

Journal of the House

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Elissa Johnk, The Old Meeting House, East Montpelier, VT.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Andrew Trottier of Barre led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communication from Rep. Ron Hubert

June 24, 2017

Clerk of the House
William MaGill

Dear William MaGill Clerk of the House

This letter is to inform the House of Representatives that as of July 1, 2017 I will be resigning as Milton's Representative in Chittenden 10.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served the people of Milton for the past nine years.

Being a State Representative has been a great honor. The past nine years this job has changed my life and was one of the best experience a person can have.

I feel it is time for me to return to my business and family.

Yours truly,
Ron Hubert

Communication from Rep. Adam Greshin

July 7, 2017

Mr. William MaGill
Clerk of the House
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Bill:

Effective July 10, 2017, I resign my House seat. It has been a pleasure serving in the Vermont House and I have enjoyed working with you and your colleagues in the clerk's office.

I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Sincerely,

Adam Greshin
State Representative
Washington-7

Communication from Rep. Oliver Olsen

October 17, 2017

Mr. William MaGill, Clerk
Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Resignation

Dear Mr. MaGill:

I am writing to tender my resignation from the Vermont House of Representatives, effective November 1, 2017.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our great state. I consider myself fortunate to have had the experience of working with many talented and dedicated public servants over the years. Together – as independents, Democrats, Republicans, and Progressives – we have helped our state recover from the depths of the Great Recession and the ravages of Tropical Storm Irene. Year over year, we pass a balanced budget, and continue to prove that we can tackle some of the most challenging issues with robust, but constructive and respectful dialog. I hope this spirit of cooperation lives on.

Sincerely,

Rep. Oliver K. Olsen

Communication from the Governor

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I have the great honor to inform you that I have appointed Chris Mattos of 37 Smith Road, Milton, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Chittenden-10, formerly held by Representative Hubert.

Sincerely,
/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

Communication from the Governor

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I have the great honor to inform you that I have appointed Ed Reed of 92 Fire Pond lane, Fayston, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Washington-7, formerly held by Representative Greshin.

Sincerely,
/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

Communication from the Governor

November 30, 2017

The Honorable Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I have the great honor to inform you that I have appointed Kelly MacLaury Pajala of P.O. Box 94, South Londonderry, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Windham-Bennington-Windsor, formerly held by Representative Olsen.

Sincerely,
/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

New Member Seated

Christopher Mattos, the newly appointed member, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution

and laws of the State, was conducted to his seat by the Doorkeeper.

New Member Seated

Edward Read, the newly appointed member, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was conducted to his seat by the Doorkeeper.

New Member Seated

Kelly Pajala, the newly appointed member, 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.

Committee Appointment Changes

The Speaker announced the following changes to committees:

Rep. Harrison of Chittenden to the committee on **Government Operations**;

Rep. Mattos of Milton to the committee on **Education**;

Rep. Read of Fayston to the committee on **General, Housing and Military Affairs**;

Rep. Pajala of Londonderry to the committee on **Human Services**;

Rep. Poirier of Barre City to the committee on **Agriculture and Forestry**;

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury to the committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**;

Rep LaClairBarre Town appointed as Vice Chair of the committee on **Government Operations**.

Rules Suspended; House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of the bills, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred or placed on the Calendar as follows:

H. 543

By Rep. Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Women's Health Stabilization Fund;

To the committee on Health Care.

H. 544

By Rep. Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Meals on Wheels Fund;

To the committee on Human Services.

H. 545

By Rep. Harrison of Chittenden,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the implementation of an electronic roll-call system in the Vermont House of Representatives;

To the committee on Rules.

H. 546

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the taking of antlerless deer during the first three days of rifle season;

To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

H. 547

By Rep. Joseph of North Hero,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos;

To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

H. 548

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry, Bancroft of Westford, Botzow of Pownal, Hooper of Brookfield, Kimbell of Woodstock, McCoy of Poultney, Myers of Essex, Sibilis of Dover, Smith of Derby, Sullivan of Dorset, Turner of Milton and Viens of Newport City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting additional TIF districts;

To the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 549

By Rep. Marcotte of Coventry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Petroleum Cleanup Fund;
To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

H. 550

By Reps. Willhoit of St. Johnsbury and Toll of Danville,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to childhood trauma and the best interests of the child;
To the committee on Judiciary.

H. 551

By Reps. Townsend of South Burlington and Devereux of Mount Holly,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to flying the Green Mountain Boys Flag at the State House;
To the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 552

By Reps. Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh and Lanpher of Vergennes,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to approval of the adoption and codification of the charter of
the Town of Ferrisburgh;
To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 553

By Rep. Yacovone of Morristown,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to hospital budgets and reinvesting hospital budget surpluses
in social determinants of health;
To the committee on Human Services.

H. 554

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the regulation of dams;
To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

H. 555

By Rep. Giambatista of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to providing limitations on obtaining and using copies of the statewide voter checklist;

To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 556

By Reps. Lalonde of South Burlington, Botzow of Pownal and Head of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to agreements not to compete;

To the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 557

By Reps. Lalonde of South Burlington, Christie of Hartford and Conlon of Cornwall,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to labor relations for teachers and administrators;

To the committee on Education.

H. 558

By Rep. Sullivan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the economic benefits of the energy efficiency charge;

To the committee on Energy and Technology.

H. 559

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects;

To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

H. 560

By Reps. Deen of Westminster and Sullivan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances;

To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife.

H. 561

By Rep. Harrison of Chittenden,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Veterans Educational Assistance Program;

To the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

H. 562

By Rep. Grad of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to parentage proceedings;

To the committee on Judiciary.

House Resolution Referred to Committee

H.R. 16

House resolution, entitled

House resolution supporting sufficient appropriations for the Environmental Contingency Fund and the Emergency Medical Services Fund to meet their statutory purposes during fiscal year 2019

Offered by: Representative Mrowicki of Putney

Whereas, contamination of the water supplies in Vermont communities is a significant public health problem, and

Whereas, when privately or publicly owned water supplies are contaminated, alternative and possibly costly measures or equipment may be required to restore safe drinking water, and

Whereas, the Environmental Contingency Fund, codified at 10 V.S.A. § 1283, was established “to investigate or mitigate, or both, the effects of hazardous material releases to the environment,” and

Whereas, more specifically, 10 V.S.A. § 1283(b)(5) provides for the reimbursement of “ private persons or municipalities for expenditures made to provide alternative water supplies or to take other emergency measures deemed necessary by the Secretary [of Natural Resources] in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to protect the public health from hazardous material,” and

Whereas, in recent years, the General Assembly has failed to appropriate sufficient funding for either the operational or capital construction components of the Environmental Contingency Fund, and

Whereas, first responder organizations can be engaged in training exercises or responding to emergency situations that stretch these organizations' budgetary resources, and

Whereas, first responder organizations should never be confronted with the dilemma of reducing training or refusing a call for assistance due to budgetary constraints, and

Whereas the Emergency Medical Services Response Fund, codified at 18 V.S.A. § 908, was established "to support online and regional training programs, data collection and analysis, and other activities relating to the training of emergency medical personnel and delivery of emergency medical services and ambulance services in Vermont," and

Whereas, State appropriations for this Fund have been insufficient to meet the financial requirements of first responder organizations that are beyond the capacity of either local municipalities or individual supporters to finance satisfactorily, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, as applicable, to propose to the House sufficient appropriations for the Environmental Contingency Fund and the Emergency Medical Services Fund to meet their statutory purposes during fiscal year 2019.

Which was read and referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Message from the Senate No. 1

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam 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. 36. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

J.R.S. 37. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

J.R.S. 38. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

Adjournment

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