

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 5

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 joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Joint Resolution Referred

J.R.S. 9.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Cummings,

J.R.S. 9. Joint resolution objecting to law enforcement officials' conduct at the Standing Rock protest and urging President-Elect Trump, on assuming office, to not propose a reversal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' denial of construction authorization for the Lake Oahe water crossing of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Whereas, Dakota Access L.L.C, a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, is constructing the Dakota Access Pipeline extending from North Dakota to Illinois, and

Whereas, a segment of the pipeline has been proposed to be built under the Missouri River, at a location known as Lake Oahe, near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota, and

Whereas, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (the tribe) is concerned that the Lake Oahe segment may pollute the reservation's drinking water supply, and

Whereas, in July 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) issued the federally required approval for the Lake Oahe segment of the pipeline, as the segment is a water crossing, and

Whereas, at least 3,000 protesters joined an encampment near the proposed construction site, and in September 2016, tribal leaders accused construction crews of destroying burial sites on the tribe's private land, and

Whereas, tribal leaders then decided to confront the construction crews, and the protesters accused private security workers of employing dogs and pepper spray, and violent treatment of protesters occurred, including the use of rubber bullets against protesters, and

Whereas, on October 27, 2016, police arrested dozens of the segment's opponents for establishing an illegal camp and reports surfaced that police were monitoring the protesters' social media activities, and

Whereas, in early December 2016, the Corps announced that it was amending its Lake Oahe decision ordering an environmental study of alternative routes for the pipelines going underneath the Missouri River, and

Whereas, although the tribe celebrated this unanticipated victory, it remains concerned that on assuming office, President-Elect Trump might propose a reversal of the Corps' latest Lake Oahe decision, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly objects to law enforcement officials' conduct at the Standing Rock protest and urges President-Elect Trump, on assuming office, to not propose a reversal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' denial of construction authorization for the Lake Oahe water crossing of the Dakota Access Pipeline, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President-Elect Donald Trump, to Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to the Vermont Congressional Delegation, and to the Standing Rock Tribe.

Thereupon, the President, in his discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Government Operations.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 16.

By Senators Sears, Ashe, Benning, Campion, Degree, Lyons and White,

An act relating to expanding patient access to the Medical Marijuana Registry.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 17.

By Senators White, Balint, Benning, Clarkson, Collamore, Kitchel, Mazza and Pollina,

An act relating to the qualifications of candidates for Adjutant and Inspector General.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 18.

By Senators White, Balint and Baruth,

An act relating to freedom of expression for students.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 19.

By Senators Ayer, Mullin, Sirotkin and White,

An act relating to preserving the out-of-pocket limit for prescription drugs in bronze-level Exchange plans.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 20.

By Mullin, Branagan, Collamore, Degree, Flory, McCormack, Rodgers and Starr,

An act relating to awarding hunting and fishing licenses at no cost to persons 65 years of age or older.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 21.

By Senators Ayer, Lyons, Pollina and White,

An act relating to a study on whether to require large buildings to install solar generation.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 22.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to increased penalties for possession, sale, and dispensation of fentanyl.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 23.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to juvenile jurisdiction.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until eight o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.