

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 358.

An act relating to technical corrections.

Reported favorably by Senator Collamore for the Committee on Government Operations.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 19, 2019, pages 514-547)

H. 427.

An act relating to a uniform process for foreign credential verification in the Office of Professional Regulation.

Reported favorably by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

H. 436.

An act relating to international wills.

Reported favorably by Senator Nitka for the Committee on Judiciary.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

Joint Resolution For Action

J.R.H. 3.

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the resolution be adopted?

Text of resolution:

Whereas, the American Legion Department of Vermont sponsors the Green Mountain Boys State educational program, providing a group of boys entering the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government in Montpelier, and

Whereas, as part of their visit to the State's capital city, the boys conduct a mock legislative session in the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Sergeant at Arms shall make available the chambers and committee rooms of the State House for the Green Mountain Boys State educational program on Thursday, June 20, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont in Montpelier.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bill for Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 162.

An act relating to promoting economic development.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (Senator Brock for the Committee)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 3 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. DUTIES CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING

The duties imposed on the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in Sec. 1 of this act are contingent upon the appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2020 for the purposes specified.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Brock for the Committee on Finance.

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

* * * Recruitment and Relocation * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2476 is amended to read:

§ 2476. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND MARKETING

* * *

(c) Economic development marketing. The Department shall be responsible for the promotion of Vermont as great place to live, work, and do business in order to increase the benefits of economic development marketing, including:

- (1) attracting additional private investment in Vermont businesses;
- (2) recruiting new businesses;
- (3) attracting more innovators and entrepreneurs to locate in Vermont;
- (4) attracting, recruiting, and growing the workforce to fill existing vacancies in growing businesses and to retain workers and their families; and
- (5) promoting and supporting Vermont businesses, goods, and services.

* * *

Sec. 2. NEW WORKER RELOCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall design and implement the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program, which shall include a simple certification process to certify new workers and certify qualifying expenses for a grant under this section.

(b) A new worker may be eligible for a grant under the Program for qualifying expenses in the amount of not more than \$7,500.00, consistent with the following limitations, and subject to available funding and procedures the Agency adopts to implement the program:

(1) A base grant for relocation to any area in Vermont shall be \$5,000.00.

(2) A grant for relocation to a designated labor market area may be enhanced, not to exceed \$7,500.00.

(3) The Agency shall assess applications on a rolling basis and give first priority, at any point in the application process, to workers in identified priority sectors, which may include health care, early child care and learning, lodging and restaurant industry, manufacturing, technology, and construction trades.

(4) A new worker may apply for a grant beginning January 1, 2020 and shall be paid when proof of residency and income tax liability reaches the equivalent of the amount claimed.

(5) A remote worker may apply for a grant under the Program when all funds from the New Remote Worker Grant Program created in 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1 are encumbered.

(c) The Agency shall:

(1) adopt procedures for implementing the Program;

(2) promote awareness of the Program, including through coordination with relevant trade groups and by integration into the Agency's economic development marketing campaigns; and

(3) adopt measurable goals, performance measures, and an audit strategy to assess the utilization and performance of the Program.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "New worker" means an individual who:

(A)(i) is a full-time employee of a business with its domicile or primary place of business outside Vermont and performs the majority of his or her employment duties remotely from a home office or a coworking space located in this State; or

(ii) is a full-time employee of a business located in Vermont and

(B) becomes a full-time resident of this State on or after January 1, 2020.

(2) "Qualifying expenses" mean actual costs that a new worker incurs for:

(A) moving expenses;

(B) repayment of student loan debt;

(C) down payment assistance; and

(D) initial rental deposits.

(e) On or before October 1, 2020, the Agency shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs concerning the implementation of this section, including:

(1) a description of the procedures adopted to implement the Program;

(2) the promotion and marketing of the Program;

(3) any additional recommendations for qualifying new worker expenses or qualifying workers that should be eligible under the Program, and

(4) any recommendations for the maximum amount of the grant.

Sec. 3. DUTIES CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING

The duties imposed on the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in Sec. 2 of this act are contingent upon the appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2020 for the purposes specified.

* * * Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program * * *

Sec. 4. REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 3336 (enhanced incentive for workforce training) is repealed.

Sec. 5. ENHANCED INCENTIVES; BACKGROUND GROWTH; SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

On or before December 15, 2020, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development a report addressing:

(1) the use of the enhanced incentive for environmental technology businesses in the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program and shall specifically address the effectiveness, costs, and benefits of modifying the background growth rate when calculating the value of the enhanced incentives; and

(2) specific recommendations for reducing the administrative burdens and other barriers to participation in the Program for small businesses.

Sec. 6. VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE; STUDY

On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, in consultation with the State Auditor, shall study and report to

the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance concerning the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program, specifically addressing the following:

(1) the internal controls and methods used to evaluate whether the program is working as intended;

(2) the procedures used to select, vet, and approve participants and projects;

(3) the controls and due diligence surrounding the application of the “but for” test;

(4) the specific outcomes of the Program in each year, including the net revenue gain to the State and the net increase in jobs, payroll, and capital investment; and

(5) the procedures and controls for measuring and verifying those Program outcomes.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

Concurrent Resolutions For Notice Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

H.C.R. 138 - 142 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for April 11, 2019)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, 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.

Mary E. Fastiggi of Burlington – Commissioner, Department of Human Resources – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations. (4/10/19)

Adam Greshin of Warren – Commissioner, Department of Finance and Management – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Government Operations. (4/10/19)

Michael Pieciak of Winooski – Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation – By Sen. Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance. (4/11/19)

June Tierney of Randolph – Commissioner, Department of Public Service – By Sen. Balint for the Committee on Finance. (4/11/19)

Anson B. Tebbetts of Marshfield - Secretary, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets – By Sen. Starr for the Committee on Agriculture. (4/12/19)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

H.542 (FY 2020 Budget)

ADVOCATES TESTIMONY

On **Tuesday, April 16, 2019 from 1:30-4:30 pm**, the Senate Appropriations Committee will be taking testimony from advocates regarding the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (H.542) in Room 10 of the State House. **All available time slots have been filled.** To submit written testimony to the committee please contact Becky Buck at the Legislative Joint Fiscal Office located at 1 Baldwin Street (phone: 828-5969) or via email at: rbuck@leg.state.vt.us

April 23, 2019 - 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. - Room 11 - Re: H. 51, H. 175, H. 214 Fossil fuel Infrastructure- - House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and Technology.