

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Joan Javier-Duval of Montpelier.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 23.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 6 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

PROPOSAL 6

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide Senators with a four-year term of office, beginning in the year 2024.

(b) This proposal would also amend Chapter II, Section 43 of the Vermont Constitution to clarify that Assistant Judges, Sheriffs, States Attorneys, and Judges of Probate—who already have a four-year term of office—are elected every four years.

Sec. 2. Section 43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 43. [~~BIENNIAL~~ ELECTIONS]

The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, ~~Senators, Town~~ Representatives, ~~Assistant Judges of the County Court, Sheriffs, High Bailiffs, State's Attorneys, Judges of Probate~~ and Justices of the Peace, shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 1914.

Senators shall be elected every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 2024.

Assistant Judges, Sheriffs, State's Attorneys, and Judges of Probate shall be elected every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 2022.

Sec. 3. Section 44 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 44. [ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS]

~~Senators and Representatives shall be elected to office at a general election to be held biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A.D. 1974, and Senators shall be elected to office at a general election to be held every four years on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A.D. 2024.~~

Sec. 4. Section 46 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 46. [TERMS OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES]

The term of office of Senators shall be four years and the term of office of Representatives shall be two years, commencing on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January following their election.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendments set forth in this proposal shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2022 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 106.

By Senator White,

An act relating to establishing the Municipal Self-Governance Program.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 146.

An act relating to increasing the number of examiners on the Board of Bar Examiners from nine to 11 members.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed**S. 40.**

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to testing and remediation of lead in the drinking water of schools and child care facilities.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Baruth, Hardy, McNeil, Parent and Perchlik moved to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 1243, by adding a new subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Application; bottled water. Although the intent of the Vermont General Assembly is to achieve significant reductions in lead levels in all drinking water provided to children by school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, or child care providers, the acceptable lead level in bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; consequently, bottled water from a vending machine or bottled water from a water dispenser shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Baruth having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Brock, Campion, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, McNeil, Nitka, Parent, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Collamore.

Adjournment

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