Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Sally May of Mallets Bay.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the twenty-eighth day of February, 2018, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 149. An act relating to the authority of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to enter into land transactions.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 895.

An act relating to legislative review of certain report requirements.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bill Passed

Senate bill entitled:

S. 175. An act relating to the wholesale importation of prescription drugs into Vermont, bulk purchasing, and the impact of prescription drug costs on health insurance premiums.

Was read the third time and passed on a roll call, Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Senator Ashe having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed

S. 221.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to establishing extreme risk protection orders.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Sears moved to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. chapter 85, in section 4058, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) A person who files a petition for an extreme risk protection order under this subchapter, or who submits an affidavit accompanying the petition, knowing that information in the petition or the affidavit is false, or that the petition or affidavit is submitted with the intent to harass the respondent, shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senator Sears moved to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. chapter 85, in section 4059, in subdivision (e)(2)(A)(i), after the word "ownership" by inserting the following: , except that the Vermont State Police shall follow the procedure described in 20 V.S.A. § 2305

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed on a roll call, Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Senator Sears having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Bill Passed

S. 282.

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

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

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 55.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to territorial jurisdiction over regulated drug sales.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2301 is amended to read:

§ 2301. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law relating to the retention and disposition of evidence or lost, unclaimed, or abandoned property, the provisions of this chapter shall govern the retention or disposition, or both, of unlawful firearms, as defined in section 2302 of this title, in the possession of any agency, as defined in section 2302 and the disposition of abandoned firearms in the possession of the Department of Public Safety.

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2302 is amended to read:

§ 2302. UNLAWFUL FIREARMS; AGENCY

(a) For purposes of As used in this chapter;

(1) "unlawful <u>Unlawful</u> firearms" means firearms the possession of which constitutes a violation of federal or <u>state</u> law and firearms carried or used in violation of any federal or <u>state</u> law or in the commission of any federal or <u>state</u> State felony.

- (b) For purposes of this chapter, "agency" (2) "Agency" means any state <u>State</u> or local law enforcement agency, any state agency except the Vermont <u>fish and wildlife department Department of Fish and Wildlife</u>, and any local government entity.
- (3) "Unlawful per se" means firearms the possession of which is unlawful under any circumstances under State or federal law.
- (4) "Abandoned firearms" means firearms in the possession of the Department of Public Safety that are no longer needed as evidence and remain unclaimed for more than 18 months from the date the firearms come into the Department's possession.
- Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. § 2305 is amended to read:

§ 2305. DISPOSITION OF UNLAWFUL FIREARMS

- (a) Any unlawful firearm which the commissioner of public safety determines to be unsafe or the possession of which is unlawful per se shall either be destroyed, or if the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety deems such to be it appropriate, retained by the department of public safety Department of Public Safety for purposes of forensic science reference. In no event shall the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety dispose of such an unlawful a firearm in any other manner or to any other person.
- (b)(1) Except as provided in section 2306 of this title, all other unlawful and abandoned firearms shall either be:
- (A) delivered to the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services as directed by him or her for disposition by public sale pursuant to the provisions of chapter 13 of Title 27, or by such other manner of sale deemed appropriate by the state treasurer, or sale to a federally licensed firearms dealer pursuant to the Commissioner's authority under Title 29;
- (B) at the discretion of the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, donated to a governmental agency or to a nonprofit organization upon the recommendation of the commissioner of fish and wildlife, transferred to the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife for disposition; or,
- (C) if the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety deems such to be it appropriate, retained by the department of public safety Department of Public Safety for purposes of forensic science reference.
- (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provision subdivision (1) of this subsection, an unlawful firearm used in the commission of a homicide shall not be delivered to the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General

<u>Services</u> for disposition by public sale, but shall be disposed of only in accordance with:

- (A) the provisions of subsection (a) of this section in the same manner as unlawful per se firearms; or
 - (B) section 2306 of this title.
- (c) When the firearms sold under this section have been delivered to the commissioner of public safety by a local law enforcement agency, the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall return two-thirds of the net proceeds from the sale to the appropriate municipality. The remaining proceeds shall be allocated pursuant to the authority of the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services under 29 V.S.A. § 1557.
- (d) No State agency or department or State official shall be subject to any civil, criminal, administrative, or regulatory liability for any act taken or omission made in reliance on the provisions of this chapter.
- Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2306 is amended to read:

§ 2306. RIGHTS OF INNOCENT OWNER

Nothing contained in subsection 2305(b) of this title shall prejudice the rights of the bona fide owner of any unlawful firearm, the disposition of which is governed by that subsection, upon affirmative proof by him or her that he or she had no express or implied knowledge that such unlawful firearm was being or intended to be used illegally or for illegal purposes. If the bona fide owner provides reasonable and satisfactory proof of his or her ownership and of his or her lack of express or implied knowledge to the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety, the unlawful firearm shall be returned to him or her. If the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety determines that the proof offered is not satisfactory or reasonable, the person may, within 14 days, request a hearing before the state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety, jointly. The state treasurer Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the commissioner of public safety Commissioner of Public Safety shall promptly hold a hearing on any claim filed under this section, in accordance with the provisions for contested cases in 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 of Title 3.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2307 is amended to read:

§ 2307. FIREARMS RELINQUISHED PURSUANT TO RELIEF FROM ABUSE ORDER; STORAGE; FEES; RETURN

* * *

(2)(A)(i) If the owner fails to retrieve the firearm, ammunition, or weapon and pay the applicable storage fee within 90 days of the court order releasing the items, the firearm, ammunition, or weapon may be sold for fair market value. Title to the items shall pass to the law enforcement agency or firearms dealer for the purpose of transferring ownership, except that the Vermont State Police shall follow the procedure described in section 2305 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to the disposition of unlawful and abandoned firearms.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendation of amendment was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read third time?, Senators Baruth, Sirotkin, Clarkson, Ingram, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Ashe, Ayer, Balint and Brooks moved to amend the bill by adding a new Sec. 6 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 4019 is added to read:

§ 4019. FIREARMS TRANSFERS; BACKGROUND CHECKS

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 4016(a)(3) of this title.
- (2) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, or grandchild.
- (3) "Law enforcement officer" shall have the same meaning as in subdivision 4016(a)(4) of this title.
- (4) "Licensed dealer" means a person issued a license as a dealer in firearms pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 923(a).
- (5) "Proposed transferee" means an unlicensed person to whom a proposed transferor intends to transfer a firearm.
- (6) "Proposed transferor" means an unlicensed person who intends to transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person.

- (7) "Transfer" means to transfer a firearm by means of sale, trade, or gift.
- (8) "Unlicensed person" means a person who has not been issued a license as a dealer, importer, or manufacturer in firearms pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 923(a).
- (b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an unlicensed person shall not transfer a firearm to another unlicensed person unless:
- (A) the proposed transferor and the proposed transferee physically appear together with the firearm before a licensed dealer and request that the licensed dealer facilitate the transfer; and
- (B) the licensed dealer agrees to facilitate the transfer and determines that the proposed transferee is not prohibited by State or federal law from purchasing or possessing the firearm.
- (2) A person shall not, in connection with the transfer or attempted transfer of a firearm pursuant to this section, knowingly make a false statement or exhibit a false identification intended to deceive a licensed dealer with respect to any fact material to the transfer.
- (c)(1) A licensed dealer who agrees to facilitate a firearm transfer pursuant to this section shall comply with all requirements of State and federal law and shall, unless otherwise expressly provided in this section, conduct the transfer in the same manner as the licensed dealer would if selling the firearm from his or her own inventory.
- (2) A licensed dealer shall return the firearm to the proposed transferor and decline to continue facilitating the transfer if the licensed dealer determines that the proposed transferee is prohibited by federal or State law from purchasing or possessing the firearm.
- (3) A licensed dealer may charge a reasonable fee to facilitate the transfer of a firearm between a proposed transferor and a proposed transferee pursuant to this section.
- (d)(1) An unlicensed person who transfers a firearm to another unlicensed person in violation of subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.
- (2) A person who violates subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.
 - (e) This section shall not apply to:
 - (1) the transfer of a firearm by or to a law enforcement agency;

- (2) the transfer of a firearm by or to a law enforcement officer or member of the U.S. Armed Forces acting within the course of his or her official duties; or
- (3) the transfer of a firearm from one immediate family member to another immediate family member.

And by renumbering the original Sec. 6, effective date, to be Sec. 7

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as moved by Senators Baruth, Sirotkin, Clarkson, Ingram, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Ashe, Ayer, Balint and Brooks? Senator Rodgers raised a *point of order* under Sec. 402 of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure on the grounds that the recommendation of amendment offered by Senators Baruth, Sirotkin, Clarkson, Ingram, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Ashe, Ayer, Balint and Brooks was *not germane* to the bill and therefore could not be considered by the Senate.

The President *overruled* the point of order and ruled that the recommendation of amendment was *germane* in that it related to the subject matter of the bill.

Thereupon, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to on a roll call, Yeas 17, Nays 13.

Senator Baruth having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Bray, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Cummings, Ingram, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Pearson, Pollina, Sirotkin, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benning, Branagan, Brock, Collamore, Flory, Kitchel, Mazza, Nitka, Rodgers, Sears, Soucy, Starr, Westman.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bills Amended; Third Readings Ordered

S. 216.

Senator White, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the administration of Vermont's Medical Marijuana Registry.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 4230e is amended to read:

§ 4230e. CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA BY A PERSON 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

- (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person 21 years of age or older who cultivates no not more than two mature marijuana plants and four immature marijuana plants shall not be penalized or sanctioned in any manner by the State or any of its political subdivisions or denied any right or privilege under State law.
- (2)(A) Each dwelling unit shall be limited to two mature marijuana plants and four immature marijuana plants regardless of how many persons 21 years of age or older reside in the dwelling unit.
- (B) A person may not cultivate marijuana pursuant to this section if a registered medical marijuana patient or caregiver cultivates marijuana in the same dwelling unit pursuant to chapter 86 of this title.
- (C) As used in this section, "dwelling unit" means a building or the part of a building that is used as a primary home, residence, or sleeping place by one or more persons who maintain a household.
- (3) Any marijuana harvested from the plants allowed pursuant to this subsection shall not count toward the one-ounce possession limit in section 4230a of this title, provided it is stored in an indoor facility on the property where the marijuana was cultivated and reasonable precautions are taken to prevent unauthorized access to the marijuana.
- (4) Cultivation in excess of the limits provided in this subsection shall be punished in accordance with section 4230 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4230f(f) is amended to read:

- (f) This section shall not apply to a dispensary that lawfully provides marijuana to a registered patient or caregiver <u>or a registered caregiver who provides marijuana to a registered patient pursuant to chapter 86 of this title.</u>
- Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4472 is amended to read:

§ 4472. DEFINITIONS

* * *

(4) "Debilitating medical condition" means:

- (A) cancer, multiple sclerosis, positive status for human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, glaucoma, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, or the treatment of these conditions, if the disease or the treatment results in severe, persistent, and intractable symptoms;
- (B) post-traumatic stress disorder, provided the Department confirms the applicant is undergoing psychotherapy or counseling with a licensed mental health care provider; or
- (C) a disease or medical condition or its treatment that is chronic, debilitating, and produces one or more of the following intractable symptoms: eachexia or wasting syndrome; chronic pain; severe nausea; or seizures another disease, condition, or treatment as determined in writing by a qualifying patient's health care professional as defined in subdivision (7) of this section.

* * *

- Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4474c is amended to read:
- § 4474c. PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR SYMPTOM RELIEF

* * *

- (c) A registered patient or registered caregiver who elects to grow marijuana to be used for symptom relief by the patient may do so only if the marijuana is cultivated in a single, secure indoor facility Personal cultivation of marijuana by a patient or caregiver on behalf of a patient only shall occur:
- (1) on property lawfully in possession of the cultivator or with the written consent of the person in lawful possession of the property; and
- (2) in an enclosure that is screened from public view and is secure so that access is limited to the cultivator and persons 21 years of age or older who have permission from the cultivator.
- (d) A registered patient or registered caregiver may not transport marijuana in public unless it is secured in a locked container. [Repealed.]

* * *

- (g) The use of marijuana by a registered patient shall not be the sole factor disqualifying the patient from any needed medical procedure or treatment, including organ and tissue transplants.
- Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4474e is amended to read:
- § 4474e. DISPENSARIES; CONDITIONS OF OPERATION

- (a) A dispensary registered under this section may:
- (1) Acquire, possess, cultivate, manufacture, <u>test</u>, transfer, transport, supply, sell, and dispense marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and marijuana-related supplies and educational materials for or to a registered patient who has designated it as his or her dispensary and to his or her registered caregiver for the registered patient's use for symptom relief.

* * *

(3)(A) Cultivate and possess at any one time up to 28 mature marijuana plants, 98 immature marijuana plants, and 28 ounces of usable marijuana. However, if a dispensary is designated by more than 14 registered patients, the dispensary may cultivate and possess at any one time two three mature marijuana plants, seven immature plants, and four ounces of usable marijuana for every registered patient for which the dispensary serves as the designated dispensary.

* * *

- (d)(1) A dispensary shall implement appropriate security measures to deter and prevent the unauthorized entrance into areas containing marijuana and the theft of marijuana and shall ensure that each location has an operational security alarm system. All cultivation of marijuana shall take place in a secure, locked facility which is either indoors or outdoors, but not visible to the public and that can only be accessed by the owners, principals, financiers, and employees of the dispensary who have valid Registry identification cards. An outdoor facility is not required to have a roof, provided all other requirements are met. The Department shall perform an annual on-site assessment of each dispensary and may perform on-site assessments of a dispensary without limitation for the purpose of determining compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter and may enter a dispensary at any time for such purpose. During an inspection, the Department may review the dispensary's confidential records, including its dispensing records, which shall track transactions according to registered patients' Registry identification numbers to protect their confidentiality.
- (2)(A) A registered patient or registered caregiver may obtain marijuana from the dispensary by appointment only.
- (B) A dispensary may deliver marijuana to a registered patient or registered caregiver. The marijuana shall be transported in a locked container.
- (3) The operating documents of a dispensary shall include procedures for the oversight of the dispensary and procedures to ensure accurate record-keeping.

(4) A dispensary shall submit the results of a financial audit to the Department of Public Safety no not later than 60 90 days after the end of the dispensary's first fiscal year, and every other year thereafter. The audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant, and the costs of any such audit shall be borne by the dispensary. The Department may also periodically require, within its discretion, the audit of a dispensary's financial records by the Department.

* * *

(n) Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent a dispensary from acquiring, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, testing, transferring, transporting, supplying, selling, and dispensing hemp and hemp-infused products for symptom relief. "Hemp" shall have the same meaning as provided in 6 V.S.A. § 562. A dispensary shall not be required to comply with the provisions of 6 V.S.A. chapter 34.

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 4474g is amended to read:

§ 4474g. DISPENSARY REGISTRY IDENTIFICATION CARD; CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the The Department shall issue each owner, principal, financier, and employee of a dispensary a Registry identification card or renewal card within 30 days of after receipt of the person's name, address, and date of birth and a fee of \$50.00. The fee shall be paid by the dispensary and the cost shall not be passed on to an owner, principal, financier, or employee. A Except as provided by subdivision (b)(2) of this section, a person shall not serve as an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary until that person has received a Registry identification card issued under this section. Each card shall specify whether the cardholder is an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary and shall contain the following:
 - (1) the name, address, and date of birth of the person;
 - (2) the legal name of the dispensary with which the person is affiliated;
 - (3) a random identification number that is unique to the person;
- (4) the date of issuance and the expiration date of the Registry identification card; and
 - (5) a photograph of the person.
- (b)(1) Prior to acting on an application for a Registry identification card, the Department shall obtain with respect to the applicant a Vermont criminal history record, an out-of-state criminal history record, and a criminal history record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Each applicant shall consent

to the release of criminal history records to the Department on forms developed by the Vermont Crime Information Center.

(2) Once a Registry card application has been submitted, a person may serve as an owner, principal, financier, or employee of a dispensary pending the background check, provided the person is supervised in his or her duties by someone who is a cardholder. The Department shall issue a temporary permit to the person for this purpose, which shall expire upon the issuance of the Registry card or disqualification of the person in accordance with this section.

* * *

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 4474m is amended to read:

§ 4474m. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL AND SAFETY INFORMATION

The Department of Public Safety shall provide educational and safety information developed by the Vermont Department of Health, in consultation with dispensaries, to each registered patient upon registration pursuant to section 4473 of this title, and to each registered caregiver upon registration pursuant to section 4474 of this title.

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4474n is added to read:

§ 4474n. TESTING BY THE AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall establish a cannabis quality control program for the following purposes:

- (1) to develop potency and contaminant testing protocols for hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products;
- (2) to verify cannabinoid label guarantees of hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products;
- (3) to test for pesticides, solvents, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and bacterial and fungal contaminants in hemp, hemp-infused products, marijuana, and marijuana-infused products; and
- (4) to certify testing laboratories that can offer the services in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this section.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a) This section and Secs. 3-8 shall take effect July 1, 2018.
- (b) Secs. 1 and 2 shall take effect July 2, 2018.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary?, Senators White and Sears moved to amend the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary as follows:

<u>First</u>: By striking out Sec. 1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

<u>Second</u>: In Sec. 9, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) Sec. 2 shall take effect on July 2, 2018.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read third time?, Senators Ingram, Lyons and Cummings moved to amend the bill as follows:

<u>First</u>: By striking out Sec. 3 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

<u>Second</u>: In Sec. 9, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) This section and Secs. 4-8 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

Which was disagreed to.

Thereupon, the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Judiciary, as amended was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Adjournment

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