

# Journal of the House

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Thursday, January 24, 2019

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Speaker.

## Rules Suspended; House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of the bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred or placed on the Calendar as follows:

### H. 71

By Reps. Hashim of Dummerston, Birong of Vergennes, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Mrowicki of Putney, Notte of Rutland City and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting State contracts with for-profit correctional facilities;

To the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

### H. 72

By Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Bock of Chester, Brumsted of Shelburne, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Harrison of Chittenden, Houghton of Essex, Lanpher of Vergennes, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Norris of Shoreham, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Redmond of Essex, Shaw of Pittsford, Squirrell of Underhill, Till of Jericho, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, Wood of Waterbury and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fishing licenses for persons with a developmental disability;

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

### H. 73

By Reps. Walz of Barre City, Anthony of Barre City and McFaun of Barre

Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 74**

By Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Brumsted of Shelburne, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Gannon of Wilmington, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Squirrell of Underhill, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the prohibition of plastic carryout bags, expanded polystyrene, and single-use plastic straws;

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

**H. 75**

By Reps. Sullivan of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, Squirrell of Underhill, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances;

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

**H. 76**

By Rep. Seymour of Sutton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to studying the creation of sales tax zones;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

**H. 77**

By Rep. Sibilias of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to authorizing repossession of commercial property;

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To the committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

**H. 78**

By Reps. Partridge of Windham, Brownell of Pownal, Fegard of Berkshire, Hashim of Dummerston, Masland of Thetford, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Page of Newport City, Strong of Albany, Szott of Barnard and Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to placing a moratorium on school district mergers ordered by the State Board of Education;

To the committee on Education.

**H. 79**

By Reps. Partridge of Windham, Bartholomew of Hartland, Bock of Chester, Fegard of Enosburgh, Graham of Williamstown, Norris of Shoreham, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Smith of New Haven and Strong of Albany,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to eligibility for farm-to-school grant assistance;

To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

**H. 80**

By Reps. Brennan of Colchester, Till of Jericho and Chase of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to hearing protection while hunting;

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

**H. 81**

By Reps. Partridge of Windham, Bartholomew of Hartland, Fegard of Berkshire, Graham of Williamstown, Norris of Shoreham, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Smith of New Haven and Strong of Albany,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the definition and sale of milk;

To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

**H. 82**

By Reps. Wood of Waterbury, Stevens of Waterbury and Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the taxation of timber harvesting equipment;  
To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

**H. 83**

By Reps. Till of Jericho, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Bock of Chester, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of Burlington, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Donovan of Burlington, Gardner of Richmond, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex, Killacky of South Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, LaLonde of South Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Redmond of Essex, Scheu of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City and Yantachka of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled  
An act relating to female genital mutilation;  
To the committee on Health Care.

**H. 84**

By Reps. Sabilia of Dover, Gannon of Wilmington, Jickling of Randolph and Pajala of Londonderry,

House bill, entitled  
An act relating to the siting of telecommunications facilities;  
To the committee on Energy and Technology.

**H. 85**

By Rep. Haas of Rochester,  
House bill, entitled  
An act relating to increasing the personal needs allowance for certain nursing home residents;  
To the committee on Human Services.

**H. 86**

By Rep. Stevens of Waterbury,  
House bill, entitled  
An act relating to revenues designated for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

### H. 87

By Reps. Yantachka of Charlotte, Bartholomew of Hartland, Briglin of Thetford, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Randolph, LaLonde of South Burlington, McCormack of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Sullivan of Burlington and White of Hartford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Volkswagen diesel litigation settlement and Mitigation Trust monies;

To the committee on Transportation.

### Joint Resolution Referred to Committee

#### J.R.H. 1

Joint resolution urging the President to issue an executive order and the Congress to enact a federal law prohibiting a U.S. nuclear first strike

Offered by: Representatives Sullivan of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Coffey of Guilford, Colburn of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hill of Wolcott, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, Jessup of Middlesex, Killackey of South Burlington, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Squirrel of Underhill, Walz of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, the use of even a small number of nuclear weapons could have catastrophic human, environmental, health, and economic consequences on a global scale, and

Whereas, according to the Arms Control Association (the Association), roughly 15,000 nuclear warheads still exist in the world and pose an intolerable risk to humanity, and

Whereas, the Association reports that the United States has in excess of 6,500 nuclear weapons that combined are massively more powerful than all the bombs used in World War II, and

Whereas, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate, from 2017 to 2046, the United States will spend \$1.2 trillion, in inflation-adjusted dollars, on nuclear weapons, and

Whereas, these figures represent a major rebuilding of the United States' nuclear weapons arsenal, constituting a gross misuse of funds that could be devoted instead to improving security, health, and education, and

Whereas, the United States maintains roughly 900 nuclear weapons on high alert to be ready for launch within minutes of a presidential decision to proceed, making these nuclear weapons vulnerable to accidents, unauthorized use, cyberattacks, miscalculations, and increasing the risk of their use, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Department of Defense's publication, *Nuclear Posture Review*, if a nuclear-armed nation such as China, North Korea, or Russia launches a nonnuclear attack against the United States, the President, who has the sole authority to order a nuclear attack, reserves the right to launch a nuclear response, resulting in a nuclear war with globally devastating consequences, and

Whereas, the sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons should be to deter a nuclear attack on the United States, its forces, and its allies, negating any reason for the United States to ever use nuclear weapons first, and

Whereas, both an executive order and a corresponding federal law prohibiting the first use of nuclear weapons would severely constrain the ability of the President to order a nuclear attack, authorizing an American nuclear response only when an actual nuclear attack has occurred, and

Whereas, Americans, and all people on the planet, should have the right to live a life free from the threat of nuclear weapons being used, and

Whereas, the United States should take urgent steps to change its policies as well as actively pursue verifiable agreements with other nuclear-armed nations in order to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminate them from the planet, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges the President to issue an executive order and the Congress to enact a federal law prohibiting a U.S. nuclear first strike, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges Congress not to appropriate funds for the development and production of additional U.S. nuclear weapons that can produce a relatively small nuclear explosion, as such weapons would tempt rogue nuclear war fighting and potentially lower the threshold for a nuclear first strike, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker

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of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, and the members of the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Which was read and, in the Speaker's discretion, treated as a bill and referred to the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

### **Adjournment**

At one o'clock and sixteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.