

# Journal of the House

Thursday, September 24, 2020

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

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Mary Sullivan of Burlington.

## Rules Suspended; Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

### S. 354

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to emergency provisions for the operation of government

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

**Rep. Mrowicki of Putney**, for the committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred the Senate bill 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. MUNICIPAL MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2021; AUSTRALIAN BALLOT AUTHORITY

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(a) and 16 V.S.A. § 711e that require the voters of a municipality to vote to apply the provisions of the Australian ballot system to the annual or special meeting of the municipality, in the year 2021, any municipality may apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its municipal meetings held in the year 2021 by vote of its legislative body.

(2) Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 2681(b) or any other provision of law to the contrary, a person shall not be required to collect voter signatures in order to have the person's name placed on the ballot as a candidate for a local election that is held at a 2021 municipal meeting.

(b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of agreement, related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply the Australian ballot system to its meeting in accordance with subsection (a) of

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this section. This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a municipal charter or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of agreement if the waiver is requested by that municipality.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021"

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time, the report of the committee on Government Operations was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

**Recess**

At three o'clock and eighteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

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

**Adjournment**

At four o'clock and five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at ten o'clock in the forenoon.