

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

In the absence of the President (who was Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor) the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Janet K. Brown of Sheldon.

Message from the House No. 9

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Jeremy Weiss, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 399. An act relating to the Department for Children and Families' Registry Review Unit.

H. 524. An act relating to seeking a waiver to permit businesses to continue to purchase Exchange plans directly from insurers.

H. 538. An act relating to captive insurance companies.

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

The House has adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.H. 18. Joint resolution expressing gratitude for the outstanding service of social workers employed at the Department for Children and Families.

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

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

S. 242.

On motion of Senator Sears, the Committee on Judiciary was relieved of further consideration of Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the service of civil process by a constable,

and the bill was committed to the Committee on Government Operations.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**J.R.H. 18.**

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution expressing gratitude for the outstanding service of social workers employed at the Department for Children and Families.

Whereas, social work is a profession designed to help families and individuals navigate the crises or major changes in their lives, and

Whereas, social workers are trained to anticipate emotional and potentially sensitive situations among their clients, and

Whereas, social workers develop professional, yet undeniably personal, relationships with their clients, and

Whereas, the Department for Children and Families (DCF) employs social workers who are assigned to cases throughout Vermont and they are confronted with an ever-expanding caseload, while simultaneously encountering an increasingly confrontational environment of verbal and physical hostility, and

Whereas, the recent challenging difficulties in the working environment of these outstanding and hard-working State employees reached a tragic nadir on Friday, August 7, 2015, when veteran DCF social worker, Lara Sobel, was killed in the parking lot outside the City Center office building in Barre, and

Whereas, the news of Lara Sobel's tragic death shocked the sensibilities of Vermonters, and

Whereas, the Agency of Human Services is deeply aware of the increasing complexity and security threats of DCF social workers' caseloads, and

Whereas, threats to the physical safety of DCF social workers, in combination with increasingly large caseloads, hinders their ability to protect Vermont's children, and

Whereas, DCF social workers are essential to the well-being of many Vermont families and they deserve respect and to be treated with human decency, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses gratitude for the outstanding service of social workers employed at the Department for Children and Families, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Department for Children and Families Commissioner Ken Schatz.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President *pro tempore*, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 399.

An act relating to the Department for Children and Families' Registry Review Unit.

To the Committee on Health & Welfare.

H. 524.

An act relating to seeking a waiver to permit businesses to continue to purchase Exchange plans directly from insurers.

To the Committee on Health & Welfare.

H. 538.

An act relating to captive insurance companies.

To the Committee on Finance.

Recess

On motion of Senator Baruth the Senate recessed until three o'clock in the afternoon.

Called to Order

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Degree, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 28, 2016.