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

**Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Singers from NewBrook School, Farm to School Action Circle, Newfane, VT.

**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. 169**

By Reps. Donahue of Northfield, Christensen of Weathersfield, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Houghton of Essex, Jickling of Randolph, Lippert of Hinesburg, Page of Newport City, Pugh of South Burlington and Smith of Derby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to mental health insurance benefits;

To the committee on Health Care.

**H. 170**

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City, Christie of Hartford, Conquest of Newbury, Hooper of Montpelier, Patt of Worcester, Szott of Barnard and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring community service as a high school graduation requirement;

To the committee on Education.

**H. 171**

By Rep. Till of Jericho,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to water quality funding;

To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife.
H. 172

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Christie of Hartford, Conquest of Newbury, Fegard of Berkshire, Hooper of Montpelier, Szott of Barnard and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the right to interview candidates for teaching and school principal positions where school districts have been forced to merge;

To the committee on Education.

H. 173

By Reps. Ancel of Calais and Toll of Danville,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making clarifications to the State's grant acceptance process;

To the committee on Appropriations.

H. 174


House bill, entitled

An act relating to limits on the prescription of opioids and creating a private right of action for prescriptions in excess of those limits;

To the committee on Human Services.

H. 175

By Reps. Cordes of Lincoln, Burke of Brattleboro, Chesnut-Tangeman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Colburn of Burlington, Colston of Winooski, Donovan of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Gonzalez of Winooski, Hooper of Randolph,
Hooper of Burlington, Jessup of Middlesex, LaLonde of South Burlington, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Mrowicki of Putney, Ralph of Hartland, Redmond of Essex, Scheu of Middlebury, Sullivan of Burlington, Szott of Barnard, Till of Jericho, Troiano of Stannard, Walz of Barre City, White of Hartford and Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled
An act relating to prohibiting utilities from using eminent domain for fossil fuel infrastructure;
To the committee on Energy and Technology.

H. 176

By Rep. Beck of St. Johnsbury,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to exempting capital gains from Vermont's income tax if they result from an investment in a federal Opportunity Zone;
To the committee on Ways and Means.

Senate Bill Referred
S. 14

Senate bill, entitled
An act relating to extending the moratorium on home health agency certificates of need
To the committee on Human Services.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence
J.R.S. 12

By Senator Ashe,
J.R.S. 12. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:
That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 8, 2019, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Was taken up, read and adopted in concurrence.

Legislative Committee On
Administrative Rules (LCAR) Appointed

Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 817, the Chair hereby appoints the following members the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules:
Judicial Nominating Board Elected

Pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 601, the Speaker nominated as a committee to the Judicial Nominating Board the following named members:

- Rep. Grad of Moretown
- Rep. Jessup of Middlesex
- Rep. Myers of Essex

Thereupon, Rep. LaClair of Barre Town moved the election of the candidates, as nominated by the Speaker, which was agreed to.

Adverse Report; Second Reading; Consideration Interrupted

H. 39

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall, for the committee on Education, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the extension of the deadline of school district mergers required by the State Board of Education

Reported the bill ought not pass. The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time.

Rep. Donovan of Burlington raised a Point of Order in that the discussion of this bill violates rules which the Speaker ruled not well taken as the bill does not address the issue in front of the courts presently.

Recess

At one o'clock and twenty-eight minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until two o'clock in the afternoon.

At two o’clock and eight minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Consideration Resumed; Consideration Interrupted

H. 39

Consideration resumed on House bill, entitled

An act relating to the extension of the deadline of school district mergers
required by the State Board of Education

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe moved to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGERS; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ORDER

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

(1) Merger deadline extension. The deadline for school district mergers ordered by the State Board of Education under 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10, as amended, shall be on July 1, 2019 or July 1, 2020.

(A) For a school district that is required to merge into an existing district, if the school board of the merging district votes or has voted, by majority vote of members representing a quorum, in favor of merging on July 1, 2019, then the merger shall take effect on that date, subject to approval by the existing district to accept the merging district where required by the State Board order.

(B) For school districts that are required to merge into a newly formed district, if the school board of each merging district votes or has voted, by majority vote of members representing a quorum, in favor of merging on July 1, 2019, then the merger shall take effect on that date.

(2) Default Articles of Agreement. On or before March 15, 2019, the State Board of Education shall amend and reissue the default Articles of Agreement included with the State Board’s order to merge to accommodate the merger deadline extension in this section. The deadline for approval of the draft Articles of Agreement under Sec. 10(d)(2) of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, as amended, shall be extended to March 31, 2020.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe? Rep. Gamache of Swanton demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 69. Nays, 74.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:
Ancel of Calais  Goslant of Northfield  Norris of Shoreham
Bancroft of Westford  Graham of Williamstown  Notte of Rutland City
Bartholomew of Hartland  Gregoire of Fairfield  Noyes of Wolcott
Batchelor of Derby  Hashim of Dummerston  Page of Newport City
Bock of Chester  Higley of Lowell  Pajala of Londonderry
Brennan of Colchester  Hill of Wolcott  Partridge of Windham
Briglin of Thetford  Hooper of Montpelier  Patt of Worcester
Brownell of Pownal  Hooper of Randolph  Quimby of Concord
Browning of Arlington  Jessup of Middlesex  Rogers of Waterville
Burditt of West Rutland  Jickling of Randolph  Rosenquist of Georgia
Burke of Brattleboro  Kitzmiller of Montpelier  Savage of Swanton
Campbell of St. Johnsbury  Kornheiser of Brattleboro  Scheuermann of Stowe
Chase of Colchester  Lefebvre of Newark  Seymour of Sutton
Cina of Burlington  Leffler of Enosburgh  Smith of Derby
Coffey of Guilford  Marcotte of Coventry  Smith of New Haven
Colburn of Burlington  Martel of Waterford  Strong of Albany
Conquest of Newbury  Masland of Thetford  Szott of Barnard
Cordes of Lincoln  Mattos of Milton  Toll of Danville
Donahue of Northfield  Morrissey of Bennington  Toof of St. Albans Town
Fegard of Berkshire  Mrowicki of Putney  Troiano of Stannard
Feltus of Lyndon  Murphy of Fairfax  Wood of Waterbury
Gamache of Swanton  Myers of Essex  Yacovone of Morristown
Gannon of Wilmington  Nicoll of Ludlow  Young of Greensboro

Those who voted in the negative are:

Anthony of Barre City  Fagan of Rutland City  Morgan of Milton
Austin of Colchester  Forguites of Springfield  Ode of Burlington
Bates of Bennington  Gardner of Richmond  O'Sullivan of Burlington
Beck of St. Johnsbury  Gambatista of Essex  Palaski of Milton
Birong of Vergennes  Grad of Moretown  Potter of Claremont
Brumsted of Shelburne  Haas of Rochester  Pugh of South Burlington
Canfield of Fair Haven  Harrison of Chittenden  Rachelson of Burlington
Carroll of Bennington  Helm of Fair Haven  Ralph of Hartland
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs  Hooper of Burlington  Redmond of Essex
Christensen of Weathersfield  Houghton of Essex  Scheu of Middlebury
Christie of Hartford  James of Manchester  Shaw of Pittsford
Colston of Winooski  Jerome of Brandon  Sheldon of Middlebury
Conlon of Cornwall  Killacky of South Burlington  Sibilia of Dover
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford  Kimbell of Woodstock  Squirrel of Underhill
Corcoran of Bennington  Krowinski of Burlington  Stevens of Waterbury
Cupoli of Rutland City  LaClair of Barre Town  Sullivan of Dorset
Demrow of Corinth  LaLonde of South  Sullivan of Burlington
Dickinson of St. Albans Town  Lippert of Hinesburg  Taylor of Colchester
Dolan of Waitsfield  Long of Newfane  Till of Jericho
Donovan of Burlington  Macaig of Williston  Townsend of South
Durfee of Shaftsbury  McCarthy of St. Albans City  Walz of Barre City
Elder of Starksboro  Mccormack of Burlington  Webb of Shelburne

Emmons of Springfield  
McCullough of Williston  
McFaun of Barre Town  
Yantachka of Charlotte

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Gonzalez of Winooski  
Howard of Rutland City  
O’Brien of Tunbridge  
Toleno of Brattleboro  
Triber of Rockingham

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

In a representative democracy, our constituents depend on us to carry their voice to the Statehouse. My vote reflects the clear will of Windham 4 voters, both in regards to their merger vote and the recent election where this was in the top 3 issues of campaign 2018. I am in accord with those voters and am glad to bring their voice into the People’s House.”

Adjournment

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read the third time?, at three o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the afternoon, on motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.