

Journal of the House

Friday, January 18, 2019

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Rep. Krowinski of Burlington in chair.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Representative John Killacky of South Burlington.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred to committee or placed on the Calendar as follows:

H. 48

By Reps. Till of Jericho, Austin of Colchester, Brumsted of Shelburne, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carroll of Bennington, Dolan of Waitsfield, Jerome of Brandon, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Squirrell of Underhill, Walz of Barre City and Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to increasing the tobacco tax on cigarettes and new smokeless tobacco;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 49

By Rep. Brennan of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to municipal authority to regulate the possession, use, and manufacture of knives;

To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 50

By Reps. Sullivan of Burlington and McCarthy of St. Albans City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of expanded polystyrene foam in waters of the

State;

To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife.

H. 51

By Reps. Sullivan of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Briglin of Thetford, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Donovan of Burlington, Gardner of Richmond, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hashim of Dummerston, Hooper of Randolph, Jessup of Middlesex, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Ralph of Hartland, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Szott of Barnard, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, White of Hartford, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of Morristown and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fossil fuel infrastructure;

To the committee on Energy and Technology.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Rachelson of Burlington**, the following remarks by **Rep. Killacky of South Burlington** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Four years ago I was invited to present the daily devotional which I called “Horse Sense for Politicians” drawn from experience working with my Shetland pony that I’ve trained to pull me in a cart. These past two weeks, as I am mucking out stalls either before or after our sessions here in the House, I found those reflections particularly relevant.

As many of you know, equines are herd animals. Group dynamics and hierarchy are important. There’s always a top mare, and horses are quite content to follow the leader of the pack. However, reconfigure the group in any way, and leadership is up for grabs. Size, tenure, and age don’t matter; taking charge with a few nips and kicks delivers the appropriate gravitas.

During the session, many legislators will be in a leadership position one day and a supporting role the next. I urge us to challenge each other to accomplish even more, and when necessary to step up for issues important to constituents - even if we have to elbow our way in.

Horses have eyes on the sides of their heads and see the world peripherally with 350-degree vision. When driving my pony, I put her in a bridle with blinders to focus her on the work ahead. Representatives have their own blinders on when dealing with the bottom line or with committee assignments. I encourage us to embrace the periphery and not forget those who live outside this chamber. As we charge ahead, remember those alongside and behind us.

Training a horse requires patience, consistency, taking the long view, positive reinforcement, changing patterns so as not to get stale, getting out of your comfort zone, and reaching for new achievements. Failure is an essential component of learning. This is familiar to seasoned legislators, since you have toiled on bills for years before passage. As a new member, remind me to, “Stay the course.”

Horse training used to rely mostly on domination; now we seek to learn the animal and understand how it perceives the world. With tough decisions ahead on balancing expenditures and revenues, let’s remember these line items represent real people struggling with real concerns. Seek authentic input and dialogue, listen intently, and adapt accordingly, since our realities may be quite different from those of the people we seek to serve.

A lot of my time with the pony in winter is drudgery: mucking out stalls, chopping ice in frozen water buckets, cleaning hooves, and exercising her in the unheated drafty barn. But when I sit in the cart and our drive goes well, all the effort is worth it as we glide through space.

I wish all elected officials joy in our daily chores. I hope your efforts come to fruition, and more importantly, that we contribute to a just and civil society where all Vermonters can have safe, healthy, robust, and expressive lives. Thank you.”

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and forty-four minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 7.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

H.C.R. 7

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls’ volleyball team on winning its second consecutive State championship;

H.C.R. 8

House concurrent resolution recognizing January as National Stalking Awareness Month in Vermont;

H.C.R. 9

House concurrent resolution in memory of Representative James O'Neill Condon of Colchester;

H.C.R. 10

House concurrent resolution congratulating Team Mooney of the Rutland Rocks Curling Club on winning the 2018 Grand National Curling Club Arena Championship;

H.C.R. 11

House concurrent resolution honoring Jamie Heath of Barre for her personal perseverance and unique literary contribution to the Make-A-Wish Foundation;

H.C.R. 12

House concurrent resolution recognizing the important health care contribution of Nurse Anesthetists in Vermont;

H.C.R. 13

House concurrent resolution designating January 23, 2019 as Vermont Retired State Employees Association Day at the State House;

H.C.R. 14

House concurrent resolution recognizing the important work of MENTOR Vermont and designating January 23, 2019 as Mentoring Day at the State House;

H.C.R. 15

House concurrent resolution honoring James Hathaway for his dedication to improving the lives of children;

H.C.R. 16

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Women's Community Club of Grafton on its centennial;

H.C.R. 17

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets boys' cross country team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship;

H.C.R. 18

House concurrent resolution congratulating American Legion Pierce Lawton Post #37 in Bellows Falls on its centennial;

H.C.R. 19

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont Army National Guard Sergeant First Class Damien Larose of Westford for his fire rescue bravery;

S.C.R. 2

Senate concurrent resolution honoring former Vermont State Police Major Glenn Hall for three decades of exemplary public service;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2019, seventy-fifth Biennial session.]