

Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Kevin Christie of Hartford.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Keri Mason of Hartford led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communication from Rep. Rebecca Ellis

“1531 Ripley Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677
August 4, 2015

The Honorable Shap Smith
Speaker of the House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Shap:

I have proudly served in the Vermont Legislature for five sessions. It has been an honor to represent Waterbury, Bolton, Huntington, Buels Gore (and Duxbury from 2011-2012). Vermont remains a place where ordinary citizens can participate in policy making, legislators have a direct connection with their constituents, and ideas are debated in an open and civil environment. My colleagues have courageously shared their own personal stories in order to better the lives of all Vermonters, and have listened carefully to the stories of others. I have been deeply humbled by their integrity, commitment and perseverance.

It is now time for me to embark on a new phase in my life and a new career. I therefore submit my resignation from the Legislature, effective immediately. I thank you for your incredible leadership and guiding hand, and for making the House a welcoming place for all Vermonters.

Sincerely,
/s/ Rebecca Ellis”

Communication from the Governor

“October 22, 2015

The Honorable Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Smith,

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed Theresa A. M. Wood, 1461 Perry Hill Road, Waterbury, VT 05676, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Washington-Chittenden, formerly held by Representative Rebecca Ellis.

Sincerely,
/s/ Peter Shumlin
Governor”

New Member Seated

Theresa Wood, the newly appointed member from Waterbury, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was conducted to her seat by the Doorkeeper.

Communication from the Clerk of the House

“January 5, 2016

Honorable Shapleigh Smith, Jr.
Speaker of the House

Mr. Speaker:

I have the honor to inform you and the members of the House that I have appointed Melissa Kucserik of Plainfield as First Assistant Clerk and Jeremy Weiss of Calais as Second Assistant Clerk.

Sincerely,
/s/William M. MaGill
Clerk of the House”

Oath Administered to Clerks

Thereupon, the Clerk administered the Oath of office to Melissa Kucserik, First Assistant Clerk and Jeremy Weiss, Second Assistant Clerk and they entered upon the discharge of their duties.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time and referred to committee or placed on the Calendar as follows:

H. 510

By Rep. Fagan of Rutland City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to regulating cut-through traffic on class 3 and 4 town highways;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 511

By Rep. Fagan of Rutland City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the establishment of speed limits on town highways;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 512

By Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to adequate shelter of dogs and cats;

To the committee on Agriculture & Forest Products.

H. 513

By Rep. Ancel of Calais,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the option to choose Public Service Board approval of a telecommunications facility;

To the committee on Commerce & Economic Development.

H. 514

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a Wildlife Management and Conservation Stamp for the taking of fish or wildlife;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

H. 515

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to application of the lake shoreland protection standards to the Connecticut River reservoirs;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

H. 516

By Rep. Ancel of Calais,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the transfer of assets and debt belonging to merging school districts;

To the committee on Education.

H. 517

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the classification of State waters;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**J.R.H. 17**

Joint resolution urging FIFA to institute equal payment plans for men's and women's World Cup soccer teams

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton and Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford

Whereas, the Women's World Cup (WWC) has assumed increasing prominence in international soccer competition, and

Whereas, media coverage of this premier women's soccer tournament now rivals that afforded the original all-male World Cup (WC), and

Whereas, a large and enthusiastic crowd of over 50,000 fans witnessed the WWC championship game in Vancouver, British Columbia, in which the U.S. team defeated Japan 5-2, and

Whereas, in recognition of this singular athletic achievement, the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), international soccer's

governing body, paid the 2015 U.S. team \$2 million, twice the sum paid the 2011 WWC championship team, and

Whereas, despite FIFA's doubling of the WWC championship team's payment, it is a paltry amount in comparison to the sums FIFA awarded to participating men's teams at the 2014 WC, and

Whereas, FIFA paid each men's team \$1.5 million for appearing in the WC, and

Whereas, FIFA awarded those men's teams that lost in the first round a payment of \$8 million, four times the amount granted to the championship U.S. women's team, and

Whereas, most appalling, the 2014 FIFA men's championship team from Germany earned \$35 million for that nation's soccer federation, in excess of 1,700 percent of the amount that the 2015 FIFA women's championship team from the United States brought home, and

Whereas, at a time when ever-increasing importance is placed on equal compensation, regardless of gender, the discrepancy in pay awarded to men's WC and women's WWC teams is indefensible, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges FIFA to institute equal payment plans for men's and women's World Cup soccer teams, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland and to the U.S. Soccer Federation in Chicago, Illinois.

Which was read and, in the Speaker's discretion, placed on the Calendar for action on the next legislative day under Rule 52.

Committee Appointment Changes

The Speaker announced the following changes to committees:

Rep. Ryerson of Randolph to the committee on Natural Resources & Energy;

Rep. Toleno of Brattleboro to the committee on Agriculture and Forest Products

Rep. Wood of Waterbury to the committee on Corrections and Institutions;

Rep. Ram of Burlington was appointed Vice-Chair of the committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Message from the Senate No. 1

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 adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

J.R.S. 30. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

J.R.S. 31. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

J.R.S. 32. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

J.R.S. 33. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and twenty-two minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon.