

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Zack's Place, Woodstock, VT.

House Resolution Placed on Calendar

H.R. 23

House resolution, entitled

House resolution requesting the Executive Branch to use available funds to examine the connection between excessive video game playing and the propensity to engage in gun violence and to propose restrictions on the rental or sale of violent video games to persons under a designated age for legislative consideration during the 2019 session of the General Assembly

Offered by: Representatives Gage of Rutland City, Bancroft of Westford, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Bissonnette of Winooski, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Colburn of Burlington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Colchester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Dunn of Essex, Fagan of Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Forguites of Springfield, Frenier of Chelsea, Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Grad of Moretown, Graham of Williamstown, Harrison of Chittenden, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jickling of Randolph, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nolan of Morristown, Norris of Shoreham, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearce of Richford, Potter of Clarendon, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibia of Dover, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Dorset, Terenzini of

Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wood of Waterbury, Wright of Burlington, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, video games have advanced technologically and can now convey images and action sequences with a sharp realism that was not previously possible, and

Whereas, some video games now portray crude and grotesque forms of violence in a favorable light, and

Whereas, former West Point psychology professor, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Dave Grossman, has detailed the negative impact of violent video game playing on some youth in his book, *Assassination Generation: Video Games, Aggression, and the Psychology of Killing*, and

Whereas, he provides graphic depictions of violent stories presented in video games, as well as information on scientific studies assessing the causal link between addictive viewing of video games and the perpetration of real-world violent acts, and

Whereas, in 2014, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues released a statement that “Media violence is an important causal risk factor for increased aggression and violence in both the short- and long-term,” and

Whereas, in 2015, American Psychological Association experts stated that “scientific research has demonstrated an association between violent video game use and both increases in aggressive behavior...and decreases in prosocial behavior, empathy, and moral engagement,” and

Whereas, with the increased attention to gun-related violence in our nation’s schools, restricting the access of young persons to the most violent video games should be a public policy priority, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body requests the Executive Branch to use available funds to examine the connection between excessive video game playing and the propensity to engage in gun violence and to propose restrictions on the rental or sale of violent video games to persons under a designated age for legislative consideration during the 2019 session of the General Assembly, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip Scott.

Which was read and, in the Speaker's discretion, placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow under Rule 52.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 55

By Senator Ashe,

J.R.S. 55. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 13, 2018, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

Was taken up, read and adopted in concurrence.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

S. 234

On motion of **Rep. Grad of Moretown**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to adjudicating all teenagers in the Family Division, except those charged with a serious violent felony;

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, on motion of **Rep. Grad of Moretown**, the bill was committed to the committee on Human Services.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence
With Proposal of Amendment**

S. 164

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Unused Prescription Drug Repository Program

Was taken up, read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

**Proposal of Amendment agreed to; Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 182

Senate bill, entitled

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

funds

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Fagan of Rutland City** moved to propose to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 24 V.S.A. § 2432, in subsection (d), by striking the subsection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(d) The trustees may delegate management and investment of funds under their charge to the extent that is prudent under the terms of the trust or endowment, and in accordance with section 3415 (delegation of management and investment functions) of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, 14 V.S.A. chapter 120. Notwithstanding the limitations on investments set forth in subsection (b) of this section, an agent exercising a delegated management or investment function, if investing, shall invest the funds in a publicly traded security that is:

(1) registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78l and listed on a national securities exchange;

(2) issued by an investment company registered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 80a-8;

(3) a corporate bond registered as an offering with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78l and issued by an entity whose stock is a publicly traded security;

(4) a municipal security;

(5) a deposit in federally insured financial institutions as defined in 8 V.S.A. § 11101(32); or

(6) a security issued, insured, or guaranteed by the United States.

Second: In Sec. 3, 18 V.S.A. § 5384, in subsection (b), in subdivision (3), by striking the subdivision in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(3) The treasurer, selectboard, or trustees of public funds may delegate management and investment of town cemetery funds to the extent that it is prudent under the terms of the trust or endowment, and in accordance with ~~the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, 14 V.S.A. § section~~ 3415 (delegation of management and investment functions) of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, 14 V.S.A. chapter 120. ~~An~~ Notwithstanding the limitations on investments set forth in this subsection, an agent exercising a delegated management or investment function, if investing, may shall invest cemetery funds ~~only in the securities enumerated in this section~~ in a publicly traded security that is:

(A) registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 781 and listed on a national securities exchange;

(B) issued by an investment company registered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 80a-8;

(C) a corporate bond registered as an offering with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 781 and issued by an entity whose stock is a publicly traded security;

(D) a municipal security;

(E) a deposit in federally insured financial institutions as defined in 8 V.S.A. § 11101(32); or

(F) a security issued, insured, or guaranteed by the United States.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence
With Proposal of Amendment**

S. 282

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to health care providers participating in Vermont's Medicaid program

Was taken up, read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

**Proposal of Amendment agreed to; Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 237

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to providing representation to needy persons concerning immigration matters

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Donahue of Northfield, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury and Kimbell of Woodstock** moved to propose to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Defender General, the Deputy Defender General, and public defenders shall, pursuant to 13 V.S.A. § 5203(3), continue to meet professional representation obligations to clients

through representation that may extend to federal immigration court.

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Adjournment

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