

Journal of the Senate

Special Session

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President and the President *pro tempore*, the time for convening of the Senate having been set at 10:00 A.M., the Senate was called to order by John H. Bloomer, Jr., Secretary of the Senate.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Adjournment

The time of 10:15 A.M. having arrived and no quorum of the Senate having assembled, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate Rules, the Senate adjourned until two o'clock in the afternoon.

Afternoon

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Message from the House No. 11

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Rebecca Silbernagel, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 16. An act relating to vital records.

And has severally concurred therein with a further proposal of amendment thereto, in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 5. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers girls' track and field team on winning its fourth consecutive Division I championship.

H.C.R. 6. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School State championship boys' tennis team.

H.C.R. 7. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship softball team.

H.C.R. 8. House concurrent resolution congratulating Molly McCreedy of Calais on her achievements as a high school shot put athlete.

H.C.R. 9. House concurrent resolution congratulating the U-32 High School Raiders on winning their sixth consecutive Division II boys' track and field championship.

H.C.R. 10. House concurrent resolution congratulating the "Timeless Oldies Variety Show" on its 200th weekly radio broadcast.

H.C.R. 11. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' track and field championship team.

H.C.R. 12. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Lake Region Union High School Rangers Division II championship baseball team.

H.C.R. 13. House concurrent resolution congratulating Preston Gordon on winning the 2018 boys singles individual State tennis tournament.

H.C.R. 14. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 South Burlington Wolves Division I championship baseball team.

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

Rules Suspended; Immediate Consideration; Joint House Resolution Adopted; Rules Suspended; Joint Resolution Messaged

J.R.H. 2.

Pending reference to the Committee on Rules, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and Joint House Resolution entitled:

Joint resolution condemning the recently reversed federal policy of separating children from their families at the southern international border, expressing a profound hope that the family separation policy will not be reinstated, and imploring the Department of Homeland Security to reunite the separated families immediately.

Was *not* referred to the Committee on Rules, and was taken up for immediate consideration.

Whereas, on May 7, 2018, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that “the Department of Homeland Security is now referring 100 percent of illegal Southwest Border crossings to the Department of Justice for prosecution,” and

Whereas, the Attorney General continued, “If you are smuggling a child, then we will prosecute you and that child will be separated from you as required by law,” and

Whereas, until Wednesday, June 20, 2018, when the President issued an executive order reversing the federal policy of separating children from their families at the southern international border, the President had asserted that he was following existing law, but prior administrations had made exceptions to criminal detention for migrants entering the country illegally with children, and

Whereas, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that “the use of immigration detention and family separation as a deterrent runs counter to human rights standards and principles,” and

Whereas, during the period from April 19, 2018 to May 31, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security separated 1,995 children from 1,940 adults, and

Whereas, separation from parents is an adverse childhood experience that can disrupt normal brain development and result in a lifetime of negative health outcomes, and

Whereas, the children have been sent to temporary facilities that U.S. Representative Peter Welch described as “nothing short of a prison,” and

Whereas, former first Lady Laura Bush wrote in the *Washington Post* that “the zero-tolerance policy is cruel... [and] immoral” and that the “images are eerily reminiscent of the Japanese American internment camps of World War II,” now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly condemns the recently reversed federal policy of separating children from their families at the southern international border, expresses a profound hope that the family separation policy will not be reinstated, and implores the Department of Homeland Security to reunite the separated families immediately, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald Trump, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the joint resolution be adopted in concurrence?, was decided in the affirmative.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended, and the joint resolution was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Rules Suspended; House Proposals of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred In; Rules Suspended; Bill Delivered; Bill Messaged

H. 16.

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and House proposals of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill entitled:

An act relating to vital records.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further amendments thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. C.1000 (fiscal year 2018 General Fund one-time appropriations, transfers, and reversions), in subdivision (b)(6), by striking out the following: “\$14,100,000” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: \$15,000,000

Second: In Sec C.1000 (fiscal year 2018 General Fund one-time appropriations, transfers, and reversions), in subdivision (e)(1) by striking out the following: “\$12,000,000” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: \$10,000,000

Third: By inserting a new section to be Sec. H.10a to read as follows:

Sec. H.10a 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b) is amended to read:

(b) For each fiscal year, ~~the General Assembly shall set a property dollar equivalent yield and an income dollar equivalent yield, consistent with the definitions in the chapter~~ the property dollar equivalent yield and the income dollar equivalent yield shall be the same as in the prior fiscal year, unless set otherwise by the General Assembly.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposals of amendment to the Senate proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended, and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Beck and others,

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

H.C.R. 5.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers girls' track and field team on winning its fourth consecutive Division I championship.

By Reps. Myers and others,

H.C.R. 6.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School State championship boys' tennis team.

By Reps. Myers and others,

H.C.R. 7.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship softball team.

By Reps. Jessup and others,

H.C.R. 8.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Molly McCreedy of Calais on her achievements as a high school shot put athlete.

By Reps. Jessup and others,

H.C.R. 9.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the U-32 High School Raiders on winning their sixth consecutive Division II boys' track and field championship.

By Reps. Donahue and Lewis,

H.C.R. 10.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the "Timeless Oldies Variety Show" on its 200th weekly radio broadcast.

By Reps. Myers and others,

H.C.R. 11.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' track and field championship team.

By Reps. Young and Strong,

By Senators Rodgers and Starr,

H.C.R. 12.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 Lake Region Union High School Rangers Division II championship baseball team.

By Reps. Myers and others,

H.C.R. 13.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Preston Gordon on winning the 2018 boys singles individual State tennis tournament.

By Reps. Lalonde and others,

H.C.R. 14.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2018 South Burlington Wolves Division I championship baseball team.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.