

# Journal of the House

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Friday, May 22, 2020

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

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Vicki Strong of Albany.

## Message from the Senate No. 40

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. 243.** An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission.

**S. 301.** An act relating to miscellaneous telecommunications changes.

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

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

## Senate Bill Referred

### S. 243

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission

Was read and referred to the committee on Health Care.

## Senate Bill Referred

### S. 301

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous telecommunications changes

Was read and referred to the committee on Energy and Technology.

**Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**

**H. 943**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of St. Albans

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

**Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**

**H. 946**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the adoption of the charter of the Town of Elmore

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

**Remarks Journalized**

On motion of **Rep. Batchelor of Derby**, the following remarks by **Rep. Strong of Albany** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Memorial Day this year will be like no other that we have experienced since its inception on May 30, 1868 when it took place in Arlington National Cemetery, as a way to show its respect and honor for those who had died in battle during the Civil War. From that time that day was designated as a special day to decorate the graves of soldiers whose bodies lay in graves in almost every city, town, and village church yard across the land.

For 152 years, public parades, speeches, and observances have taken place across our country involving our military, school children, bands, and elected officials to recognize those who given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. This year like no other, those traditional public observances will not be taking place.

As our own three children were growing up, our family would attend our local Memorial Day Service, and then visit the small historic cemetery near our home and decorate the graves of Civil War heroes with fresh picked lilacs, never imagining that one day my husband and I would be laying flowers at our

own son's gravesite, whom we buried in that same cemetery 15 years ago this coming Monday.

Our son, Marine Sgt. Jesse Strong, died at the age of 24 from a rocket propelled grenade, while protecting the Iraqi polls for their first free election. Three other fine Marines died with him that night. As our son's body was being shipped back home to us in Vermont, Iraqi men and women left their homes and stepped into voting booths for the first time, with looks of joy as they took this new step of democracy in their country,

Scripture says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." And it says, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." We see that the giving of one's own life, on behalf of others, is the greatest sacrifice of devotion that a person can give.

This weekend, as we think of those great sacrifices made on our behalf, I urge each one to find a meaningful way to express gratitude for those who have paid that precious price for our freedom. Visit a local cemetery or memorial. Take some flowers and spend some moments of quiet reflection, and give thanks for all we have been given because of the sacrifice of others.

As I close this morning I would like to end with a short prayer for us all. Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father, We are grateful for those across our State and country who have gone into harm's way, and have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. This morning I would also like to pray for my fellow legislators, and I thank you for them. Please help and bless them, and their families. Protect them and give them grace, strength, and wisdom each day as they do their best to serve their constituents with all of the challenges they face during this time. Thank you, Lord, and I pray in Your name. Amen"

### **Third Reading; Bill Passed**

#### **H. 954**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous tax provisions

Was taken up, read the third time and passed.

### **Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence With Proposal of Amendment**

#### **S. 255**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

Was taken up, read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**  
**H. 955**

**Rep. Emmons of Springfield** spoke for the committee on Corrections and Institutions.

House bill entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

**Rep. Fagan of Rutland City**, for the committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass.

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 the third time? **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 24, COVID-19 emergency response; reallocations, by adding a subsection (c) after subsection (b) to read as follows:

(c) On or before August 15, 2020, the Commissioner of Finance and Management, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office and the Office of Legislative Council, shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, with a review of all capital expenditures associated with the COVID-19 emergency response, an assessment of whether CARES Act funding may be used to address any capital expenditures, whether any other federal funds are available to meet those needs, and an assessment of any General Fund need that may qualify as a capital expenditure.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read the third time? **Rep. Emmons of Springfield** moved to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out Sec. 20, naming of Baldwin Street; Montpelier, in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

**Rules Suspended; Second Reading;  
Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended,  
Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 957**

On Motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to extending the deadline to test for lead in the drinking water of school buildings

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

**Rep. James of Manchester** spoke for the committee on Education.

Thereupon the bill was read the second time.

Pending the question shall the bill be read the third time? **Rep. James of Manchester moved** to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out Sec.1 (Findings) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 66 (Act No. 66) requires the Department of Health to administer a program to test the drinking water in school buildings and child care facilities for lead contamination.

(2) Act No. 66 requires testing of drinking water in all child care facilities and school buildings for lead to be completed on or before December 31, 2020.

(3) As of March of 2020, sampling for lead in the drinking water of 86 percent of all stand-alone child care facilities is complete, and 68 percent of all schools have completed sampling.

(4) Act No. 66 requires drinking water samples for school buildings to occur during the school year in order to test the composition of drinking water when students are present in school buildings.

(5) On March 15, 2020, Governor Scott issued Gubernatorial Directive 1 related to COVID-19 dismissing all public and independent schools in the State.

(6) On March 17, 2020, Governor Scott issued Gubernatorial Directive-2 closing all State-regulated child care facilities except for provision of child care services to essential persons.

(7) On March 26, 2020, Governor Scott issued Gubernatorial Directive 5 related to COVID-19 directing all public and independent schools to remain dismissed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year.

(8) Because of the dismissal of in-person schooling, because of the closure of child care facilities, and because of the uncertainty of when students will return to instruction within school buildings and when child care facilities will be able to test, it is likely that testing of drinking water in all school buildings and child care facilities will not be completed on or before December 31, 2020 as required by Act No. 66.

(9) Department of Health staff assigned to administer the requirements for testing of drinking water for lead in school buildings have been assigned to COVID-19 response, testing, and health surveillance.

Which was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

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

#### **Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the following bills were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith:

#### **H. 954**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous tax provisions

#### **S. 255**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

#### **H. 957**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to extending the deadline to test for lead in the drinking water of school buildings and child care facilities

**Message from the Senate No. 41**

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. 99.** An act relating to spousal support and maintenance reform.

**S. 197.** An act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information.

**S. 339.** An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles.

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

**Adjournment**

At eleven o'clock and fifty-one minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S.53.