

Journal of the House

Thursday, February 14, 2019

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Verandah Porche, Poet, Guilford, VT.

Communication from the Governor

February 14, 2019

The Honorable Mitzi Johnson
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Johnson:

I have the great honor to inform you that I have appointed Lisa Hango, 471 Potato Hill Road, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450, to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Franklin-5, vacated by Joshua Aldrich.

Sincerely,

/s/ Phillip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/jm

C: James Condos, Secretary of State
William MaGill, Clerk of the House

New Member Seated

Representative Lisa Hango of Berkshire, the newly appointed member, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was conducted to her seat by the Doorkeeper.

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. 225

By Rep. Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exploring the potential for a regional universal health care program;

To the committee on Health Care.

H. 226

By Rep. McCullough of Williston,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating an exemption from the land use change tax;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 227

By Reps. Sibia of Dover, Batchelor of Derby, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chase of Colchester, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Higley of Lowell, Page of Newport City, Potter of Clarendon, Smith of Derby, Smith of New Haven and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a property tax exemption for veterans;

To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 228

By Reps. Sibia of Dover and Pajala of Londonderry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating an exemption to Vermont's purchase and use tax;

To the committee on Transportation.

H. 229

By Rep. Stevens of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to rental housing safety, oversight, data collection, and enforcement;

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

H. 230

By Rep. Sibilias of Dover,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to utility repairs and the Choices for Care program;
To the committee on Energy and Technology.

H. 231

By Rep. Beck of St. Johnsbury,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the estate tax exclusion;
To the committee on Ways and Means.

H. 232

By Reps. Smith of New Haven, Bock of Chester, Graham of Williamstown,
Higley of Lowell, Norris of Shoreham, Partridge of Windham and Strong of
Albany,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to protection from nuisance lawsuits for agricultural
activities;
To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

H. 233

By Rep. Smith of New Haven,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the labeling and sale of cell-cultured meat;
To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

H. 234

By Rep. McCullough of Williston,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to releasing land from Act 250 jurisdiction;
To the committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife.

H. 235

By Reps. Fegard of Berkshire, Bartholomew of Hartland, Beck of St.
Johnsbury, Birong of Vergennes, Bock of Chester, Brownell of Pownal, Coffey

of Guilford, Demrow of Corinth, Dolan of Waitsfield, Forguites of Springfield, Graham of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Killacky of South Burlington, Leffler of Enosburgh, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Murphy of Fairfax, Nicoll of Ludlow, Norris of Shoreham, Notte of Rutland City, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Page of Newport City, Partridge of Windham, Ralph of Hartland, Savage of Swanton, Squirrell of Underhill, Szott of Barnard, Toof of St. Albans Town and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the sunset of the authority to conduct on-farm slaughter;

To the committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

H. 236

By Reps. Sibia of Dover, Jickling of Randolph, Murphy of Fairfax, Norris of Shoreham and Pajala of Londonderry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to amending the membership of the Legislative Apportionment Board;

To the committee on Government Operations.

H. 237

By Rep. Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to continuation of group health insurance coverage for dependents after the death of the covered member;

To the committee on Health Care.

H. 238

By Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington, Chase of Colchester, Houghton of Essex, Killacky of South Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill and Sullivan of Dorset,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to eliminating the religious exemption for required immunizations;

To the committee on Judiciary.

H. 239

By Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington and Smith of Derby,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to distracted driving;
To the committee on Transportation.

H. 240

By Reps. Ralph of Hartland and Bartholomew of Hartland,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the Vermont Better Roads Program;
To the committee on Transportation.

H. 241

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro, Kornheiser of Brattleboro and Toleno of Brattleboro,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to establishing the Municipal Self-Governance Program;
To the committee on Government Operations.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**H. 107**

House bill, entitled
An act relating to paid family leave
Appearing on the Calendar, affecting the revenue of the state, under rule 35(a), was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

House Resolution Adopted**H.R. 5**

House resolution, entitled
House resolution expressing solidarity with our federal workforce and urging Congress and the President to keep the federal government open
Offered by: Representatives Donovan of Burlington and Cina of Burlington
Whereas, our hardworking constituents elected us to the Vermont House of Representatives to advocate for their best interests in a fair and representative democracy, and

Whereas, a federal government shutdown would be in no one's interest and may cause harm to many Vermonters, and

Whereas, the policy debate over the disputed issues should happen with the government up and running, and

Whereas, the 800,000 federal employees and hundreds of thousands of federal contractors should not miss paychecks through no fault of their own, and

Whereas, no other business in the country would be permitted to operate without paying its employees, an unfair practice that should be illegal, and

Whereas, regardless of political party affiliation, we should all be able to agree that the federal workforce is vital, as it cares for the sick and elderly, helps our veterans heal and adjust to civilian life, finds cures for diseases, sends rockets into outer space, brings scientific breakthroughs to fruition, and administers loans that finance business activities, and

Whereas, put simply, there would be no America without a dedicated federal civil service and federal contractors, and

Whereas, these hardworking Americans are worried about paying for a roof over their heads, putting food on the table, and surviving, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body stands in solidarity with America's federal workforce and urges Congress to pass and the President to sign legislation to keep these individuals working for all Americans and the federal government open, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Trump and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Which was read and adopted.

Message from the Senate No. 15

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 97. An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments.

And has concurred therein with an amendment in the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the following remarks by **Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

It is my distinct pleasure to speak on an historic matter. On this day, Valentine's Day 1969, a near tragic event happened. On this day 50 years ago while serving the United States Marine Corps, Representative Robert G. Helm received his war injuries in Vietnam. After this life changing event Representative Helm was awarded the Purple Heart. I am compelled to remind everyone that this is Bob's 29th year serving in this House. Today, in his honor, the Capital police have flown the Honor and Remember flag for Representative Helm.”

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 63**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the time frame for return of unclaimed beverage container deposits

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 135**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the authority of the Agency of Digital Services

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 7**

Rep. Hashim of Dummerston, for the committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to second degree aggravated domestic assault

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1044 is amended to read:

§ 1044. SECOND DEGREE AGGRAVATED DOMESTIC ASSAULT

(a) A person commits the crime of second degree aggravated domestic assault if the person:

(1) Commits the crime of domestic assault and such conduct violates:

(A) specific conditions of a criminal court order in effect at the time of the offense imposed to protect that other person;

(B) a final abuse prevention order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction;

(C) a final order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. § 5133 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction; or

(D) a final order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. § 6935 or a similar order issued in another jurisdiction.

(2) Commits the crime of domestic assault; and

(A) has a prior conviction within the last 10 years for violating an abuse prevention order issued under section 1030 of this title; or

(B) has a prior conviction for domestic assault under section 1042 of this title or for an offense that, if committed within the State, would constitute a violation of section 1042 of this title.

(3) For the purpose of this subsection, the term “issued in another jurisdiction” means issued by a court in any other state; in a federally recognized Indian tribe, territory, or possession of the United States; in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; or in the District of Columbia.

(b) A person who commits the crime of second degree aggravated domestic assault shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committee on Judiciary agreed to and third reading ordered.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 14

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution condemning the murder of Washington Post columnist

Jamal Khashoggi and affirming the central importance of freedom of the press

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

Adjournment

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