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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Sophia Cannizzaro, violinist from West Glover, Vt.

Memorial Service

The Speaker placed before the House the following name of member of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

George O. Stebbins, Jr. from Sheldon, Vt.
Member of the House in Sessions 1983-84 and 1985-86

Pages Honored

In appreciation of their many services to the members of the General Assembly, the Speaker recognized the following named Pages who are completing their service today and presented them with commemorative pins:

Eleanor Churchill of Richmond
Silas Conlon of Cornwall
Alexandra Contreras-Montesano of Burlington
Hannah Fleming of Chester
Calista Hanna of Barre City
Emily Haynes of Woodstock
Riley McFaun of Barre Town
Levi Mulligan of Calais
Eleanor Reilly of Warren
Lydia Rice of Berlin

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred as follows:

H. 497

House bill, entitled
An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Colchester
To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 498**

House bill, entitled
An act relating to banning the sale of toxic wood flooring;
To the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

**Senate Bills Referred**

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time and referred as follows:

**S. 29**

Senate bill, entitled
An act relating to election day registration;
To the committee on Government Operations.

**S. 102**

Senate bill, entitled
An act relating to forfeiture of property associated with animal fighting and certain regulated drug possession, sale, and trafficking violations;
To the committee on Judiciary.

**Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**

**H. 481**

House bill, entitled
An act relating to supporting health care initiatives and establishing payroll and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes
Appearing on the Calendar, carrying an appropriation, under rule 35a, was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

**Consideration Resumed; House Resolution Amended and Adopted**

**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;

Pending the question, Shall the resolution be amended as recommended by Reps. Poirier of Barre City, et al? **Rep. Poirier of Barre City** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.


**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, on March 26, 2015, Indiana adopted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act that many organizations, businesses, and individuals criticized as potentially granting private businesses 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, expressed concern how the legislation might affect student-athletes and NCAA employees, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees cancelled plans to hold its 2015 Women’s Conference in that city, and

Whereas, the Indiana law sparked a national conversation about similar legislation under consideration in Arkansas and other states, and how best to protect Americans’ religious liberties while also ensuring that no groups or individuals are discriminated against, and

Whereas, Governor Shumlin condemned the Indiana law, offered Vermont as an alternative to any organizations that did not wish to hold conferences or events in Indiana, and the Secretary of Administration cancelled State-funded and State-sponsored trips to Indiana by employees of the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, in response to the national controversy, on April 2, 2015, the Indiana legislature passed, and Governor Pence signed, an amendment clarifying that Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act did not authorize the denial of services, facilities, public accommodations, goods, employment, or housing to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or military service, and

Whereas, also on April 2, 2015, Arkansas Governor Hutchinson signed into law a religious freedom bill that had been modified in response to concerns that it might lead to discrimination, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body expresses its opposition to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act as originally passed and expresses its support for the amendment signed into law on April 2, 2015, and be it further
Resolved: That this legislative body reaffirms its support for protecting religious liberties while protecting members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities from discrimination, and be it further.

Resolved: That this legislative body requests Governor Shumlin to modify the directive concerning State employee travel so that it applies to any state that adopts, or has adopted, a law similar to the original version of 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.

Thereupon, Rep. Donahue of Northfield moved to amend the recommendation of amendment offered by Reps. Poirier of Barre City, et al, as follows:

By adding a new second Resolve clause to read:

Resolved: That this legislative body declares its strong opposition to any federal or state law that discriminates against an individual or group of individuals based on their race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, or disability, and be it further.

Which was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the resolution be adopted as recommended by Reps. Poirier of Barre city, et al, as amended? Rep. Lippert of Hinesburg moved to amend the recommendation of amendment offered by Reps. Poirier of Barre City, et al, as amended, as follows:

By adding a new Resolved clause preceding the third Resolved clause to read as follows:

Resolved: That this legislative body encourages all 50 states to enact nondiscrimination statutes to protect their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens, and be it further.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the recommendation of amendment offered by Reps. Poirier of Barre City, et al, as amended, was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the resolution be adopted as amended? Rep. Poirier of Barre City 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 resolution be adopted as amended? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 119. Nays, 1.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

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<th>Ancel of Calais</th>
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<th>Nuovo of Middlebury</th>
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<td>Bancroft of Westford</td>
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<td>O'Sullivan of Burlington</td>
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<td>Bartholomew of Hartland</td>
<td>Gresh of Warren</td>
<td>Parent of St. Albans City</td>
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<td>Baser of Bristol</td>
<td>Haas of Rochester</td>
<td>Partridge of Windham</td>
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<td>Head of South Burlington</td>
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<td>Berry of Manchester</td>
<td>Hooper of Montpelier</td>
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<td>Hubert of Milton</td>
<td>Pearson of Burlington</td>
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<td>Botzow of Pownal</td>
<td>Huntley of Cavendish</td>
<td>Poirier of Barre City</td>
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<td>Branagan of Georgia</td>
<td>Jerman of Essex</td>
<td>Pugh of South Burlington</td>
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<td>Brigin of Thetford</td>
<td>Johnson of South Hero</td>
<td>Ram of Burlington</td>
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<td>Burke of Brattleboro</td>
<td>Juskiewicz of Cambridge</td>
<td>Russell of Rutland City</td>
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<td>Carr of Brandon</td>
<td>Keenan of St. Albans City</td>
<td>Ryerson of Randolph</td>
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<td>Klein of East Montpelier</td>
<td>Savage of Swanton</td>
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<td>Komline of Dorset</td>
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<td>Krebs of South Hero</td>
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<td>Krowinski of Burlington</td>
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<td>LaClair of Barre Town</td>
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<td>Lanpher of Vergennes</td>
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<td>Lawrence of Lyndon</td>
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<td>Lefebvre of Newark</td>
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<td>Cupoli of Rutland City</td>
<td>Lippert of Hinesburg</td>
<td>Tate of Mendon *</td>
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<td>Davis of Washington</td>
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<td>Donahue of Northfield</td>
<td>McCormack of Burlington</td>
<td>Turner of Milton *</td>
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<td>McCoy of Poultney</td>
<td>Viens of Newport City</td>
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<td>McCullough of Williston</td>
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<td>Emmons of Springfield</td>
<td>McFaun of Barre Town</td>
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<td>Evans of Essex</td>
<td>Miller of Shaftsbury</td>
<td>Willhoit of St. Johnsbury</td>
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<td>Fagan of Rutland City *</td>
<td>Morris of Bennington</td>
<td>Woodward of Johnson</td>
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<td>Feltus of Lyndon</td>
<td>Morrissey of Bennington</td>
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<td>Fiske of Enosburgh</td>
<td>Mrowicki of Putney *</td>
<td>Yantachka of Charlotte</td>
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<td>Forgues of Springfield</td>
<td>Murphy of Fairfax</td>
<td>Young of Glover</td>
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<td>Frank of Underhill</td>
<td>Myers of Essex</td>
<td>Zagar of Barnard</td>
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<td>French of Randolph</td>
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Those who voted in the negative are:

Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

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

Batchelor of Derby  Fields of Bennington  O'Brien of Richmond
Beyor of Highgate  Gage of Rutland City  Olsen of Londonderry
Brennan of Colchester  Gamache of Swanton  Potter of Clarendon
Browning of Arlington  Grad of Moretown  Purvis of Colchester
Burditt of West Rutland  Hebert of Vernon  Quimby of Concord
Buxton of Tunbridge  Helm of Fair Haven  Rachelson of Burlington
Canfield of Fair Haven  Higley of Lowell  Strong of Albany
Dame of Essex  Jewett of Ripton  Terenzini of Rutland Town
Devereux of Mount Holly  Kitzmiller of Montpelier  Trieb of Rockingham
Eastman of Orwell  Martel of Waterford

**Rep. Fagan of Rutland City** explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I vote yes and want to ensure my name is added as a sponsor. I requested yesterday to be so added but was inadvertently left off.”

**Rep. Mrowicki of Putney** explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

This all began as response to Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act. There are 2 significant differences between the original Indiana law and the Federal law which is why there has been the national uproar. They are not the same law. I support adding our voices to the chorus of support for our LGBT family and friends – especially on a day when we welcome LGBT youth to the State House.”

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

“Mr. Speaker:

Vermont has a long-standing tradition of inclusion. We are proudly known for our diversity.

As a gay man who chose to move here, first returning member of my family since 1816, I considered this place a natural choice.

I reaffirm our motto ‘Freedom and Unity’ by joining all LGBT Vermonters in voting yes for this resolution on this Good Friday.”

**Rep. Tate of Mendon** explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:
On Good Friday when Christians all over the globe are commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ I think it is apropos that we are making this act of love – inclusion and support for peoples of all personal persuasion to, as the Lord Himself said, ‘Come whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ As a member of our nation’s most diverse military in history I applaud any condemnation of discrimination…be it for someone’s sexual orientation or be it the persecution and slaughter of my fellow believers all over the world.”

Rep. Turner of Milton explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I want to thank the original sponsors for working with our caucus team to find the right balance, which addresses the initial concern in a manner that could be accepted by many. Thank you.”

Third Reading; Bills Passed

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

H. 367

House bill, entitled
An act relating to miscellaneous revisions to the municipal plan adoption, amendment, and update process

H. 492

House bill, entitled
An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 240

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled
An act relating to miscellaneous technical corrections to laws governing motor vehicles, motorboats, and other vehicles

First: In Sec. 12, 23 V.S.A. § 458, by striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The purchaser, if a properly licensed, on attaching the number plate with temporary validation stickers, temporary plate or decal purchased either attaches to the motor vehicle, motorboat, snowmobile, or all-terrain vehicle, or carries in the motorboat such number plate or decal, he or she may operate the
same for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days immediately following the purchase.

**Second**: By striking out Sec. 21 in its entirety, and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Remarks Journalized**

On motion of **Rep. McFaun of Barre Town**, the following remarks by **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Mr. Speaker:

I rise in support of this resolution and to offer an amendment that I hope will both strengthen it and place it in a larger context of inclusion.

Do I believe this resolution is part of the essential work of this body? To be honest, I do not. But I am willing to stand in support of making this statement out of respect for those who feel strongly that it is important for us to speak out.

Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart when I hear freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination being pitted against each other, as though they are not essential to the existence, each, of the other. The God of my faith is not capable of causing hurt, but rather, is the very embodiment of love; is not capable of being a force for division, but rather, only of unity; is not capable of exclusion, but only of inclusion. And yet, throughout the ages and throughout our world today, we humans continue to use our different concepts of God as a force of division.

This resolution takes a stand against those who might wish to use the fundamental value of freedom of religion as a cloak for discrimination against persons with differences in sexual orientation or gender identity.

But we all have a long way to go in overcoming a history of discrimination against those who are different from us in many other ways as well – whether because of race, or ethnicity, or disability or religious affiliation or in any of the many ways in which we divide ourselves from others we perceive as “different.” And simply because some people may misuse religion to discriminate, does not make it just, to label all persons of religious faith, based upon the actions of some. Indeed, one of the first groups to cancel its convention in Indiana was a Christian group, the Disciples of Christ. The fact that a person is concerned about protection of their religious freedom does not automatically mean that their motive is to claim a right to discriminate. For our resolution to be misconstrued as implying that would allow it to become, itself,
a statement of pre-judgment. The sponsors of this resolution have included in their amendment an explicit clause that clarifies this very point, and I thank them for strengthening it in that way.

The situation in the public eye was the perception of intended discrimination against one particular group: so it is appropriate to focus our statement on that issue. This proposed addition to this resolution has a single purpose: to make our intent clear, that we are condemning the threat of discrimination against some individuals and groups not only because that discrimination is wrong – which it is – but also because our values base includes a context that affirms that we stand against discrimination of all kinds, under any justification.

It is a context that we can be proud of, and I ask for your support.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of Rep. Russell of Rutland City, the following remarks by Rep. Lippert of Hinesburg were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Mr. Speaker:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You should find on your desks an amendment under my name. It adds an additional Resolved clause, and I think it is consistent with the additional Resolved clause that we just adopted. I supported that Resolved clause, and I support the underlying resolution.

I am hoping that we will add this Resolved clause to give even clearer support for non-discrimination, particularly around lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

The Resolved clause reads as follows: “Resolved, That this legislative body encourages all fifty states to enact non-discrimination statutes to protect their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.”

I have to say that I am heartened that Indiana has responded to what has been the public outcry of concern that what they were doing, whether deliberately or inadvertently, could lead to discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens in their state. But, in fact, it does not go far enough. It does not protect non-discrimination in employment or in housing.

In fact, only twenty states in the country offer some version of these protections.

[Holding up a printed map of the United States showing which states have sexual orientation / gender identity non-discrimination statutes.] I didn’t slaughter trees in order to put this on everybody’s desk, but I am happy to
welcome anyone who would like to look more closely at a map of the United States indicating those states which have non-discrimination laws protecting sexual orientation and/or some gender identity as well.

We in Vermont, as outlined in this resolution, helped lead the nation in establishing non-discrimination laws. In 1992 we were one of the first states that established non-discrimination for sexual orientation. It took us until 2007 to actually add gender identity to our non-discrimination statutes.

And, of course, we took other very important steps in recognizing the legal recognition of same-sex couples through civil unions in 2000, and became the first state to enact marriage equality legislatively in 2009. In fact, that anniversary will be next Tuesday. April 7 will be the sixth anniversary of this chamber overriding the governor’s veto and establishing full marriage equality in Vermont.

I stand here as someone who has benefited from non-discrimination statutes. I stand here as someone who has benefited from the welcoming environment that we have created here in Vermont.

Yesterday there was a clause in the original resolution asserting that Vermont had benefited economically as a result of creating this welcoming environment. And a question was raised whether we really know this to be true.

I assert, yes we do know. I found myself last night looking up an op-ed piece which I submitted last summer.

Particularly around marriage equality in Vermont, we know that almost 40% of all out-of-state marriage couples coming to Vermont, using our caterers, our venues, our florists, bringing their guests to stay in our bed-and-breakfasts or hotels – almost 40% of couples coming to Vermont to be married are same-sex couples coming from out of state.

Following our enactment of civil unions in 2000, over 7,000 couples came from all 49 other states and twenty countries. We were the first state to give legal recognition to same-sex couples, and our economy benefited – not starved or been defeated – by the fear and threat of boycotts that were expressed in the beginning.

So what I want to do today is to add this Whereas clause. I think we should encourage other states to develop – to adopt – full non-discrimination laws. It will be to their benefit for their citizens; it will benefit their economy.
I celebrate Vermont’s achievements. I think we have much to be proud of. And I am reminded of the cartoon that was crafted on April 9, 2009, and published in the Philadelphia Inquirer, by cartoonist Tony Auth.

It is a cartoon that shows two people – you can’t tell exactly what gender – but two people walking down a path in the woods, and there is a sign that says, “Welcome to Vermont. All you need is love.”

I think that really encapsulates what this is all about. And so I celebrate what we’ve achieved. I think we have every reason to encourage our fellow citizens in other states to join us. We’ve reached through these struggles and found that having a welcoming state of Vermont is in fact something that strengthens all of us.

So I would ask you to support my amendment – the additional Whereas clause – and to support the underlying Resolution.

Thank you.”

Adjournment

At ten o’clock and nineteen minutes in the forenoon, on motion of Rep. Turner of Milton, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at ten o’clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 22.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

H.C.R. 89

House concurrent resolution congratulating Aliah Curry on her record breaking career on the Norwich University women’s basketball team;

H.C.R. 90

House concurrent resolution recognizing the centennial anniversary of the Vermont Workers’ Compensation Act;

H.C.R. 91

House concurrent resolution congratulating Alexander (AJ) Ginnis on winning a bronze medal in the men’s slalom at the 2015 Junior World Championships;
H.C.R. 92

House concurrent resolution designating March as Women’s History Month in Vermont;

H.C.R. 93

House concurrent resolution designating April 2015 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont;

H.C.R. 94

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2014 Proctor High School Phantoms Division IV championship girls’ soccer team;

H.C.R. 95

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Cabot School on winning the Teach for the Planet Innovation Challenge;

H.C.R. 96

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Proctor High School Phantoms Division IV championship boys’ basketball team;

H.C.R. 97

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Woodstock Union High School Wasps Division II championship boys’ basketball team;

H.C.R. 98

House concurrent resolution recognizing the American Traffic Safety Association and its Foundation for their outstanding public awareness, education, and training programs with respect to safety in highway work zones and designating March 30–April 3, 2015 as Vermont Work Zone Awareness Week;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2015, seventy-third Biennial session.]