

# 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 entirety

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      |

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|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 Dummerston           | 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 Braintree               |
| 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<br>Middletown Springs | Kitzmiller of Montpelier       | Scheuermann of Stowe            |
| Christensen of Weathersfield               | Kornheiser of Brattleboro      | Seymour of Sutton               |
| Christie of Hartford                       | Krowinski of Burlington        | Shaw of Pittsford               |
| Coffey of Guilford                         | LaClair of Barre Town          | Sheldon of Middlebury           |
| Colston of Winooski                        | LaLonde of South<br>Burlington | Sibilia of Dover                |
| Conlon of Cornwall                         | Lanpher of Vergennes           | Smith of New Haven              |
| Conquest of Newbury                        | Lefebvre of Newark             | Squirrell of Underhill          |
| Copeland Hanzas of<br>Bradford             | Leffler of Enosburgh           | Stevens of Waterbury            |
| Corcoran of Bennington                     | Lippert of Hinesburg           | Strong of Albany                |
| Cordes of Lincoln                          | Long of Newfane                | Sullivan of Dorset              |
| Cupoli of Rutland City                     | Macaig of Williston            | Sullivan of Burlington          |
| Demrow of Corinth                          | Marcotte of Coventry           | Taylor of Colchester            |
| Dickinson of St. Albans<br>Town            | Martel of Waterford            | Terenzini of Rutland Town       |
| Dolan of Waitsfield                        | Masland of Thetford            | Toleno of Brattleboro *         |
| Donahue of Northfield                      | Mattos of Milton               | Toll of Danville                |
| Donovan of Burlington                      | McCarthy of St. Albans City    | Toof of St. Albans Town         |
| Durfee of Shaftsbury                       | McCormack of Burlington        | Townsend of South<br>Burlington |
| Elder of Starksboro                        | McCoy of Poultney *            | Troiano of Stannard             |
| Emmons of Springfield                      | McCullough of Williston        | Tully of Rockingham             |
| Fagan of Rutland City                      | McFaun of Barre Town           | Walz of Barre City              |
| Fegard of Berkshire                        | Morgan of Milton               | Webb of Shelburne               |
| Feltus of Lyndon                           | Morris of Springfield          | White of Hartford               |
| Gamache of Swanton                         | Morrissey of Bennington        | Wood of Waterbury               |
| Gannon of Wilmington                       | Mrowicki of Putney *           | Yacovone of Morristown          |
| Giambatista of Essex                       | Murphy of Fairfax              | Yantachka of Charlotte          |
| Goslant of Northfield                      | Myers of Essex                 | Young of Greensboro             |
|  | Nicoll of Ludlow               |                                 |
|  | Norris of Shoreham             |                                 |

Those who voted in the negative are:

Cina of Burlington

Ralph Watson of Hartland \*

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Colburn of Burlington \*

Szott of Barnard \*

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Brennan of Colchester

Gonzalez of Winooski

Till of Jericho

Gardner of Richmond

Smith of Derby

**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

state" budget. 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:

“Madam Speaker:

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 Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock in the afternoon.