

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Brad Keller of Bethel.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senators Baruth and Benning,

J.R.S. 7. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 16, 2015, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 1.

By Senator White,

An act relating to “welcome to” signs for census-designated places within towns.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 2.

By Senator Benning,

An act relating to the establishment of a State Latin Motto.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 3.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to licensing consumer litigation funding companies.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 4.

By Senators Benning and Bray,

An act relating to notification prior to sale of firearms relinquished pursuant to relief from abuse orders.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 5.

By Senators Ayer, Ashe and Pollina,

An act relating to notification of individuals placed in hospital observation status.

To the Committee on Health & Welfare.

S. 6.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to technical corrections to civil and criminal procedure statutes.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 1 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

By Senator Benning,

PROPOSAL 1**Sec. 1. PURPOSE**

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specifically provide that each person has a right to privacy, including the right to keep personal information private; to communicate with others privately; and to make decisions concerning his or her body.

Sec. 2. Article 22 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 22. [RIGHT TO PRIVACY]

That each person has a right to privacy, including the right to keep personal information private; to communicate with others privately; and to make decisions concerning his or her body.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2018 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 2 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

Senator Benning,

PROPOSAL 2

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that if a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Treasurer does not receive the required majority vote in the general election, then instead of the General Assembly electing that officer, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast shall be held on the first Tuesday in December to determine the winner.

Sec. 2. Section 47 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 47. [ELECTION OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AND TREASURER]

The voters of each town shall, on the day of election for choosing Representatives to attend the General Assembly, bring in their votes for Governor, with the name fairly written, to the Constable, who shall seal them up, and write on them, Votes for Governor, and deliver them to the Representatives chosen to attend the General Assembly; and at the opening of the General Assembly, there shall be a committee appointed out of the Senate and House of Representatives, who, after being duly sworn to the faithful discharge of their trust, shall proceed to receive, sort, and count the votes for Governor, and declare the person who has the major part of the votes, to be

Governor for the two years ensuing. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Treasurer shall be chosen in the manner above directed.

The votes for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Treasurer, of the State, shall be sorted and counted, and the result declared, by a committee appointed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

If, at any time, there shall be no election, of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or Treasurer, of the State, ~~the Senate and House of Representatives shall by a joint ballot, elect to fill the office, not filled as aforesaid, one of the three candidates for such office (if there be so many) for whom the greatest number of votes shall have been returned~~ a runoff election shall be held on the first Tuesday of December between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. The runoff election shall be held as prescribed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2018 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Campbell, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock and thirty minutes in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 14, 2015.