

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

GOVERNOR'S VETOES

S. 37.

An act relating to medical monitoring.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 1.)

S. 169.

An act relating to firearms procedures.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

(For text of veto message, see Senate Calendar for January 7, 2020, page 9.)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 760.

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 budget adjustments.

Proposal of amendment to H. 760 to be offered by Senators Sears, Kitchel, Nitka, Starr, McCormack, Westman and Ashe before Third Reading

Senators Sears, Kitchel, Nitka, Starr, McCormack, Westman and Ashe move to amend the Senate proposal of amendment by adding Sec. 70a, to read as follows:

Sec. 70a. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; GRADUATED
SANCTIONS; REENTRY HOUSING; REPORT

(a) The Department of Corrections shall review and strengthen existing graduated sanctions and incentives policies to ensure they reflect current research on best practices for responses to violation behavior that most effectively achieve behavior change and uphold public safety. The Department

shall also identify reentry housing needs for corrections populations. As a part of this work, the Department shall:

(1) formalize the use of incentives and sanctions in supervision practices at a 4:1 ratio and require incentives to be entered and tracked in the community supervision case management system;

(2) analyze how supervision staff currently understand, implement, and input data regarding the Department's graduated sanctions policy to identify where practices differ across the State and, where necessary, provide additional staff training on the use and tracking of graduated sanctions;

(3) develop and implement a homeless screening tool for use when a person is booked into or released from Department facilities and track reports of homelessness among corrections populations in the Department's case management system;

(4) identify and quantify high utilizers of corrections, homeless, and behavioral health services; inform statewide permanent supportive housing planning; and establish data match partnerships with appropriate Agency of Human Services departments to match Department of Corrections, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Medicaid information;

(5) explore establishing a collaborative approach for the Department, the Department of Mental Health, and the Vermont Department of Health to contract with housing providers to coordinate responses for shared clients and identify how the State can better leverage local and federal housing vouchers;

(6) explore how the Department's contractors could leverage federal Medicaid funding or other funding to allow the Department's contractors' clients to stay in supportive housing after they are no longer under the supervision of the Department;

(7) reduce barriers to recovery housing by establishing evidence-based norms and expectations for contracts and certifications for sober and recovery housing providers, including allowing for the use of medications and restricting evictions due to relapse; and

(8) explore opportunities to redefine housing requirements for incarcerated persons in order to receive approval for furlough release.

(b) On or before April 1, 2020, the Department shall report to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on:

(1) the Department’s plan to reduce its use of short-term incarceration sanctions for people on furlough, the number of short-term incarceration sanctions imposed, and the number of graduated sanctions imposed;

(2) recommendations for funding in the FY 2021 budget; and

(3) the Department’s progress toward completing the remaining work required by this section.

Committee Bill for Second Reading

Favorable

S. 326.

An act relating to the State Advisory Panel on Special Education.

By the Committee on Education. (Senator Hardy for the Committee.)

Reported favorably by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Appropriations.

(Committee vote: 5-0-2)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 550.

An act relating to unclaimed property.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 1461(5) after the word “a” by inserting payroll card or and by striking out “other than amounts held on a payroll card, but”

Second: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A § 1461(11) by striking out “including” and inserting in lieu thereof other than and by striking out the word “on” and inserting in lieu thereof the word in

Third: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 1462(a) after “years after” by inserting the later of

Fourth: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 1462(a)(1) by striking out “the later of”

Fifth: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 1462(a)(2)(A) by striking out “70.5” and inserting in lieu thereof 72

Sixth: In Sec. 2. 27 V.S.A. § 1469(b)(4) after “is held,” by inserting or in another account of the owner’s held by the same business association or financial organization,

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 3, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments.)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action 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. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary’s Office.

H.C.R. 227 - 236 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 30, 2020.)

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.

Craig Bolio of Winooski – Commissioner, Department of Taxes – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (01/21/20)

Michael Schirling of Burlington – Commissioner, Department of Public Safety – Sen. Mazza for the Committee on Transportation. (01/29/20)

Sabina Brochu of Williston - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

Kyle Courtois of Georgia - Member, State Board of Education - By Sen. Perchlik for the Committee on Education. (01/24/20)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Joint Community-Based Public Hearings on Fiscal Year 2021 State Budget

House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

Monday, February 10, 2020, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. – The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are seeking public input on the Governor’s Recommended FY 2021 State Budget and will hold community-based public hearings on Monday, February 10, 2020, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the following 7 locations. An additional location in Springfield will be held from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Barre City – Downstreet Housing and Community Development, 22 Keith Ave., Ste 100

Dorset – Dorset Town Office, 112 Mad Tom Road, East Dorset

Morrisville – People’s Academy High School, Auditorium, top of Copley Avenue

Rutland City – Rutland Public Schools, Longfellow School Building, Board Room

St. Johnsbury – St. Johnsbury House, main dining room, 1207 Main Street

St. Albans City – St. Albans City School, Library, 29 Bellows Street

Winooski – Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC), 10 East Allen Street (follow the signs when entering the building for location).

Springfield – Springfield Town Hall, 96 Main Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room (Selectmen’s Hall) **5:30-6:30 p.m.**

The Committees will take testimony on the Governor’s recommended State budget at the above dates and times. Anyone interested in testifying should come to one of the hearings. Time limits on testimony may apply depending on volume of participants. If you have a story you would like to share privately with the committee members, please contact Theresa to schedule a time.

To view the Governor's proposed budget go to the Department of Finance and Management's website.

For more information about the format of these events, contact Theresa Utton-Jerman or Rebecca Buck at tutton@leg.state.vt.us or rbuck@leg.state.vt.us, or call 802-828-5767 or toll-free within Vermont at 1-800-322-5616. Written testimony can be submitted electronically to Theresa or Rebecca through e-mail or mailed to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05633. **Requests for interpreters should be made by Monday, January 27, 2020.**

JFO NOTICE

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)(D):

JFO #2989 - \$1,250,000 from the U.S. Dept. of Justice to the VT Dept. of Children & Families to fund the expansion of mentoring opportunities for youth in rural parts of Vermont who are at risk of adverse childhood experiences (ACES), substance abuse and poverty. *Expedited review of this grant has been requested by the Administration.*

[JFO received 01/09/20]

JFO #2990 – \$3,200,000 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the VT Dept. of Health. Funds will be used to provide first responders with improved and expanded access to opioid overdose prevention training, equipment and medication. *One (1) limited-service position has been requested in conjunction with this grant.*

[JFO received 01/14/20]

JFO #2991 – \$53,768 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. Funds will be used to restore brook trout habitat in tributaries along the Connecticut River watershed.

[JFO received 01/14/20]

JFO #2992 – \$30,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Funds will be used to increase earthquake hazard risk awareness in areas of Chittenden County.

[JFO received 01/14/20]