

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

At ten o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Doug Cardin, Caregiver, Burlington, VT.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Oliver Szott of Barnard led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bill Introduced

H. 547

By Reps. Kitzmiller of Montpelier and Hooper of Montpelier,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier;

Was read and referred to the committee on Government Operations.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 131

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to insurance and securities

Was read and referred to the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 163

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing safety and rehabilitation

Was read and referred to the committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

Constitutional Proposal Amendment # 5
Referred to Committee

The following Constitutional Amendment, Proposal # 5 was introduced and referred to the committee on Human Services.

SENATE CHAMBER

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Balint, Lyons and Sears

Subject: Declaration of rights; right to personal reproductive liberty

PROPOSAL 5

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to ensure that every Vermonter is afforded personal reproductive liberty. The Constitution is our founding legal document stating the overarching values of our society. This amendment is in keeping with the values espoused by the current Vermont Constitution. Chapter I, Article 1 declares “That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights.” Chapter I, Article 7 states “That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people.” The core value reflected in Article 7 is that all people should be afforded all the benefits and protections bestowed by the government, and that the government should not confer special advantages upon the privileged. This amendment would reassert the principles of equality and personal liberty reflected in Articles 1 and 7 and ensure that government does not create or perpetuate the legal, social, or economic inferiority of any class of people. This proposed constitutional amendment is not intended to limit the scope of rights and protections afforded by Article 7 or any other provision in the Vermont Constitution.

(b) The right to reproductive liberty is central to the exercise of personal autonomy and involves decisions people should be able to make free from compulsion of the State. Enshrining this right in the Constitution is critical to ensuring equal protection and treatment under the law and upholding the right of all people to health, dignity, independence, and freedom.

Sec. 2. Article 22 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty]

That the people are guaranteed the liberty and dignity to determine their own life’s course. The right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to

the liberty protected by this Constitution and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2022 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

Message from the Senate No. 36

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 on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 111. An act relating to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

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

H. 218. An act relating to lead poisoning prevention.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 7. An act relating to second degree aggravated domestic assault.

H. 19. An act relating to sexual exploitation of a person in law enforcement officer custody.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 23. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**S. 154**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous banking provisions

Appearing on the Calendar, affecting the revenue of the state, under rule 35(a), was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Third Reading Ordered****S. 118**

Rep. Gardner of Richmond, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the time frame for the adoption of administrative rules

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Joint Resolution Adopted**J.R.H. 3**

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House;

Was taken up and adopted on the part of the House.

Adjournment

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