At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by winner of the 2015 Vermont Poetry Out Loud contest, Sam Boudreau from St. Albans, Vt.

House Bill Introduced

H. 496

Reps. Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford introduced a bill, entitled

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

Which was read the first time and referred to the committee on Government Operations.

Action Postponed Until the End of the Orders of the Day

H.R. 8

House resolution, entitled

House resolution expressing strong opposition to state religious freedom restoration legislation that authorizes discrimination based on sexual orientation


Whereas, on March 26, 2015, Governor Mike Pence of Indiana signed Senate Bill 101, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, that addresses public and private sector actions related to religious practices, and
Whereas, many organizations and individuals have interpreted the Indiana legislation, and criticized it strongly, as granting private businesses, based on an owner’s religious beliefs, the right to discriminate against individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, and

Whereas, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which is headquartered in Indianapolis, has expressed concern how the legislation might affect student-athletes and NCAA employees, and

Whereas, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has cancelled plans to hold its 2015 Women’s Conference in that city, and

Whereas, on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, the Indianapolis Star newspaper ran a front-page editorial with a bold headline stating “FIX THIS NOW,” and

Whereas, also on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, Governor Mike Pence announced the law would be amended to clarify that the law “does not give businesses the right to deny services to anyone,” and

Whereas, despite this promise, opponents of the law in Indiana are demanding its repeal and not amendment, and

Whereas, aside from the enacted Indiana law, there is similar legislation under consideration in approximately a dozen states, and

Whereas, on Monday, March 30, 2015, Governor Dannel Malloy of Connecticut signed Executive Order No. 45 restricting “state funded or state sponsored travel to states” that have enacted legislation such as Indiana’s Religious Freedom Act, “unless necessary for the enforcement of state law, to meet contractual obligations or for the protection of public health, welfare and safety;” and also providing the that the travel restriction continues for any state as long as that state’s law remains in effect, and

Whereas, on March 31, 2015, Secretary of Administration Justin Johnson sent an e-mail directing all Executive Branch agencies and departments not to send employees on State-funded or State-sponsored trips to Indiana until further notice, now therefore be it

Resolved by House of Representatives:

That this legislative body expresses its strong opposition to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act as signed into law on March 26, 2015, and expresses its support for, at a minimum, enactment of the proposed clarification and, preferably, for the law’s repeal, and be it further
Resolved: That this legislative body requests Governor Peter Shumlin to broaden the application of the directive issued on March 31, 2015, to apply to any state that adopts a law similar to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and urges the Judicial and Legislative Branches of State government to adopt a similar policy, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Peter Shumlin, Chief Justice Paul Reiber, Speaker of the House Shap Smith, and Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell.

Was taken up and read.

Pending the question, Shall the resolution be adopted by the House? Rep. Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford demanded the yeas and the Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number.

Pending the call of the roll, Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved that the resolution be committed to the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

Thereupon, Rep. Donahue of Northfield asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw her motion.

Thereupon, Rep. Davis of Washington moved to postpone action until the end of the Orders of the Day, which was agreed to.

Committee Relieved of Consideration
and Bill Committed to Other Committee

H. 470

Rep. Sweaney of Windsor moved that the committee on Government Operations be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the authority of municipalities to regulate town highways

And that the bill be committed to the committee on Transportation, which was agreed to.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 367

Rep. Forguites of Springfield, for the committee on Natural Resources & Energy, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous revisions to the municipal plan adoption, amendment, and update process
Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 4350 is amended to read:

§ 4350. REVIEW AND CONSULTATION REGARDING MUNICIPAL PLANNING EFFORT

(a) A regional planning commission shall consult with its municipalities with respect to the municipalities’ planning efforts, ascertaining the municipalities’ needs as individual municipalities and as neighbors in a region, and identifying the assistance that ought to be provided by the regional planning commission. As a part of this consultation, the regional planning commission, after public notice, shall review the planning process of its member municipalities at least twice during an eight year or 10-year period, or more frequently on request of the municipality, and shall so confirm when a municipality:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan which is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title; and

(2) is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and

(3) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

(b)(1) As part of the consultation process, the commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan. In order to obtain or retain confirmation of the planning process after January 1, 1996, a municipality must have an approved plan. A regional planning commission shall review and approve initial or readopted plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted. Each review shall include a public hearing which is noticed at least 15 days in advance by posting in the office of the municipal clerk and at least one public place within the municipality and by publication in a newspaper or newspapers of general publication in the region affected. The commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

(A) is consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title;

(B) is compatible with its regional plan;
(C) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and

(D) contains all the elements included in subdivisions 4382(a)(1)-(10)(12) of this title.

(2) Prior to January 1, 1996, if a plan contains all the elements required by subdivisions 4382(a)(1)-(10) and is submitted to the regional planning commission for approval but is not approved, it shall be conditionally approved.

(e)(2) A commission shall give approval or disapproval to a municipal plan or amendment within two months of its receipt following a final hearing held pursuant to section 4385 of this title. The fact that the plan is approved after the deadline shall not invalidate the plan. If the commission disapproves the plan or amendment, it shall state its reasons in writing and, if appropriate, suggest acceptable modifications. Submissions for approval that follow a disapproval shall receive approval or disapproval within 45 days.

(d)(3) The commission shall file any adopted plan or amendment with the Department of Housing and Community Development within two weeks of receipt from the municipality. Failure on the part of the commission to file the plan shall not invalidate the plan.

(4) If a municipality chooses to request approval of an amendment under subsection 4385(c) of this title, the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection shall apply.

(c)(1) As part of the interim consultation process and review under section 4386 of this title, the commission shall consider whether a municipality is implementing its adopted plan. In order to retain confirmation of the planning process, a municipality must document that it has reviewed and is actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan. A regional commission shall review the interim report submitted by the municipality under section 4386 of this title and confirm the municipal planning process if it finds:

(A) the submitted report meets the requirements of section 4386 of this title; and

(B) the municipality has undertaken actions or developed programs to implement its adopted plan.

(2) When assessing whether a municipality has been actively engaged in a process to implement its adopted plan, the regional planning commission shall consider the activities of local boards and commissions with regard to the preparation or adoption of bylaws and amendments; capital budgets and
programs; supplemental plans; or other actions, programs, or measures undertaken or scheduled to implement the adopted plan. The regional planning commission shall also consider factors that may have hindered or delayed municipal implementation efforts.

(3) The interim consultation may include guidance by the regional planning commission with regard to resources and technical support available to the municipality to implement its adopted plan and recommendations by the regional planning commission for plan amendments and for updating the plan prior to readoption under section 4387 of this title.

(e)(d) During the period of time when a municipal planning process is confirmed:

(1) The municipality’s plan will not be subject to review by the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development under section 4351 of this title.

(2) State agency plans adopted under 3 V.S.A. chapter 67 shall be compatible with the municipality’s approved plan. This provision shall not apply to plans that are conditionally approved under this chapter.

(3) The municipality may levy impact fees on new development within its borders, according to the provisions of chapter 131 of this title.

(4) The municipality shall be eligible to receive additional funds from the municipal and regional planning fund.

(f)(e) Confirmation and approval decisions under this section shall be made by majority vote of the commissioners representing municipalities, in accordance with the bylaws of the regional planning commission.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4385 is amended to read:

§ 4385. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF PLANS; HEARING BY LEGISLATIVE BODY

(d) Plans may be reviewed from time to time and may be amended in the light of new developments and changed conditions affecting the municipality. An amendment to a plan does not affect or extend the plan’s expiration date.

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4386 is added to read:

§ 4386. INTERIM REVIEW AND REPORT

(a) Five years after an initial adoption or readoption of a plan, the planning commission shall conduct an interim review of the plan that shall focus on the
status of the plan’s recommended implementation program adopted under section 4382 of this title.

(b) As part of the interim review, the planning commission shall prepare a brief written report to be submitted to the regional planning commission for review under section 4350 of this title. The planning commission also shall give a copy of the report to the municipality’s legislative body. The report shall include:

(1) a brief description of plan amendments proposed and enacted since the plan was last adopted or readopted;

(2) the status of the plan’s implementation program, including actions or programs undertaken or proposed to implement the plan and their associated outcomes; and

(3) for the next comprehensive plan update, a proposed timeline and potential issues for consideration.

Sec. 4. 24 V.S.A. § 4387 is amended to read:

§ 4387. READOPTION OF PLANS

(a) All plans, including all prior amendments, shall expire every five 10 years unless they are readopted according to the procedures in section 4385 of this title.

(b)(1) A municipality may readopt any plan that has expired or is about to expire. Prior to any readoption, the planning commission shall review and update the information on which the plan is based, and shall consider this information in evaluating the continuing applicability of the plan. In its review, the planning commission shall:

(A) consider the interim report prepared under section 4386 of this title;

(B) engage in community outreach and involvement in updating the plan;

(C) consider consistency with the goals established in section 4302 of this title;

(D) address the required plan elements under section 4382 of this title;

(E) evaluate the plan for internal consistency among plan elements, goals, objectives, and community standards;
(F) address compatibility with the regional plan and the approved plans of adjoining municipalities; and 

(G) establish a program and schedule for implementing the plan. 

(2) The readopted plan shall remain in effect for the ensuing five 10 years unless earlier readopted. 

(c) Upon the expiration of a plan, all bylaws and capital budgets and programs then in effect shall remain in effect, but shall not be amended until a plan is in effect. 

(d) The fact that a plan has not been approved shall not make it inapplicable, except as specifically provided by this chapter. Bylaws, capital budgets, and programs shall remain in effect, even if the plan has not been approved. 

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE 

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015. The 10-year expiration date for municipal plans and the five-year interim consultation and report requirement applies to plans adopted or readopted on or after July 1, 2015. Plans adopted or readopted before July 1, 2015, shall expire in accordance with section 4387 of this title as it existed on the date of adoption or readoption. 

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Natural Resources & Energy agreed to and third reading ordered. 

Bill Amended, Read Third Time and Passed 

H. 35 

House bill, entitled 

An act relating to improving the quality of State waters 

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Higley of Lowell moved to amend the bill as follows: 

First: In Sec. 4, 6 V.S.A. § 4871, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 

(a) Small farm definition. As used in this section, “small farm” means a parcel or parcels of land, except for the two acres on which a homestead or residence is located: 

(1) of 25 acres or more in size from which the owner or operator produced an annual gross income of $10,000.00 or more from the sale of farm
crops or farm products in one of the two, or three of the five, preceding calendar years; or

(2)(A) that house at least 25 or more mature dairy cows, cattle or cow/calf pairs, equines, water buffalo, American bison, fallow deer, red deer, or ratites; 35 or more veal calves; 80 or more swine or sheep; or 100 or more turkeys, laying hens, chickens, ducks, or other fowl; and

(B) house no more than the number of animals specified under section 4857 of this title.

Second: In Sec. 5, 6 V.S.A. § 4810a, by striking subdivision (a)(1) in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions of subsection 4810a(a) to be numerically correct

Which was disagreed to.

Pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Graham of Williamstown moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 19, in 6 V.S.A. § 4988, in subsection (c), by striking out “provided that the owner or operator has completed the agricultural water quality training required under section 4981 of this title” and inserting in lieu thereof “provided that the owner or operator completes agricultural water quality training when required under the training schedule established under subsection 4981(c) of this title”

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? Rep. Dakin of Chester 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 pass? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 133. Nays, 11.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais Botzow of Pownal Chesnut-Tangeman of  
Bancroft of Westford Branagan of Georgia Middletown Springs  
Bartholomew of Hartland Brennan of Colchester Christie of Hartford  
Baser of Bristol Brigin of Thetford Clarkson of Woodstock  
Batchelor of Derby Browning of Arlington Cole of Burlington  
Beck of St. Johnsbury Burke of Brattleboro Condon of Colchester  
Berry of Manchester Buxton of Tunbridge Connor of Fairfield  
Beyor of Highgate Canfield of Fair Haven Conquest of Newbury  
Bissonnette of Winooski Carr of Brandon
THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2015

Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford
Corcoran of Bennington
Cupoli of Rutland City
Dakin of Chester
Dakin of Colchester
Davis of Washington
Deen of Westminster
Devereux of Mount Holly
Dickinson of St. Albans Town
Donahue of Northfield
Donovan of Burlington
Eastman of Orwell
Ellis of Waterbury
Emmons of Springfield
Evans of Essex
Fagan of Rutland City
Feltus of Lyndon
Fiske of Enosburgh
Forguites of Springfield
Frank of Underhill
French of Randolph
Gage of Rutland City
Gamache of Swanton
Gonzalez of Winooski
Grad of Moretown
Graham of Williamstown
Greshin of Warren
Haas of Rochester
Head of South Burlington
Hebert of Vernon
Helm of Fair Haven
Hooper of Montpelier
Huntley of Cavendish
Jerman of Essex
Johnson of South Hero
Juskiewicz of Cambridge
Keenan of St. Albans City
Klein of East Montpelier
Komline of Dorset
Krebs of South Hero
Krowinski of Burlington
LaClair of Barre Town
Lalonde of South Burlington
Lanpher of Vergennes
Lawrence of Lyndon
Lefebvre of Newark
Lenes of Shelburne
Lippert of Hinesburg
Long of Newfane
Lucke of Hartford
Macaig of Williston
Manwaring of Wilmington
Marcotte of Coventry
Martel of Waterford
Martin of Wolcott
Masland of Thetford
McCormack of Burlington
McCoy of Poultney
McCullough of Williston
McFaun of Barre Town
Miller of Shaftsbury
Morris of Bennington
Morrissey of Bennington
Mrowicki of Putney
Murphy of Fairfax
Myers of Essex
Nuovo of Middlebury
Olsen of Londonderry
O'Sullivan of Burlington
Parent of St. Albans City
Partridge of Windham
Patt of Worcester
Pearce of Richford
Pearson of Burlington
Poirier of Barre City
Potter of Clarendon
Pugh of South Burlington
Purvis of Colchester
Rachelson of Burlington
Ram of Burlington
Russell of Rutland City
Ryerson of Randolph
Savage of Swanton
Scheuermann of Stowe
Sharpe of Bristol
Shaw of Pittsford
Shaw of Derby
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Smith of New Haven
Stevens of Waterbury
Stuart of Brattleboro
Sullivan of Burlington
Sweaney of Windsor
Till of Jericho
Toleno of Brattleboro
Toll of Danville
Townsend of South Burlington
Trieber of Rockingham
Troiano of Stannard
Walz of Barre City
Webb of Shelburne
Willhoit of St. Johnsbury
Woodward of Johnson
Wright of Burlington
Yantachka of Charlotte
Young of Glover
Zagar of Barnard

Those who voted in the negative are:

Dame of Essex
Higley of Lowell
Hubert of Milton
Lewis of Berlin
Quimby of Concord
Strong of Albany
Tate of Mendon
Terenzini of Rutland Town
Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh
Viens of Newport City
Turner of Milton

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

Burditt of West Rutland  Jewett of Ripton  O’Brien of Richmond
Fields of Bennington  Kitzmiller of Montpelier

Rep. Turner of Milton explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I support many of the goals and policies in H.35. However, I cannot support increasing taxes and fees when there are viable alternative funding sources such as bonding or reprioritizing existing revenue streams to fund this essential program. Thank you.”

Motion to Reconsider Disagreed to; Bill Amended; Consideration Interrupted by Recess

H. 361

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making amendments to education funding, education spending, and education governance

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Pearson of Burlington, assuring the Chair that he voted with the prevailing side the previous Legislative day when the House voted for the amendment offered by Reps. Buxton of Tunbridge, et al, moved that the House reconsider its vote, which was disagreed to on a Division vote. Yeas, 22. Nays, 114.

Pending third reading of the bill, Reps. Till of Jericho and Christie of Hartford moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 27 (caps), by adding a new subsection to be subsection (g) to read:

(g) This section shall not apply to a regional education district (RED) or to any other district eligible to receive RED incentives pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156 and 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 56, that receives final voter approval under 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 on or before December 31, 2016.

Thereupon, Rep. Till of Jericho asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending third reading of the bill, Reps. McCormack of Burlington and Strong of Albany moved to amend the bill as follows:
First: By striking out Secs. 19, 19a, and 19b (sale of school buildings; study) and their reader assistance in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof one new section to be Sec. 19 to read:

Sec. 19. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 36 (effective dates), by striking out subsection (l) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (l) to read:

(l) [Deleted.]

Which was disagreed to.

Pending third reading of the bill, Reps. Shaw of Pittsford and Eastman of Orwell moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 27 (caps), subsection (b), by adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (3) to read:

(3) “Education spending” shall have the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6); provided, however, that “education spending” shall not include a district’s or supervisory union’s spending in connection with providing prekindergarten education pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829.

Thereupon, Rep. Shaw of Pittsford asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Johnson of South Hero moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: After Sec. 35a and before the reader assistance by adding a new section to be Sec. 35b and related reader assistance to read:

* * * Designation of Secondary Schools * * *

Sec. 35b. 16 V.S.A. § 827 is amended to read:

§ 827. DESIGNATION OF A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL OR AN APPROVED INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL AS THE SOLE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT

(a) A school district not maintaining an approved public high school may vote on such terms or conditions as it deems appropriate, to designate an three or fewer approved independent school or a or public school high schools as the public high school or schools of the district.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if the board of trustees or the school board of the a designated school votes to accept this designation, the school shall be regarded as a public school for tuition purposes under
subsection 824(b) of this title, and the sending school district shall pay tuition only to that school only, and to any other school designated under this section, until such time as the sending school district or the designated school votes to rescind the designation.

(c) A parent or legal guardian who is dissatisfied with the instruction provided at the designated school or who cannot obtain for his or her child the kind of course or instruction desired there, or whose child can be better accommodated in an approved independent or public high school nearer his or her home during the next academic year, may request on or before April 15 that the school board pay tuition to another approved independent or public high school selected by the parent or guardian.

(d) The school board may pay tuition to another approved high school as requested by the parent or legal guardian if in its judgment that will best serve the interests of the student. Its decision shall be final in regard to the institution the student may attend. If the board approves the parent’s request, the board shall pay tuition for the student in an amount not to exceed the least of:

(1) The statewide average announced tuition of Vermont union high schools.

(2) The per-pupil tuition the district pays to the designated school in the year in which the student is enrolled in the nondesignated school. If the district has designated more than one school pursuant to this section, then it shall be the lowest per-pupil tuition paid to a designated school.

(3) The tuition charged by the approved nondesignated school in the year in which the student is enrolled.

* * *

Second: In Sec. 36 (effective dates), after subsection (z), by adding new subsection to be subsection (aa) to read:

(aa) Sec. 35b (designation) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

Which was agreed to.

Recess

At eleven o’clock and thirty-seven minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At one o’clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.
Consideration Resumed; Bill Read Third Time and Passed

H. 361

Consideration resumed on House bill, entitled

An act relating to making amendments to education funding, education spending, and education governance;

Pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe moved to amend the bill as follows:

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

Sec. 1. CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS: STUDY

(a) Creation. There is created a study committee to develop a detailed plan, including a timeline, by which the State shall dissolve all existing supervisory unions and restructure them into 15 larger Consolidated Administrative Districts (CADs) as described more fully in this section. The plan shall include details by which to eliminate the statewide education property tax system and replace it with a CAD tax system.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

(1) two current members of the House of Representatives, not from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) two current members of the Senate, not from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;

(5) the executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns or designee;

(6) one individual currently employed as a school board member selected by the Vermont School Boards Association;

(7) one individual currently employed as a superintendent selected by the Vermont Superintendents Association;

(8) one individual currently employed as a principal selected by the Vermont Principals’ Association;
(9) one individual currently employed to provide prekindergarten education selected by the Building Bright Futures Council;

(10) one individual currently employed to provide elementary education selected by the Vermont – National Education Association;

(11) one individual currently employed to provide secondary education selected by the Vermont – National Education Association;

(12) one individual currently employed to provide special education selected by the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators;

(13) one individual currently employed as a career technical education director selected by the Vermont Association of Career and Technical Center Directors;

(14) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges or designee;

(15) a representative from the business and industry community selected by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce; and

(16) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee.

(c) Boundaries. The boundaries of the new CADs shall be identical to the current 15 career technical education service regions; provided, however, that:

(1) the boundaries of the CAD that contains the current North Country Career Education Center Service Region shall be expanded to include the districts within the Canaan Comprehensive High School Service Region; and

(2) the boundaries of the CAD that contains the current Southeastern Vermont Career Education Center Service Region shall be expanded to include the districts within the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union.

(d) Transitional provisions.

(1) The Committee’s plan shall determine the date by which the electorate of the school districts within the CAD boundaries shall elect members to an interim CAD board; provided, however, that:

(A) membership on the board shall be apportioned so that it is consistent with the proportional representation requirements of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution; and

(B) each member district shall have at least one representative.

(2) The interim CAD board shall be responsible for transitioning the supervisory unions and member districts to the CAD’s funding and governance
model and shall have authority, in consultation with the member districts, to enter into contracts, prepare an initial proposed budget for the CAD and the member districts, hire a superintendent, adopt policies, and otherwise plan for full implementation of the CAD on the date set forth in the plan submitted by the Committee created by this section.

(e) School districts.

(1) Each school district within a CAD shall retain its current governance structure, including its elected school board, unless it chooses to alter its governance structure pursuant to law.

(2) Each school district within a CAD shall continue to be responsible for the education of its resident students pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 21.

(3) A school district board shall remain the local elected body focused on the academic policy and educational quality of the schools within its geographic boundaries.

(4) Except to the extent that they conflict with this act, a school district within a CAD shall perform all duties required of a school district under current law. In particular, the local board of a school district shall:

(A) develop the school district’s proposed budget for submission to the CAD board;

(B) except for those providing special education services, select all administrators, teachers, and staff employed in the district to be hired through contracts negotiated and entered into at the CAD level;

(C) select and approve the curriculum used by schools in the district; and

(D) manage and maintain all schools and other buildings owned by the district.

(f) CADs and CAD boards.

(1) The electorate of the school districts within the CAD boundaries shall elect members to the CAD board; provided, however, that:

(A) membership on the board shall be apportioned so that it is consistent with the proportional representation requirements of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution; and

(B) each member district shall have at least one representative.

(2) Based upon the proposed budgets developed and submitted by the district boards pursuant to this section and upon the CAD board’s
determination of the budget needed for the CAD to perform its duties, the
CAD board shall develop a proposed budget, which shall include the total
proposed education spending for the CAD and all member districts (the Global
Budget). The CAD board shall present the proposed Global Budget to the
electorate of the CAD for a commingled vote at an annual or special meeting
duly warned for the purpose.

(3) After a Global Budget is approved:

(A) the CAD shall issue the base education property tax assessment
to the taxpayers within the CAD; and

(B) each municipality shall issue and collect any regional education
property tax assessments and transfer any amounts collected to the CAD.

(4) Except to the extent that they conflict with this act, a CAD shall
perform all duties and provide all services required of a supervisory union
under current law. In particular, the CAD board shall:

(A) be responsible for the provision of all aspects of special
education, including the hiring of special educators, the assignment of their
services to schools within the CAD, and the development of individualized
education programs (IEPs); provided, however, that each student’s IEP team
would consist of those individuals required by State Board of Education
Rule 2363.4 and include representatives from the local school district and
the CAD;

(B) negotiate CAD-wide collectively bargained contracts pursuant to
the requirements of 16 V.S.A. chapter 57 for all administrators, teachers, and
staff employed within the CAD;

(C) subject to the right of local school districts to select the specific
individuals to be hired pursuant to this section, enter into CAD-level contracts
with all administrators, teachers, and staff employed within the CAD;

(D) purchase and distribute all supplies to all schools within
the CAD;

(E) provide financial and student data management for all schools
within the CAD;

(F) provide or provide for transportation services in any local district
in which it is offered;

(G) manage the provision of Advanced Placement courses to ensure
maximum availability to students throughout the CAD; and
(H) perform any other duties on behalf of one or more of the member
districts that the districts and CAD board deem appropriate.

(g) Nonoperating districts, operating districts, and tuition vouchers.

(1) Nonoperating districts. A district that, as of the effective date of this
act, provides for the education of all resident students in one or more grades by
paying tuition on the students’ behalf shall continue to have authority to
provide education by paying tuition on behalf of all students in the grade or
grades pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. §§ 821 and 822 and shall not be
required to limit the options currently available to those students.

(2) Operating districts.

(A) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. chapter 21 to the
contrary, a district that, as of the effective date of this act, provides for the
education of all resident students in one or more grades by operating a school
offering the grade or grades shall pay tuition pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §§ 823–826, 828, and 836 on behalf of a resident student to a school not
operated by the district upon notice given by the student’s parent or guardian
before November 30 for the next academic year.

(B) Tuition shall be paid under this subdivision (2) solely to a public
school, an approved independent school, or an independent school meeting
school quality standards that is located within the geographic borders of
the CAD.

(h) School closures. Neither the CAD board nor any State-level entity or
official shall have the authority to close any public school without the consent
of the voters of the district in which the school is located.

(i) Tax system. The plan to eliminate the statewide education property tax
system and replace it with a CAD tax system shall be based on the following
principles:

(1) Annually, the Agency of Education would determine a base
education property tax rate to balance the Education Fund.

(2) The amount of the base education property tax that is raised in each
CAD would be determined by multiplying the base education property tax rate
by the CAD’s unified grand list.

(3) In the first school year under the new system, each CAD’s spending
amount would include education spending plus spending covered by
categorical aid for special education, transportation, small schools, and
essential early education. In all subsequent years, spending covered by
categorical aid would become part of the base education property tax rate.

(4) Each CAD would be guaranteed equalized spending up to the
statewide average per pupil spending amount.

(5) A CAD’s guaranteed spending would equal the average per pupil
CAD spending amount multiplied by the CAD’s average daily membership.

(6) The total amount of a CAD’s property tax rate would equal its base
education property tax rate plus any additional regional property tax rate.

(7) The amount of equalizing aid that a CAD would receive from the
State would depend on the amount raised by the base education property
tax rate.

(A) If the amount that a CAD’s base education property tax rate
raises does not cover its guaranteed equalized spending, then it would receive
the difference in equalizing aid from the State, which would be derived from
nonproperty tax revenues from the Education Fund.

(B) If the amount that a CAD’s base education property tax rate
raises is more than is needed to cover its guaranteed equalized spending, then
its base education property tax rate would be reduced by the difference divided
by its grand list.

(C) If a CAD spends above the guaranteed equalized spending
amount, then the CAD would impose a regional property tax rate and raise the
additional funds on its own grand list.

(8) The grand list in each CAD would be unified.

(9) The current income sensitivity and homeowner rebate programs
would be eliminated and, if necessary, replaced with a new State program
to assist Vermonters in need.

(10) The use of a common level of appraisal in each municipality to
determine education property tax rates would be eliminated and replaced with
a rolling appraisal conducted in each CAD.

(j) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and
legal assistance of the Agency of Education and the Department of Taxes. For
purposes of preparing recommended legislation, the Committee shall have the
assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.
(k) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Committee shall submit its detailed plan to the General Assembly with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(l) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2015.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on July 1, 2016.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Which was disagreed to on a Division vote. Yeas, 37. Nays, 83.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 492

Rep. Emmons of Springfield spoke for the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

Rep. Hooper of Montpelier, for the committee on Appropriations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

By inserting a Sec. 30a to read as follows:

Sec. 30a. SECURE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY; PLAN FOR SITING AND DESIGN

(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall conduct an examination of the needs of the Agency of Human Services for siting and designing a secure residential facility. The examination shall analyze the operating costs for the facility, including the staffing, size of the facility, the quality of care supported by the structure, and the broadest options available for the management and ownership of the facility.

(b) The funds appropriated in 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 178, Sec. 1, amending 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2, and Sec. 30 of this act, shall
only become available to the Department of Buildings and General Services after the Secretary of Human Services notifies the Commissioner of Finance and Management that the examination described in subsection (a) of this section is completed.

(c) On or before February 1, 2016, the Secretary of Human Services shall present the results of the examination described in subsection (a) of this section to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Corrections and Institutions, and on Human Services, and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Health and Welfare, and on Institutions.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up and read the second time and the report of the committee on Appropriations agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read the third time? Rep. Browning of Arlington moved to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out Secs. 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29, (prevailing wage), in their entirety and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as proposed by Rep. Browning of Arlington? Rep. Browning of Arlington 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 proposed by Rep. Browning of Arlington? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 58. Nays, 83.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bancroft of Westford  Baser of Bristol  Batchelor of Derby  Beck of St. Johnsbury  Beyor of Highgate  Brennan of Colchester  Browning of Arlington  Canfield of Fair Haven  Corcoran of Bennington  Cupoli of Rutland City  Dame of Essex  Devereux of Mount Holly  Dickinson of St. Albans  Town  Donahue of Northfield  Eastman of Orwell  Fagan of Rutland City  Feltus of Lyndon  Fiske of Enosburgh  Gage of Rutland City  Gamache of Swanton  Graham of Williamstown  Greshin of Warren  Hebert of Vernon  Helm of Fair Haven  Higley of Lowell  Hubert of Milton  Juskiewicz of Cambridge  Komline of Dorset  LaClair of Barre Town  Lawrence of Lyndon  Lefebvre of Newark  Lewis of Berlin  Marcotte of Coventry  Martel of Waterford  McCoy of Poultney  McFaun of Barre Town  Morrissey of Bennington  Murphy of Fairfax  Olsen of Londonderry  Parent of St. Albans City  Pearce of Richford  Purvis of Colchester  Quimby of Concord  Savage of Swanton  Scheurmann of Stowe  Shaw of Pittsford  Shaw of Derby  Sibilia of Dover  Smith of New Haven  Strong of Albany  Tate of Mendon  Terenzini of Rutland Town  Triebier of Rockingham
Those who voted in the negative are:

Ancel of Calais  Gonzalez of Winooski  O'Sullivan of Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland Grad of Moretown Partridge of Windham
Berry of Manchester * Haas of Rochester Patt of Worcester
Bissonnette of Winooski Head of South Burlington Pearson of Burlington
Botzow of Pownal Hooper of Montpelier Poirier of Barre City
Branagan of Georgia Huntley of Cavendish Potter of Clarendon
Briglin of Thetford Jerman of Essex Pugh of South Burlington
Burke of Brattleboro Johnson of South Hero Ram of Burlington
Carr of Brandon Keenan of St. Albans City Russell of Rutland City
Chesnut-Tangerman of Klein of East Montpelier Ryerson of Randolph
Middletown Springs Krebs of South Hero Sharpe of Bristol
Christie of Hartford Krowinski of Burlington Sheldon of Middlebury
Clarkson of Woodstock Lalone of South Burlington Stevens of Waterbury *
Cole of Burlington Lanpher of Vergennes Stuart of Brattleboro
Connor of Fairfield Lenes of Shelburne Sullivan of Burlington
Conquest of Newbury Lippert of Hinesburg Sweaney of Windsor
Copeland-Hanzas of Long of Newfane Till of Jericho
Bradford Lucke of Hartford Toleno of Brattleboro
Dakin of Chester * Macaig of Williston Toll of Danville
Dakin of Colchester Manwaring of Wilmington Townsend of South
Davis of Washington Martin of Wolcott Burlington
Deen of Westminster Masland of Thetford Troiano of Stannard
Donovan of Burlington McCormack of Burlington Walz of Barre City
Ellis of Waterbury McCullough of Williston Webb of Shelburne
Emmons of Springfield Miller of Shaftsbury Woodward of Johnson
Evans of Essex Morris of Bennington Yantachka of Charlotte
Forguites of Springfield Mrowicki of Putney Young of Glover
Frank of Underhill Myers of Essex Zagar of Barnard
French of Randolph Nuovo of Middlebury

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

Burditt of West Rutland Fields of Bennington O'Brien of Richmond
Buxton of Tunbridge Jewett of Ripton Rachelson of Burlington
Condon of Colchester Kitzmiller of Montpelier

Rep. Berry of Manchester explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

A construction worker friend of mine in Lamoille County has been forced to leave Vermont for better paying jobs in New York and Massachusetts. He laments he has to go away for 5 days per week. The provision I am supporting in the capital bill helps to keep this 4th generation Vermonter at home. We
have seen jobs eliminated for Vermont State Employees which is a huge mistake. Two wrongs don’t make a right.”

**Rep. Browning of Arlington** explained her vote as follows”

“Mr. Speaker:

I support this amendment in order to protect the purchasing power of the Capital Bill and insure that Vermonsters get their money’s worth at this time of tight budgets. The provisions that this amendment deletes allocate millions of bonded dollars to increase wages of unknown workers, who may not all be Vermonsters at a time when the state may not all be Vermonsters at a time when the state may have to reduce the compensation of state workers. This does not make sense.”

**Rep. Dakin of Chester** explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

We spend a great deal of time here in Montpelier and in our communities working to increase educational opportunities for our young people so they can learn the skills to have good jobs and a living wage and be able to stay in Vermont. That is why I do not support this amendment.”

**Rep. Stevens of Waterbury** explained his vote as follows;

“Mr. Speaker:

The debate on this issue points out to me the inherent tension when we discuss jobs – jobs are filled by employees. Public projects funded by the state are, by nature, economic development projects, benefitting us all. There is no reason to continue the policy of telling workers who build our projects that they are not worth our tax dollars or our respect.”

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? **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 read a third time? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 121. Nays, 20.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais  Bissonnette of Winooski  Chesnut-Tangerman of
Bancroft of Westford  Botzow of Pownal  Middletown Springs
Bartholomew of Hartland  Branagan of Georgia  Christie of Hartford
Baser of Bristol  Briglin of Thetford  Clarkson of Woodstock
Batchelor of Derby  Burke of Brattleboro  Cole of Burlington
Beck of St. Johnsbury  Canfield of Fair Haven  Connor of Fairfield
Berry of Manchester  Carr of Brandon  Conquest of Newbury
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<th>Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford</th>
<th>Keenan of St. Albans City</th>
<th>Juskiewicz of Cambridge</th>
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<td>Lippert of Hinesburg</td>
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<td>Sibilia of Dover</td>
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<td>Yantachka of Charlotte</td>
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<td>Hebert of Vernon</td>
<td>Nuovo of Middlebury</td>
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<td>Helm of Fair Haven</td>
<td>Olsen of Londonderry</td>
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<td>Hooper of Montpelier</td>
<td>O'Sullivan of Burlington</td>
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<td>Partridge of Windham</td>
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<td>Jerman of Essex</td>
<td>Patt of Worcester</td>
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<td>Terenzini of Rutland Town</td>
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<td>Johnson of South Hero</td>
<td>Pearce of Richford</td>
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<td>Turner of Milton</td>
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<td>Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh</td>
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Those who voted in the negative are:

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<th>Beyor of Highgate</th>
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<td>Brennan of Colchester</td>
<td>LaClair of Barre Town</td>
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<td>Browning of Arlington</td>
<td>Lewis of Berlin</td>
<td>Terenzini of Rutland Town</td>
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<td>Dame of Essex *</td>
<td>McFaun of Barre Town</td>
<td>Turner of Milton</td>
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<td>Deveraux of Mount Holly</td>
<td>Parent of St. Albans City</td>
<td>Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh</td>
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<td>Graham of Williamstown</td>
<td>Purvis of Colchester</td>
<td>Viens of Newport City</td>
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<td>Higley of Lowell</td>
<td>Quimby of Concord</td>
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Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

- Burditt of West Rutland
- Buxton of Tunbridge
- Condon of Colchester
- Fields of Bennington
- Jewett of Ripton
- Kitzmiller of Montpelier
- O’Brien of Richmond
- Rachelson of Burlington

**Rep. Dame of Essex** explained his vote as follows:

> “Mr. Speaker:

> Borrowing and bonding is the only time in state government we can tax our children and future Vermonters. I cannot support this bill when we choose to borrow and spend more than is absolutely necessary.”

**Consideration Resumed; Consideration Interrupted by Recess**

**H.R. 8**

Consideration resumed on House resolution, entitled

House resolution expressing strong opposition to state religious freedom restoration legislation that authorizes discrimination based on sexual orientation

Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieb of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Woodward of Johnson, Yantachka of Charlotte, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard move that the resolution be amended by striking all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas, on March 26, 2015, Indiana became the latest state to adopt a Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and

Whereas, this act did not prevent possible discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and

Whereas, in 1992, the State of Vermont prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, and

Whereas, in 2000, the State of Vermont established civil unions, becoming the first state to grant legal recognition to same sex couples, and

Whereas, in 2007, the State of Vermont prohibited discrimination based on gender identity, and

Whereas, in 2009, the State of Vermont established full marriage equality, becoming the first state to grant this recognition legislatively, and

Whereas, these legislative actions have benefited the State of Vermont economically, and

Whereas, many organizations and individuals have interpreted the Indiana legislation, and criticized it strongly, as granting private businesses, based on an owner’s religious beliefs, the right to discriminate against individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, and

Whereas, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which is headquartered in Indianapolis, has expressed concern how the legislation might affect student-athletes and NCAA employees, and

Whereas, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has cancelled plans to hold its 2015 Women’s Conference in that city, and

Whereas, on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, the *Indianapolis Star* newspaper ran a front-page editorial with a bold headline stating “FIX THIS NOW,” and
Whereas, aside from the enacted Indiana law, there is similar legislation under consideration in approximately a dozen states, and

Whereas, on Monday, March 30, 2015, Governor Dannel Malloy of Connecticut signed Executive Order No. 45, restricting “state funded or state sponsored travel to states” that have enacted legislation such as Indiana’s Religious Freedom Act, “unless necessary for the enforcement of state law, to meet contractual obligations or for the protection of public health, welfare and safety;” and also providing that the travel restriction continues for any state as long as that state’s law remains in effect, and

Whereas, on March 31, 2015, Secretary of Administration Justin Johnson sent an e-mail directing all Executive Branch agencies and departments to not send employees on State-funded or State-sponsored trips to Indiana until further notice, now therefore be it

Resolved by House of Representatives:

That this legislative body expresses its strong opposition to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act as signed into law on March 26, 2015, and expresses its support for, at a minimum, enactment of the proposed clarification and, preferably, for the law’s repeal, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body requests Governor Peter Shumlin to broaden the application of the directive issued on March 31, 2015, to apply to any state that adopts a law similar to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and urges the Judicial and Legislative Branches of State government to adopt a similar policy, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the governors of all 50 states, Chief Justice Paul Reiber, Speaker of the House Shap Smith, and Senate President Pro Tempore John Campbell.

Recess

At four o’clock and twenty-two minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At four o’clock and forty-seven minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Pending the question, Shall the resolution be amended as recommended by Reps. Poirier of Barre City, et al?
Committee Not Relieved of Consideration

H. 65

Rep. Olsen of Londonderry moved that the committee on Agriculture & Forest Products be relieved of House bill entitled

An act relating to designating the Gilfeather turnip as the State Vegetable

Which was disagreed to.

Message from the Senate No. 39

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 on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 29. An act relating to election day registration.

S. 102. An act relating to forfeiture of property associated with animal fighting and certain regulated drug possession, sale, and trafficking violations.

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

Adjournment

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