

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

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

Recess

At nine o'clock and one minute in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until one o'clock in the afternoon.

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

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotional.

Message from the Senate No. 33

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its 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. 342. An act relating to temporary workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19.

S. 343. An act relating to delaying special education changes due to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

S. 344. An act relating to temporary municipal tax rate provisions in response to COVID-19.

S. 345. An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 114. An act relating to the emergency judicial response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

And has concurred therein.

House Bill Introduced**H. 944**

By Reps. Redmond of Essex, Bancroft of Westford and Giambatista of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex

Which was read and referred to the committee on Government Operations.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 342**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19

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

Senate Bill Referred**S. 343**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to delaying special education changes due to the COVID-19 state of emergency

Was read and referred to the committee on Education.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 344**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal tax rate provisions in response to COVID-19

Was read and referred to the committee on Government Operations.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 345**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

Was read and referred to the committee on Government Operations.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 19

House resolution, entitled

House resolution extending the House declaring a state of emergency

Offered by the Committee on Rules

Whereas Governor Philip B Scott declared a state of emergency with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic until May 15, 2020, and

Whereas the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidelines for people to maintain a safe social distance of six feet and minimize gatherings to reduce the infection rates of COVID-19, and

Whereas the separation of powers between branches of government necessitates the Governor's Declaration of Emergency does not include the Legislative Branch, and

Whereas the House of Representatives must meet in order to address the needs of Vermonters and confront the threat of COVID-19 to the State of Vermont, and

Whereas the House must complete its business in the safest manner possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That based on the Governor's declared state of emergency, Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and protecting the safety of Vermonters, the House of Representatives declares that there is a state of emergency until May 31, 2020 for its rules and procedures.

Which was read and adopted.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Consideration Interrupted**

S. 182

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

An act relating to government operations regarding emergency medical services and public safety in response to COVID-19

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up and read the second time.

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

By striking Sec. 5 in its entirety

Recess

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Ralph of Hartland? at one o'clock and thirty-eight minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

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

**Consideration Resumed; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended;
Third Reading; Bill Passed; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged to Senate
Forthwith**

S. 182

Consideration resumed on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to government operations regarding emergency medical services and public safety in response to COVID-19

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as offered by **Rep. Ralph of Hartland** was disagreed to.

Thereupon third reading was ordered.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

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

S. 333

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury, for the committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a moratorium on ejection and foreclosure actions during the COVID-19 emergency

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment as follows:

That the bill be amended in Sec. 1 as follows:

First: By striking out subdivision (a)(3) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(3) to read:

(3)(A) "Foreclosure" refers to a foreclosure action brought under 12 V.S.A. chapter 172 against a dwelling house, as defined in 12 V.S.A. § 4931(2), that is occupied.

(B) For purposes of this act, a dwelling house is deemed to be occupied unless all of the following are true:

(i) There are circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the dwelling house is not occupied as a full-time residence, including evidence that utilities are disconnected, mail is not being delivered, or the dwelling house is empty of necessary household furnishings.

(ii) The mortgage on the dwelling house is not current.

(iii) The mortgagee has made reasonable attempts to ascertain the mortgagor's residence and has a reasonable belief that the dwelling house is no longer the mortgagor's residence.

Second: In subdivision (a)(2) before the period by inserting ", or under 10 V.S.A. chapter 153 against a mobile home park resident"

Third: In subsection (d) following "During the emergency period," by inserting "after the effective date of this act,"

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

Message from Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 28th day of April, 2020, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 550 An act relating to unclaimed property

H. 741 An act relating to criminal record checks on contractors working in State-owned or -leased facilities

Message from the Senate No. 34

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the twenty-eighth day of April, 2020, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 114. An act relating to the emergency judicial response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 316. An act relating to execution of wills during an emergency.

S. 326. An act relating to the State Advisory Panel on Special Education.

S. 340. An act relating to FY 2020 interfund borrowing authority.

S. 341. An act relating to disclosure of tax information to facilitate the provision of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and thirty-six minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Friday May 1, 2020 at ten o'clock in the forenoon.