

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2018

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 182.

An act relating to the investment authority of municipal trustees of public funds.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 40.

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

(a) An employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.15. ~~Beginning January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.60. Beginning January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.00. Beginning on January 1, 2018, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.50, and beginning~~ Beginning on January 1, 2019, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$11.10. Beginning on January 1, 2020, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$11.75. Beginning on January 1, 2021, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$12.50. Beginning on January 1, 2022, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$13.25. Beginning on January 1, 2023, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$14.10. Beginning on January 1, 2024, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$15.00, and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the

percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest \$0.01. An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than one-half the minimum wage. As used in this subsection, “a service or tipped employee” means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than \$120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service. If the minimum wage rate established by the U.S. government is greater than the rate established for Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the U.S. government.

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Sec. 2. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; STATE PLAN

To the extent funds are appropriated, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall amend the Department for Children and Families’ federal Child Care and Development Fund State Plan to:

(1) adjust the sliding scale of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program benefit to correspond with each minimum wage increase required pursuant to this act to ensure that the benefit percentage at each new minimum wage level remains the same as the percentage applied under the former minimum wage; and

(2) adjust the market rate used to inform the fee scale in a manner that offsets the estimated increased cost of child care in Vermont resulting from the increase in the minimum wage required pursuant to this act.

Sec. 3. MINIMUM WAGE; ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2023, the Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding potential mechanisms for indexing the minimum wage established pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 384 to inflation after 2024. In particular, the report shall:

(1) identify and examine mechanisms that other jurisdictions use to index their minimum wages to inflation and the potential benefits and disadvantages of each mechanism; and

(2) identify and examine any alternative mechanisms to index the

minimum wage to inflation, including alternative measures of inflation, and the potential benefits and disadvantages of each mechanism.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointment will be considered by the Senate under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Anthony Z. Roisman of Weathersfield – Chair, Public Utility Commission (term 6/12/17 – 2/28/23) – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (2/7/18)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

February 13, 2018 - 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. - Room 11 - Re: Governor's Recommended FY 2019 State Budget - House Committee on Appropriations.

Community-Based Public Hearings on the Governor's Recommended FY2019 State Budget

The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are seeking public input on the Governor's Recommended FY2019 State Budget and will hold community-based public hearings on Monday, February 12, 2018, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the following 5 locations.

Johnson State College – Stearns Student Center, Performance Space, 2nd Floor in Stearns

Rutland City – Rutland Public Schools, Longfellow School Building, Board Room

St. Johnsbury – St. Johnsbury House, Main dining room, 1207 Main St.

St. Albans City – St. Albans City School, Library, 29 Bellows St.

Winooski – Community College of Vermont, Room 401, 4th Floor.

NEWLY Added Site: Springfield – Springfield Town Hall, 96 Main Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room (Selectmen’s Hall)
5:30-6:30 p.m.

An additional public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in room 11 of the **State House in Montpelier**.

The Committees will take testimony on the Governor’s recommended State budget at the above dates and times. Anyone interested in testifying should come to one of the hearings. Time limits on testimony may apply depending on volume of participants. If you have a story you would like to share privately with the committee members, please contact Theresa to schedule this at the end of one of the hearings.

For more information about the format of these events, or to submit written testimony, contact Theresa Utton-Jerman or Rebecca Buck at tutton@leg.state.vt.us or rbuck@leg.state.vt.us or at 802-828-5767 or toll-free within Vermont at 1-800-322-5616. **Requests for interpreters should be made by Monday, January 29, 2018.**

February 22, 2018 - 7:00 P.M. - Room 11 - Re: Judicial Retention - Joint Committee on Judicial Retention.

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 15, 2018 - 10:30 A.M. - Election of two (2) trustees for the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Candidates for the positions of trustee must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** not later than Thursday, February 8, 2018, by 5:00 P.M. pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSS OVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 2, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 16, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Note: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Fee Bill).