

# Senate Calendar

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

**SENATE CONVENES AT: 10:15 A.M.**

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR  
CONSIDERATION POSTPONED**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 14.**

An act relating to single dose, child-resistant packaging and labeling of marijuana-infused edible or potable products sold by a registered dispensary.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations?

(For text of report of Committee on Government Operations, see Senate Journal of February 18, 2015, page 115)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

**Third Reading**

**H. 17.**

An act relating to identification and notification of Public Records Act exemptions in administrative rules.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee Bill for Second Reading**

**S. 92.**

An act relating to mediation in medical malpractice actions.

By the Committee on Finance. (Sen. Mullin for the Committee)

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 23.**

An act relating to required disclosures for workers' compensation settlements.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

In Sec. 1, 21 V.S.A. § 662a, in subdivision (1)(B) after the words “describe the employee’s injury, including any rating assigned to that injury” by striking out the words “and the approximate amount of compensation that the employer would be required to pay to the employee under the provisions of this chapter if the employer and employee did not enter into the agreement”

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

### **Favorable with Proposal of Amendment**

#### **J.R.H. 1.**

Joint resolution expressing support for the Public Service Board's establishment of FairPoint Communications service investigation docket and urging the management of FairPoint Communications to settle the current employee strike in order to restore reliable telecommunications services in Vermont.

#### **Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the resolution by striking out the resolution in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Joint resolution expressing support for the Public Service Board’s establishment of a FairPoint Communications service investigation docket and urging the settlement of the current employee strike

Whereas, in October 2014, FairPoint and its employees’ two unions, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2326 and the Communications Workers of America Local 1400, reached an impasse in their negotiations and a strike was authorized, and

Whereas, since the strike started, consumer complaints have risen approximately 500 percent, resulting in much personal and commercial inconvenience, and

Whereas, the Vermont Public Service Department has received more than 1,200 complaints about Internet and telephone service since the strike began, and

Whereas, on November 28, 2014, the State’s E-911 system missed 83 calls, and

Whereas, the Vermont Public Service Department has said that the numbers show FairPoint staffing has been insufficient, and

Whereas, FairPoint is the only choice for telecommunications service for between 15,000 and 20,000 Vermonters, and

Whereas, at the request of the Department of Public Service, the Public Service Board, on December 9, 2014, established Docket 8390 to investigate the service problems FairPoint has encountered, and

Whereas, Governor Peter Shumlin and the congressional delegation have written letters to FairPoint's CEO Paul Sunu calling on FairPoint to return in good faith to the negotiating table, and

Whereas, on January 4, 2015, in Washington, D.C., the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service convened a meeting between the parties at which the Service assumed a more proactive role than in a prior session, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses support for the Public Service Board's establishment of a FairPoint Communications service investigation docket and urges the settlement of the current employee strike in order to restore reliable telecommunications services in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to FairPoint Communications CEO Paul Sunu, FairPoint Vermont President Beth Fastiggi, Governor Peter Shumlin, the Public Service Department, the Public Service Board, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2326, and the Communications Workers of America Local 1400.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 22, 2015, page 56.)

**NOTICE CALENDAR**  
**Committee Bill for Second Reading**

**S. 98.**

An act relating to captive insurance companies.

By the Committee on Finance. (Sen. Westman for the Committee)

**Second Reading**

**Favorable**

**S. 72.**

An act relating to binding arbitration for State employees.

**Reported favorably by Senator Baruth for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**Senate Resolution for Notice**

**S.R. 5.**

Senate resolution relating to adoption of a temporary Rule 44A.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the Senate adopt the resolution?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal for Wednesday, February 18, 2015, page 112)

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE**

**S.C.R. 3** (For text of Resolution, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 19, 2015)

**H.C.R. 37-46** (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 19, 2015)

## CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Sue Minter of Waterbury – Secretary, Agency of Transportation – By Sen. Westman for the Committee on Transportation. (2/3/15)

Michel Consejo of Sheldon Springs – Member of the Vermont State Lottery Commission – By Sen. Mullin for the Committee on Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs. (2/19/15)

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Tuesday, February 24, 2015** - 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - Room 11 - Re: Governor's Proposed FY 2016 State Budget - House Committee on Appropriations.

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015** - 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. - Room 11 - Re: Governor's Proposed FY 2016 State Budget - House Committee on Appropriations.

## NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, February 19, 2015 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber** - Election of a Sergeant at Arms, of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and of three (3) trustees for the University of Vermont, and Vermont and State Agricultural College.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

## FOR INFORMATION ONLY

### CROSSOVER DEADLINES

The Senate Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 13, 2015**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 20, 2015**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

These deadlines may be waived for any bill or committee only with the consent of the Committee on Rules.

**Note:** The Senate will not act on House bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Miscellaneous Tax Bill).**