

# Journal of the Senate

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Diane Nancekivell of Middlebury.

## Message from the House No. 11

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Rebecca Silbernagel, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

**J.R.S. 12.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

## Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

### J.R.S. 13.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

Joint resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation to amend the Department's lease with the Okemo Limited Liability Company and to authorize a conveyance of Woodchuck Mountain in Newbury as an alternative to the conveyance authorized in 2002 Acts and Resolves No. 149, Sec. 83(a)(3).

## Message from the Governor Appointments Referred

A message was received from the Governor, by Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointments, which were referred to committees as indicated:

The nomination of

Olsen, Oliver K. of South Londonderry - Member of the State Board of Education from March 1, 2018, to February 28, 2024.

To the Committee on Education.

The nomination of

Butler, Wendy of New Haven - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from June 1, 2018, to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

McCarthy, Bryan of North Hero - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from June 1, 2018, to February 29, 2024.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Fishman, Noah of Waterbury - Member of the Travel Information Council - from July 20, 2018, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Dement, Jacqueline of Burlington - Member of the Travel Information Council - from July 20, 2018, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Farrell, Alex of Burlington - Commissioner of the Vermont State Housing Authority - from February 1, 2019, to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Loranger, Pamela of Colchester - Member, Transportation Board - March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2022.

The nomination of

Kittell, Dana of East Fairfield - Member of the Vermont Economic Development Authority - from February 5, 2019, to June 30, 2024.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Howrigan, Harold J. of Sheldon - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board, - from February 5, 2019, to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Shields, Bruce of Hyde Park - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board, - from February 5, 2019, to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Hastings, Walter of South Royalton - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board, - from February 5, 2019, to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Donohue, Mike of Shelburne - Member of the Human Services Board - from February 10, 2019, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Saudek, Karen of Montpelier - Member of the State Labor Relations Board, - from October 11, 2018, to June 30, 2021.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Feinberg, Caryn of Shelburne - Member of the Vermont State Housing Authority, - from July 20, 2019, to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Richardson, Cory of Waterbury - Member of the Vermont State Housing Authority, - from July 20, 2018, to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Gregoritsch, Mark of Essex - Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board, - from October 12, 2018, to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Averill, David of Burlington - Member of the State Board of Health - from October 19, 2018, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Osman, Adan of Burlington - Member of the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs - from October 25, 2018, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Courtois, Kyle of Georgia - Member of the Board of Education - from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020.

To the Committee on Education.

The nomination of

Filipek, John of Jericho - Member of the State Police Advisory Commission - from July 1, 2018, to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

The nomination of

French, Daniel of Manchester Center - Secretary of the Agency of Education - from August 13, 2018, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Education.

The nomination of

Stephens, Mary Luci of Goshen - Member of the Parole Board - from August 28, 2018, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Abdelghani, Mona of White River Junction - Member of the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs, - from August 24, 2018, to February 29, 2020.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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The nomination of

Manning, Morgan of Johnson - Member of the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs - from August 24, 2018, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Morris, Elizabeth of Richmond - Member of the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs - from August 15, 2018, to February 29, 2020.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Mullin, Kevin J. of Rutland - Chair of the Green Mountain Care Board - from August 17, 2018, to February 29, 2024.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Irwin, Rebekah of Middlebury - Member of the Board of Libraries - from September 19, 2018, to February 29, 2020.

To the Committee on Education.

The nomination of

Boulanger, David of Hinesburg - Member of the State Labor Relations Board - from October 1, 2018, to June 30, 2024.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Touchette, Michael P. of Colchester - Commissioner of the Department of Corrections - from December 22, 2018, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Baser, Fred of Bristol - Commissioner of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency - from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Dwyer, Carolyn of Essex Junction - Member, Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, - from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Education.

The nomination of

Harrison, Wendy of Brattleboro - Member of the Transportation Board - from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Audet, Marie of Bridport - Member of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, - from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Westervelt, Jan of Cabot - Member of the Human Services Board, - from February 1, 2019, to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Turner, Donald, Jr. of Milton - Member of the Natural Resources Board - from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Fitzgerald, James of St. Albans - Member of the Transportation Board, - from February 1, 2019, to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Zalinger, Philip H. of Montpelier - Member of the Transportation Board - from March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Buckley, Katherine of Guilford - Commissioner of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency - from February 2, 2019, to January 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Coates, David of Colchester - Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank - from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2021.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

McKenzie, Mary Alice of Colchester - Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank - from February 1, 2019, to January 31, 2021.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Watkins, Timothy of Colchester - Member of the Electricians Licensing Board - from January 1, 2019, to January 30, 2021.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Bourdon, Kevin of Vergennes - Member of the Electricians' Licensing Board - from January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Sexton, Ryan of Montpelier - Member of the Board of Medical Practice - from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Stearns-Parr, Gillian of South Burlington - Member of the Board of Medical Practice - from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

LeCours, Leo of Jericho - Member of the Board of Medical Practice - from January 1 2019, to December 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Burgee, Gary of Randolph - Member of the Board of Medical Practice - from January 1 2019, to December 31, 2023.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Willard, Alan of Woodstock - Member of the State Labor Relations Board - from January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2024.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Magnan, Mark of Fairfield - Member of the Vermont Economic Development Authority - from January 1, 2019, to June 30, 2024.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Squirrell, Sarah of Waterbury Center - Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health - from January 1, 2019, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The nomination of

Minoli, Wanda of Montpelier - Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles - from October 2, 2018, to February 28, 2019.

To the Committee on Transportation.

The nomination of

Laackman, Allyson of Burlington - Member of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board - from January 10, 2019, to January 31, 2020.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The nomination of

Miller, Dale of Colchester - Member of the State Workforce Development Board - from August 3, 2018, to June 30, 2019.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

### **Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**

#### **J.R.S. 14.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:



By Senators Balint, Ashe, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Brock, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, McNeil, Nitka, Parent, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, and White,

**J.R.S. 14.** Joint resolution condemning the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and affirming the central importance of freedom of the press.

*Whereas*, Jamal Khashoggi was a prominent Saudi journalist who once served as an advisor to his nation’s government, and

*Whereas*, despite his status in Saudi society, Jamal Khashoggi fell out of favor with senior Saudi officials and opted for self-imposed exile in the United States, and in 2017 he became a columnist for the *Washington Post*, writing critically about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and

*Whereas*, on October 2, 2018, Jamal Khashoggi entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on a family matter and was killed, and U.S. intelligence officials have concluded with “high confidence” that the crown prince of Saudi Arabia ordered the killing, and

*Whereas*, following a classified CIA briefing on December 4, 2018, a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the killing, and

*Whereas*, Jamal Khashoggi’s remains have yet to be found, and

*Whereas*, the killing of an American-resident journalist was an appalling act that Saudi Arabia acknowledges was deliberate, and

*Whereas*, despite the CIA’s strong evidence to the contrary, Saudi Arabia claims that the killing was not authorized, but was the act of a group of rogue Saudi-government employees, and

*Whereas*, the Khashoggi death occurred at a time when press freedom is under increased threat both domestically and internationally, and

*Whereas*, Freedom House, in its recently issued report, “State of Global Press Freedom 2017–2018,” commented that “five years ago, global pressure on the media did not appear to affect the United States or the established democracies of Europe in any significant way” but that now “populist leaders constitute a major threat to free expression in these open societies,” and

*Whereas*, Reporters Without Borders has observed that “more and more democratically-elected leaders no longer see the media as part of democracy’s essential underpinning,” and

*Whereas*, a recent Quinnipiac University poll found that 26 percent of American voters view the press as the enemy, and

*Whereas*, the critical importance of the guarantees of a free press enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is truly apparent, and

*Whereas*, internationally, a prominent example of an attack on one of the world's most venerable media organizations is the recent jailing for seven-year terms of two Myanmar-based Reuters reporters, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly condemns the murder of *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi and affirms the central importance of freedom of the press, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Freedom House, and Reporters Without Borders.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow.

**Bills Introduced**

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

**S. 85.**

By Senators Westman, Pearson and Starr,

An act relating to the valuation of landlocked parcels.

To the Committee on Finance.

**S. 86.**

By Senators Lyons, Ingram, Baruth and Clarkson,

An act relating to increasing the legal age for buying and using cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, and other tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**Third Reading Ordered**

**S. 11.**

Senator Collamore, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to limiting senatorial districts to a maximum of three members.

Reported that the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.