Journal of the House

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Thursday, September 10, 2020

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

**Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Peter Anthony of Barre City.

**Senate Bill Referred**

S. 352

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to making certain amendments to the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program

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

**Senate Bill Referred**

S. 353

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program

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

**Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 187

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to transient occupancy for health care treatment and recovery

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

**Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in**

H. 578

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled
An act relating to operator’s license and privilege to operate suspensions and proof of financial responsibility

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out all three reader assistance headings in their entireties

Second: By striking out Sec. 1, 4 V.S.A. § 1109(c)(4), in its entirety and inserting a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

Third: In Sec. 4, waiver of proof of financial responsibility, in subsection (a), by striking out the date “January 1, 2021” and inserting in lieu thereof April 1, 2021 and, in subsection (b), by striking out the date “January 1, 2021” and inserting in lieu thereof April 1, 2021

Fourth: In Sec. 5, effective date, by striking out the date “July 1, 2020” and inserting in lieu thereof January 1, 2021

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to proof of financial responsibility.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Rules Suspended; Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 969

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

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

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

Rep. Toll of Danville spoke for the committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, the bill was read a second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a 3rd time? Rep. Toll of Danville demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be read a 3rd time? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 140. Nays, 4.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais Grad of Moretown Notte of Rutland City
Anthony of Barre City Graham of Williamstown Noyes of Wolcott
Austin of Colchester  Gregoire of Fairfield  O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bancroft of Westford  Haas of Rochester  Ode of Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland  Hango of Berkshire  O'Sullivan of Burlington
Batchelor of Derby  Harrison of Chittenden  Page of Newport City
Bates of Bennington  Hashim of Dunmerston  Pajala of Londonderry
Beck of St. Johnsbury  Helm of Fair Haven  Palasik of Milton
Birong of Vergennes  Higley of Lowell  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
Browning of Arlington  Hooper of Burlington  Quimby of Concord
Brumsted of Shelburne  Houghton of Essex  Rachelson of Burlington
Burditt of West Rutland  Howard of Rutland City  Redmond of Essex
Burke of Brattleboro  James of Manchester  Reed of Brantree
Campbell of St. Johnsbury  Jerome of Brandon  Rogers of Waterville
Canfield of Fair Haven  Jessup of Middlesex  Rosenquist of Georgia
Carroll of Bennington  Killacky of South Burlington  Savage of Swanton
Chase of Colchester  Kimbell of Woodstock  Scheu of Middlebury
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs  Kitzmiller of Montpelier  Scheuermann of Stowe
Christensen of Weathersfield  Krowinski of Burlington  Shaw of Pittsford
Christie of Hartford  LaClair of Barre Town  Sheldon of Middlebury
Coffey of Guilford  LaLonde of South  Sibilia of Dover
Colston of Winooski  Burlington  Smith of New Haven
Conlon of Cornwall  Lanpher of Vergennes  Squirrel of Underhill
Conquest of Newbury  LeFebvre of Newark  Stevens of Waterbury
Copeland Hanzas of Bradford  Leffler of Enosburgh  Strong of Albany
Cordor of Bennington  Lippert of Hinesburg  Sullivan of Dorset
Cordes of Lincoln  Long of Newfane  Sullivan of Burlington
Cupoli of Rutland City  Macaig of Williston  Taylor of Colchester
Demrow of Corinth  Marcotte of Coventry  Terenzini of Rutland Town
Dickinson of St. Albans Town  Martel of Waterford  Toleno of Brattleboro *
Dolan of Waitsfield  Mattos of Milton  Toll of Danville
Donahue of Northfield  McCarthy of St. Albans City  Toof of St. Albans Town
Donovan of Burlington  McCormack of Burlington  Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury  McCullough of Williston  Troiano of Stannard
Elder of Starksboro  McFaun of Barre Town  Tully of Rockingham
Emmons of Springfield  Morgan of Milton  Walz of Barre City
Fagan of Rutland City  Morris of Springfield  Webb of Shelburne
Fegard of Berkshire  Morrissey of Bennington  White of Hartford
Feltus of Lyndon  Mrowicki of Putney *  Yacovone of Morristown
Gamache of Swanton  Murphy of Fairfax  Yantachka of Charlotte
Gannon of Wilmington  Myers of Essex  Young of Greensboro
Giambatista of Essex  Nicoll of Ludlow
Gosland of Northfield  Norris of Shoreham

Those who voted in the negative are:

Cina of Burlington  Ralph Watson of Hartland *
Rep. Colburn of Burlington explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While I appreciate the excellent work of our Appropriations committee, I’m unable to support the budget at this time. We’ve missed an opportunity in our overall process to ask the wealthiest Vermonters to give back the significant tax breaks they received under the Trump administration, so we can better support low-wage, frontline workers and address the serious inequities amplified by the COVID-19 crisis.”

Rep. McCoy of Poultney explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While I voted yes, I must express my concern about our need to research and provide funding for new software and hardware for our unemployment insurance trust fund system. Our current system’s painful inequities became quite evident during this COVID pandemic.”

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

When you left the Chair of House Appropriations, I admit a bit of trepidation that you were leaving big shoes to fill because of what stellar work you did and how you organized that committee.

As your successor finishes work on her last budget before retiring, she deserves praise for having filled those expectations, and likewise has done an amazing job. I applaud the Chair and the entire committee for the work they did to balance the budget and do so in a caring, compassionate way. In tough times, they did tough work and my vote is an easy one to support this good work.”

Rep. Szott of Barnard explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Despite an infusion of over one billion federal dollars, we missed a chance to create a truly transformative "people's budget." In a time of crisis, services ought to be expanded, not merely maintained. Instead we produced a "steady
Thus, once again, we have fallen short of creating a Vermont that works for all of us and I must vote no.”

**Rep. Toleno of Brattleboro** explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

When we left in June knowing we would have to come back to do new budget work, I confess that I worried about the overwhelming nature of what would have to be done. I shouldn’t have worried: so much incredible collaboration from the House’s committees and our extraordinary Appropriations Committee have made it possible. We should be proud of this work. It is responsive to the moment and to what is happening to Vermonters in the midst of deep crisis. We address needs of everyday Vermonters across the sectors and have managed to fund the rest of the year in a fiscally responsible way. We have worked to make child care more affordable, medicine more integrated in how it approaches mental health, invested in public transportation and made a major investment in Vermont’s public higher education system. This balanced and thoughtful budget, in the most trying of times, is truly in the spirit of a Vermont that works for all of us.”

**Rep. Ralph Watson of Hartland** explained his vote as follows:

“I am grateful for the remarkable work done by the appropriations committee in creating a steady and balanced budget despite such extraordinary circumstances. However, I voted no on the budget because it does not generate any new revenues through taxes on the wealthy which would help the State proactively work to address the many social and economic inequities which were exposed during the COV19 Public Health Emergency.”

**Adjournment**

At four o'clock and fifty-seven minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poulney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock in the afternoon.