:

§ 3901. VAGRANT DEFINED

A transient person, roving from place to place and living without visible means of support, who begs, or who rides or attempts to ride on a railroad freight train or engine without the consent of the person in charge thereof, or who enters or attempts to enter a dwelling house, barn, or other building without the permission of the owners or occupants thereof, shall be deemed a vagrant. The act of applying to a town service officer for general assistance or to a police officer for lodging or subsistence shall not be evidence that such a person is a vagrant.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 871 is amended to read:

§ 871. ORGANIZATION OF SELECTBOARD; APPOINTMENTS

Forthwith after its election and qualification, the selectboard shall organize and elect a chair and, if so voted, a clerk from among its number, and file a certificate of such election for record in the office of the town clerk. The selectboard shall thereupon appoint from among the legally qualified voters a tree warden and may thereupon appoint from among the legally qualified voters the following officers who shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and shall certify such appointments to the town clerk who shall record the same:

- (1) three fence viewers;
- (2) a poundkeeper, for each pound; voting residence in the town need not be a qualification for this office provided appointee gives his or her consent to the appointment;
- (3) one or more inspectors of lumber, shingles, and wood; ~~and~~

(4) one or more weighers of coal; and

(5) one town service officer.

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 2102 is amended to read:

§ 2102. ~~TOWN SERVICE OFFICER, APPOINTMENT, DUTIES,
COMPENSATION~~

~~(a) On or before April 15 of each year the selectboard shall appoint a town service officer and notify the Commissioner of their appointment. A town service officer may be appointed to serve simultaneously more than one town. A selectboard member may be a town service officer. The Commissioner shall give him or her a certificate of appointment and contract for his or her compensation. If the selectboard fails to appoint a town service officer the Commissioner may do so. In the absence of the town service officer any selectboard member may act in his or her behalf. Successors of a retired, dismissed, deceased, or removed town service officer shall be immediately appointed by the selectboard of the town under the same procedures as the original appointment.~~

~~(b) The duties of town service officers are to receive applications for assistance, to investigate, make determinations of eligibility for General Assistance, grant from funds advanced to him or her for emergency General Assistance and to perform other duties, including such investigations, under the welfare code as the Commissioner may direct. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 2106 is amended to read:

§ 2106. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The State shall not be liable for medical or surgical care furnished to any person eligible for General Assistance, unless the Department agrees to it. ~~However, without agreement recovery may be had from the Department for necessary emergency care until it is first reasonably possible to contact a welfare officer or town service officer.~~ This section shall not apply to hospitals.

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 2111 is amended to read:

§ 2111. DEATH

When a person, including a transient, dies in the State in other than a State institution and no one appears to make funeral arrangements, the person in charge thereof shall report the death of the person to the nearest ~~welfare officer or town service officer~~ Economic Services Division office.

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 2112 is amended to read:

§ 2112. ~~PERSONS OUTSIDE HOUSE, HOSPITAL, OR JAIL~~

~~When a person needing relief, including a transient, is found in a place other than a house, hospital, or jail, the town service officer may provide relief under regulations of the Commissioner. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

(**Committee Vote: 11-0-0**)

Consent Calendar

Concurrent Resolutions

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Secretary's office and/or the House Clerk's office, respectively. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar.

H.C.R. 225

House concurrent resolution designating January 24–30, 2016 as National Nurse Anesthetists Week in Vermont

H.C.R. 226

House concurrent resolution honoring Marvin Locke for his exemplary civic service in Lamoille County

H.C.R. 227

House concurrent resolution congratulating Cynthia Rugg on her receipt of the 2015 Oren J. Lane Community Service Award

H.C.R. 228

House concurrent resolution honoring James Cooke for his memorable and historically informative theatrical portrayal of President Calvin Coolidge

H.C.R. 229

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Institute for Sustainable Communities on its 25th anniversary

H.C.R. 230

House concurrent resolution in memory of Margaret Richardson of Orange

H.C.R. 231

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act

H.C.R. 232

House concurrent resolution congratulating Jasmine Wells and Ayrin Southworth of Northfield on their participation in the High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall

Public Hearings

Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 State Budget

For Advocates

House Committee on Appropriations

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. for Agency of Human Services budget sections, and Thursday, February 18, 2016, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. for all other sections of the budget. – The House Committee on

Appropriations will receive testimony on the Governor's proposed FY2017 State budget during these Advocate hearings in room 11 of the State House. Please sign up in advance, with Theresa Utton-Jerman at (802) 828-5767 or tutton@leg.state.vt.us or in room 40.

The Governor's budget proposal can be viewed at the Department of Finance & Management's website:

http://finance.vermont.gov/state_budget/rec.

PUBLIC HEARING

Joint Community-Based Public Hearings on Fiscal Year 2017 State budget

House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

Monday, February 15, 2016, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. – The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are seeking public input on the FY2017 proposed State budget and will hold five joint public hearings Monday, February 15, 2016, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at 5 locations across the State. For further information, please go to: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/link/Community-Based%20Joint%20Public%20Hearings%20site%20list>

The Committees will take testimony on the Governor's FY 2017 State budget proposal at that time. Anyone interested in testifying should come to one of the

hearings. Time limits on testimony may apply depending on volume of participants.

To view or print a copy of the proposed budget, go to the Department of Finance and

Management's website at: http://finance.vermont.gov/state_budget/rec.

For more information about the format of these events, or to submit written testimony, call

Theresa Utton-Jerman or Rebecca Buck, Joint Fiscal Office, 802-828-5767 or toll-free 1-800-322-5616; or e-mail: tutton@leg.state.vt.us or rbuck@leg.state.vt.us. Requests for interpreters should be made to the office by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2016.