

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Lise Sparrow, Guilford Community Church, Guilford.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Benjamin Leffler of Enosburg led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bill Introduced

H. 931

Reps. Till of Jericho, Anthony of Barre City, Browning of Arlington, Donovan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford and Scheu of Middlebury introduced a bill, entitled

An act relating to taxing robocalls

Which was read the first time and referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 932

By the committee on Government Operations,

An act relating to vital records, mausoleums and columbaria, and the licensure of ambulances;

Was read and pursuant to House rule 48, bill placed on the Calendar for Notice.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 933

By the committee on Government Operations,

An act relating to technical corrections to municipal charters;

Was read and pursuant to House rule 48, bill placed on the Calendar for Notice.

Committee Bill Introduced**H. 934**

By the committee on Ways and Means,

An act relating to renter rebate reform;

Was read and pursuant to House rule 48, bill placed on the Calendar for Notice.

Message from the Senate No. 19

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 bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 550. An act relating to unclaimed property.

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

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 20th day of February, 2020, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 108. An act relating to employee misclassification.

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

S.C.R. 18. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Eric Peterson for his visionary leadership at the Oldcastle Theatre Company in Bennington..

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 252. House concurrent resolution congratulating Pathways Vermont on its 10th anniversary.

H.C.R. 253. House concurrent resolution congratulating Burlington International Airport on its centennial.

H.C.R. 254. House concurrent resolution honoring Williston Town Clerk Deborah Beckett for her outstanding municipal public service.

H.C.R. 255. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 Montpelier High School Solons State championship girls' ultimate team.

H.C.R. 256. House concurrent resolution congratulating Robert Morlino of Pawlet on being named the 2019 Vermont Emergency Management Director of the Year.

H.C.R. 257. House concurrent resolution honoring Norwich University's 23rd President, Dr. Richard W. Schneider.

H.C.R. 258. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 White River Valley High School Wildcats Division III championship softball team.

H.C.R. 259. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 White River Valley High School Wildcats Division III championship baseball team.

H.C.R. 260. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 Montpelier High School Solons State championship boys' ultimate team.

H.C.R. 261. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival in the New World.

H.C.R. 262. House concurrent resolution congratulating Heritage Landscapes and Patricia O'Donnell on receipt of the 2019 Landscape Architecture Firm Award.

H.C.R. 263. House concurrent resolution in memory of journalist and former State and Barre City official Arthur Anton Ristau.

H.C.R. 264. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Senior Games Association.

H.C.R. 265. House concurrent resolution in memory of Jake Burton Carpenter of Stowe.

Message from the Senate No. 20

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 bills of the following titles:

S. 324. An act relating to prohibiting robocalls.

S. 338. An act relating to justice reinvestment.

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

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 926

House bill, entitled

An act relating to changes to Act 250

Appearing on the Calendar, carrying an appropriation, under rule 35(a), was referred to the committee on Appropriations.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

H. 783

On motion of **Rep. Killacky of South Burlington**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to An act relating to recovery residences;

Appearing on the Calendar for Notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending consideration of the report of the committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, on motion of **Rep. Killacky of South Burlington**, the bill was committed to the committee on Human Services.

**Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to;
Third Reading Ordered**

S. 240

Rep. O'Sullivan of Burlington, for the committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to recruiting new remote workers and new relocating workers

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 20 is amended to read:

Sec. 20. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The \$2,000,000.00 appropriated from the General Fund for economic development initiatives in Sec. C.100(30) of H.542 (2019) shall be allocated pursuant to this section.

(1) \$1,725,000.00 is allocated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development as follows:

(A)(i) \$450,000.00 for economic development marketing:

(I) \$225,000 for economic development marketing pursuant to its authority in 3 V.S.A. § 2476(c) to execute the State's core Economic Development Marketing Plan through paid, owned, and earned media, utilizing technology, data, and analysis tools; and

(II) \$225,000.00 to identify, recruit, and provide relocation assistance to workers, including:

(aa) identifying target audiences;

(bb) targeting through digital and social media; and

(cc) implementing strategies that convert visitors to residents and awarding grants for regional partnerships to help recruitment efforts at the local and regional levels.

(ii) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Agency shall have the discretion to reallocate not more than \$225,000.00 of the funding allocated in this subdivision (1)(A) to provide additional incentives under the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program created in this act, the New Remote Worker Grant Program created in 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 15, or both.

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Rep. Myers of Essex, for the committee on Appropriations, recommended that House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

The bill having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up, read the second time, the reports of the committee on Commerce and Economic Development and Appropriations were agreed to and third reading ordered.

Governor's Veto Overruled

S. 23

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage

Appearing on the Calendar for Action, was taken up.

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 11, of the Vermont Constitution the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass the failure of the Governor to approve notwithstanding? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 100. Nays, 49. A two thirds vote of 100 required.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Giambatista of Essex	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Anthony of Barre City	Gonzalez of Winooski *	Ode of Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Grad of Moretown	O'Sullivan of Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Haas of Rochester	Pajala of Londonderry

Birong of Vergennes	Hashim of Dummerston	Partridge of Windham
Bock of Chester	Hill of Wolcott	Patt of Worcester
Briglin of Thetford	Hooper of Montpelier	Potter of Clarendon
Brownell of Pownal	Hooper of Randolph	Pugh of South Burlington
Brumsted of Shelburne	Hooper of Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington *
Burke of Brattleboro	Houghton of Essex	Ralph of Hartland
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Howard of Rutland City	Redmond of Essex
Carroll of Bennington	James of Manchester	Reed of Braintree
Chase of Colchester	Jerome of Brandon	Rogers of Waterville
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Jessup of Middlesex	Scheu of Middlebury
Christensen of Weathersfield	Johnson of South Hero	Sheldon of Middlebury
Christie of Hartford	Killacky of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Cina of Burlington	Kimbell of Woodstock	Stevens of Waterbury
Coffey of Guilford	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Sullivan of Dorset
Colburn of Burlington	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sullivan of Burlington
Colston of Winooski	Krowinski of Burlington *	Szott of Barnard
Conlon of Cornwall	LaLonde of South Burlington	Taylor of Colchester
Conquest of Newbury	Lanpher of Vergennes	Till of Jericho *
Copeland Hanzas of Bradford	Lippert of Hinesburg	Toleno of Brattleboro
Corcoran of Bennington	Long of Newfane	Toll of Danville
Cordes of Lincoln *	Macaig of Williston	Townsend of South Burlington
Demrow of Corinth	Masland of Thetford	Troiano of Stannard
Dolan of Waitsfield	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Walz of Barre City
Donovan of Burlington	McCormack of Burlington	Webb of Shelburne
Durfee of Shaftsbury	McCullough of Williston	White of Hartford
Elder of Starksboro	Morris of Springfield	Wood of Waterbury
Emmons of Springfield	Mrowicki of Putney	Yacovone of Morristown *
Gannon of Wilmington	Nicoll of Ludlow	Yantachka of Charlotte
Gardner of Richmond	Notte of Rutland City	Young of Greensboro
	Noyes of Wolcott	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bancroft of Westford	Graham of Williamstown	Myers of Essex
Batchelor of Derby	Gregoire of Fairfield	Norris of Shoreham
Bates of Bennington	Hango of Berkshire	Page of Newport City
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Harrison of Chittenden	Palasik of Milton
Brennan of Colchester	Helm of Fair Haven	Quimby of Concord
Browning of Arlington	Higley of Lowell	Rosenquist of Georgia
Burditt of West Rutland	LaClair of Barre Town	Savage of Swanton
Canfield of Fair Haven	Lefebvre of Newark	Scheuermann of Stowe
Cupoli of Rutland City	Leffler of Enosburgh	Seymour of Sutton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Shaw of Pittsford
Donahue of Northfield	Martel of Waterford	Sibilia of Dover
Fagan of Rutland City	Mattos of Milton	Smith of Derby *
Fegard of Berkshire	McCoy of Poultney	Smith of New Haven
Feltus of Lyndon	McFaun of Barre Town *	Strong of Albany
Gamache of Swanton	Morgan of Milton	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Goslant of Northfield	Morrissey of Bennington	Toof of St. Albans Town
	Murphy of Fairfax	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are: none

Rep. Cordes of Lincoln explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Adjusted for inflation, minimum wage is what it was in 1960-1970. The Economics 101 argument that higher wages lead to job loss is erroneous. No well-supported historical trend proves this. History and economic complexity tell us the opposite – the ‘income effect’ of increased wages maintains or increases jobs.

Paul Wellstone was right – ‘we all do better when we all do better.’”

Rep. Gonzalez of Winooski explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I could speak for hours on my reasons for voting yes. Yet I will be brief as I am infrequent.

Poverty is a complex problem. This bill does not address many of the aspects of the complexity. For one, this bill does not address income inequality and our state and federal unwillingness to have the wealthy pay their fair share.

What this modest increase does is address dignity of workers. The dignity of getting closer to paying one’s own bills with one’s own work.

I voted yes for that dignity.”

Rep. Krowinski of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes because, for too many hardworking Vermonters, wages haven’t kept up with the cost of living. Every working parent should get paid enough to care for their kids and set them off toward a great future. When parents earn more and their children do better. By gradually raising the minimum wage we’ll help build an economy that works for everyone. Thank you.”

Rep. McFaun of Barre Town explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote to sustain the Governor’s veto on S.23 because I feel there is a better way to lift people out of poverty. We already have one of the highest minimum wages in the country and it is rising every year automatically. I feel a meaningful income tax credit is a better way to put money in low income people’s pockets and it doesn’t have any negative impact on our rural

businesses. It's a win-win situation for business and the very people we are trying to help out of poverty."

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

Raising the minimum wage is not a novel idea. Twenty states have recently raised their minimum wage. The research from over 100 minimum wage increases has shown that it has lowered poverty levels for children and households. And, at the same time, there is no correlation between raising the minimum wage and loss of jobs. Neither did it result in raising the cost of living nor negatively effecting the business climate. It's time to give many eligible Vermonters a raise."

Rep. Smith of Derby explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

It still gives a working Vermonter some pride and self-esteem to earn a raise rather than having it handed to them."

Rep. Till of Jericho explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to override this veto. This is, among other things, a women's issue. Minimum wage jobs are disproportionately held by women. We need to continue our work on equalization of wages across gender.

Secondly, if we want to keep young people in Vermont, increasing starting wages is a critical component."

Rep. Yacovone of Morristown explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

The unrelenting undertow of poverty is all consuming. Poverty fills our prisons, crowds our hospital emergency rooms, and robs our schools of their capacity to educate our children. This increase in minimum wage will not end poverty as we know it. It will, however, help smooth the sharp edges of poverty to make life a little easier to tolerate for many. It is not a perfect solution, but I believe it will make Vermont a better place to live."

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 557

Rep. Hooper of Burlington, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to municipal regulation of livestock running at large

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

bill be amended in Sec. 1, 24 V.S.A. § 2291, in subdivision (29), immediately following the first sentence, by striking out the sentence “An ordinance adopted pursuant to this subdivision may provide for the impounding of livestock.”

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

Adjournment

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