

# Journal of the Senate

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Mark Pitton of Sharon.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

## **Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations**

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

**S. 94.** An act relating to expanding Medicaid beneficiaries' access to dental care and establishing the VDent dental assistance program.

**S. 96.** An act relating to establishing a Clean Water Assessment to fund State water quality programs.

## **Joint Senate Resolutions Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

### **J.R.S. 18.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Ashe,

**J.R.S. 18.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, March 15, 2019, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

**Bills Introduced**

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

**S. 143.**

By Senators Westman and White,

An act relating to the membership of the Vermont Municipal Employees' System.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 144.**

By Senators Westman and Sirotkin,

An act relating to establishing a single tax rate for revenues from the sale of spirits and fortified wines.

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

**S. 145.**

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to addressing racial bias.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**Committee Bill Introduced**

Senate committee bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow:

**S. 146.**

By the Committee on Health and Welfare,

An act relating to substance misuse prevention.

**Bill Introduced**

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

**S. 147.**

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to incompatible statewide and legislative offices.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 148.**

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to an option to vote "None of these candidates" on primary and general election ballots.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**Committee Bill Introduced**

Senate committee bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow:

**S. 149.**

By the Committee on Transportation,

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**Bills Introduced**

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

**S. 150.**

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to approval for fossil fuel pipelines.

To the Committee on Finance.

**S. 151.**

By Senators Brock, Benning, Collamore, McNeil, Parent, Starr and Westman,

An act relating to the Twin State Voluntary Family and Medical Leave Insurance Plan.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 152.**

By Senator Baruth,

An act relating to collective bargaining.

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

**Bill Referred**

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

**H. 140.**

An act relating to the State Advisory Panel on Special Education.

To the Committee on Education.

**Bills Amended; Third Readings Ordered****S. 49.**

Senator Bray, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the regulation of polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking and surface waters.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

## Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Perfluoroalkyl, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and other perfluorochemicals are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.

(2) PFAS may enter the environment from numerous industrial or commercial sources, including when emitted during a manufacturing process, from the disposal of goods containing PFAS, or from leachate from landfills.

(3) Many PFAS do not break down and persist in the environment for a very long time, especially in water, and, consequently, PFAS can be found in many bodies of water and in the blood of humans and wildlife.

(4) The Vermont Department of Health has adopted a health advisory level for certain PFAS of 20 parts per trillion.

(5) The Vermont Water Supply Rule provides that the Secretary of Natural Resources may adopt a Vermont Department of Health advisory level as a maximum contaminant level for a substance.

(6) The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has adopted the 20 parts per trillion level as part of ANR's Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule and Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy, but not as part of the Vermont Water Supply Rule or the Vermont Water Quality Standards.

(7) To prevent further contamination of State water, and to reduce the potential harmful effects of PFAS on human health and the environment, the State of Vermont should:

(A) require the Agency of Natural Resources to adopt by rule maximum contaminant level or levels for PFAS under the Vermont Water Supply Rule;

(B) prior to adoption by rule of maximum contaminant level or levels for PFAS, require public water systems to monitor for certain PFAS chemicals and respond appropriately when results indicate levels of PFAS in excess of the Vermont Department of Health advisory level;

(C) require the Agency of Natural Resource to adopt surface water quality standards for certain PFAS chemicals; and

(D) authorize the Agency of Natural Resources to require any permitted facility to monitor for any release of a chemical that exceeds a health advisory issued by the Vermont Department of Health.

## Sec. 2. INTERIM DRINKING WATER STANDARD; TESTING; PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

(a) As used in this section, “PFAS contaminants” means perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, perfluorononanoic acid, and perfluoroheptanoic acid.

(b) On or before December 1, 2019, all public community water systems and all nontransient noncommunity water systems in the State shall conduct monitoring for the presence of PFAS contaminants in drinking water supplied by the system. Continued monitoring shall be conducted as follows until adoption of the rules required under Sec. 3 of this act:

(1) If monitoring results detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination in excess of the Vermont Department of Health advisory level of 20 parts per trillion, the public water system shall conduct continued quarterly monitoring.

(2) If monitoring results detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination at a level equal to or below the Vermont Department of Health advisory level of 20 parts per trillion, the public water system shall conduct continued monitoring annually.

(3) If monitoring results do not detect the presence of any PFAS contaminants, the public water system shall conduct continued monitoring every two years.

(c) If monitoring results under subsection (b) of this section confirm the presence of any PFAS contaminants individually or in combination in excess of the Vermont Department of Health advisory level of 20 parts per trillion, the Agency of Natural Resources shall direct the public water system to implement treatment or other remedy to reduce the levels of PFAS contaminants in the

drinking water of the public water system below the Vermont Department of Health advisory level.

(d) During the period of treatment or implementation of another remedy under this section to reduce the levels of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the public water system below the Vermont Department of Health advisory level, the public water system shall provide potable water through other means to all customers or users of the system. The requirement for a public water system to provide potable water to customers and users of the systems through other means shall cease when monitoring results indicate that the levels of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the public water system are below the Vermont Department of Health advisory level.

(e) The Secretary may enforce the requirements of this section under 10 V.S.A. chapter 201. A person may appeal the acts or decisions of the Secretary of Natural Resources under this section under 10 V.S.A. chapter 220.

Sec 3. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WATER SUPPLY RULE; MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL  
FOR PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES;  
STANDARD FOR PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL  
SUBSTANCES; CLASS OR SUBCLASSES

(a) On or before February 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall file under 3 V.S.A. § 841 a final proposed rule with the Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules regarding adoption of the Vermont Department of Health's health advisory level for perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, perfluorononanoic acid, and perfluoroheptanoic acid as a maximum contaminant level (MCL) under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Supply rule.

(b) On or before August 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall initiate a public notice and comment process by publishing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the regulation under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Supply Rule of per and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds as a class or subclasses.

(c) On or before March 1, 2021, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall either:

(1) file a proposed rule with the Secretary of State regarding the regulation of PFAS compounds under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Supply Rule as a class or subclasses; or

(2) publish a notice of decision not to regulate PFAS compounds as a class or subclasses under the Department of Environmental Conservation's

Water Supply Rule that includes, at a minimum, an identification of all legal, technical, or other impediments to regulating PFAS compounds as a class or subclasses and a detailed response to all public comments received.

(d) If the Secretary of Natural Resources proposes a rule pursuant to subsection (c), on or before December 31, 2021, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall file a final rule with the Secretary of State regarding the regulation of PFAS compounds as a class or subclasses under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Supply Rule.

#### Sec. 4. REPEAL; INTERIM DRINKING WATER MONITORING; PFAS CONTAMINANTS

Sec. 2 (interim drinking water monitoring; PFAS contaminants) shall be repealed on the effective date of the rules required under Sec. 3(a) of this act.

#### Sec 5. VERMONT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS; PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

(a) On or before January 15, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish a plan for public review and comment for adoption of surface water quality standards for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that shall include, at a minimum, a proposal for standards for:

(1) perfluorooctanoic acid; perfluorooctane sulfonic acid; perfluorohexane sulfonic acid; perfluorononanoic acid; and perfluoroheptanoic acid; and

(2) the PFAS class of compounds or subgroups of the PFAS class of compounds.

(b) On or before January 1, 2022, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall file a final rule with the Secretary of State to adopt surface water quality standards for, at a minimum, perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid, perfluorononanoic acid, and perfluoroheptanoic acid.

#### Sec 6. INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL SOURCES OF PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES CONTAMINATION

(a) On or before May 1, 2019, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish a plan for public review and comment to complete a statewide investigation of potential sources of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. As part of this investigation, the Secretary shall conduct a pilot project at public water systems to evaluate PFAS that are not quantified by standard laboratory methods using a total oxidizable precursor assay or other applicable analytical method to evaluate total PFAS. The

Secretary of Natural Resources shall initiate implementation of the plan not later than July 1, 2019.

(b) On or before December 1, 2019, all public community water systems and all nontransient noncommunity water systems shall conduct monitoring for the maximum number of PFAS detectable from standard laboratory methods.

Sec 7. 3 V.S.A. § 2810 is added to read:

§ 2810. INTERIM ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA STANDARDS

The Secretary of Natural Resources may require any entity permitted by the Agency of Natural Resources to monitor the operation of a facility, discharge, emission, or release for any constituent for which the Department of Health has established a health advisory. The Secretary may impose conditions on a permitted entity based on the health advisory if the Secretary determines that the operation of the facility, discharge, emission, or release may result in an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the natural environment. The authority granted to the Secretary under this section shall last not longer than two years from the date the health advisory was adopted.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 8003 is amended to read:

§ 8003. APPLICABILITY

(a) The Secretary may take action under this chapter to enforce the following statutes and rules, permits, assurances, or orders implementing the following statutes, and the Board may take such action with respect to subdivision (10) of this subsection:

\* \* \*

(28) 30 V.S.A. § 255, relating to regional coordination to reduce greenhouse gases; ~~and~~

(29) 10 V.S.A. § 1420, relating to abandoned vessels; and

(30) 3 V.S.A. § 2810, relating to interim environmental media standards.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 8503 is amended to read:

§ 8503. APPLICABILITY

(a) This chapter shall govern all appeals of an act or decision of the Secretary, excluding enforcement actions under chapters 201 and 211 of this title and rulemaking, under the following authorities and under the rules adopted under those authorities:



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\* \* \*

- (2) 29 V.S.A. chapter 11 (management of lakes and ponds).
- (3) 24 V.S.A. chapter 61, subchapter 10 (relating to salvage yards).
- (4) 3 V.S.A. § 2810 (interim environmental media standards).

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 10. ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA STANDARDS; GUIDANCE; PLAN

(a) On or before January 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish a guidance document for public review and comment that sets forth detailed practices for implementation by the Secretary of Natural Resources of interim environmental media standards authority under 3 V.S.A. § 2810.

(b) On or before January 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall publish for public review and comment a plan to collect data for contaminants in drinking water from public community water systems and all nontransient noncommunity water systems for which a health advisory has been established but no maximum contaminant level has been adopted.

#### Sec. 11. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN PILOT PROJECT

On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency of Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report regarding the management at landfills of leachate containing contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). The report shall include:

(1) the findings of the leachate treatment evaluation conducted at any landfill in Vermont;

(2) the Agency of Natural Resources' assessment of the results of landfill leachate evaluations; and

(3) the Agency of Natural Resources' recommendations for treatment of CECs in leachate from landfills, including whether the State should establish a pilot project to test methods for testing or managing CECs in landfill leachate.

#### Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

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

**S. 95.**

Senator Brock, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to municipal utility capital investment.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 1822 is amended to read:

§ 1822. POWERS; APPROVAL OF VOTERS

(a) In addition to the powers it may now or hereafter have, a municipal corporation otherwise authorized to own, acquire, improve, control, operate, or manage a public utility or project and to issue bonds pursuant to this subchapter, may also, by action of its legislative branch, exercise any of the following powers:

(1) to borrow money and issue bonds for the purposes of acquiring, improving, maintaining, financing, controlling, or operating the public utility or project, or for the purpose of selling, furnishing, or distributing the services, facilities, products, or commodities of such utility or project;

(2) to enter into contracts in connection with the issuance of bonds for any of the purposes enumerated in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(3) to purchase, hold, and dispose of any of its bonds;

(4) to pledge or assign all or part of any net revenues of the public utility or project, to provide for or to secure the payment of the principal of and the interest on bonds issued in connection with such public utility or project;

(5) to do any and all things necessary or prudent to carry out the powers expressly granted or necessarily implied in this subchapter, including without limitation those powers enumerated in section 1824 of this title.

(b)(1) The bonds authorized under this section shall be in such form, shall contain such provisions, and shall be executed as may be determined by the legislative branch of the municipal corporation, but shall not be executed, issued, or made, and shall not be valid and binding, unless and until at least a majority of the legal voters of such municipal corporation present and voting

at a duly warned annual or special meeting called for that purpose shall have first voted to authorize the same.

(2) The warning calling such a meeting shall state the purpose for which it is proposed to issue bonds, the estimated cost of the project, the amount of bonds proposed to be issued under this subchapter therefor, that such bonds are to be payable solely from net revenues, and shall fix the place where and the date on which such meetings shall be held and the hours of opening and closing the polls.

(3) The notice of the meeting shall be published and posted as provided in section 1756 of this title.

(4) When a majority of all the voters voting on the question at such meeting vote to authorize the issuance of bonds under this subchapter to pay for such project, the legislative body shall be authorized to issue bonds or enter into contracts, pledges, and assignments as provided in this subchapter.

(5) Sections 1757 and 1758 of this title shall apply to the proceedings taken hereunder, except that the form of ballot to be used shall be substantially as follows:

Shall bonds of the (name of municipality) to the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ be issued under subchapter 2 of chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable only from net revenues derived from the (type) public utility system, for the purpose of paying for the following public utility project?

If in favor of the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square .

If opposed to the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square .

(c) The bonds authorized by this subchapter shall be sold at par, premium, or discount by negotiated sale, competitive bid, or to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the legislative branch of a municipal corporation owning a municipal plant as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 2901 may authorize by resolution the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total assets of said municipal plant without the need for voter approval. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as eliminating the requirement for approval from the Public Utility Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 108, where applicable.

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 108 is amended to read:

§ 108. ISSUE OF BONDS OR OTHER SECURITIES

\* \* \*

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority or to a public utility which that meets each and all of the following four conditions:

(1) is incorporated in some state other than Vermont;

(2) is conducting an interstate and intrastate telephone business ~~which~~ that is subject to regulation by the Federal Communications Commission in some respects;

(3) is conducting telephone operations in four or more states; and

(4) has less than 10 percent of its total investment in property used or useful in rendering service located within this State to the extent that such public utility may issue stock, bonds, notes, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness not directly or indirectly constituting or creating a lien on any property used or useful in rendering service ~~which that~~ is located within this State.

(c)(1) A municipality shall not issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, respecting the ownership or operation of a gas or electric utility, unless the Public Utility Commission first finds, upon petition of the municipality and after notice and an opportunity for hearing, that the proposed action will be consistent with the general good of the State.

(2) If the Public Utility Commission does not issue its ruling within 90 days of the filing of the petition, as may be extended by consent of the municipality, the issuance of the proposed bonds or notes or pledge of net revenues shall be deemed to be consistent with the general good of the State.

(3) If the Public Utility Commission issues a ruling in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, or does not rule within the period specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a municipality must ~~subsequently obtain~~ also have obtained voter approval in accordance with 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, if required, prior to issuing bonds or notes or pledging its net revenues.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, a municipality may:

(1) issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues payable within three years from the date of issue without such consent, provided such borrowing is necessary in an emergency to restore service immediately after damage by disaster; ~~or~~

(2) issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues payable within one year of the date of issuance without the consent otherwise required by this subdivision, provided its total bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness so payable within one year do not exceed 20 percent of its total assets; or

(3) issue bonds or notes without the consent otherwise required by this subdivision, provided:

(A) the amount of the issuance plus the amount of any bond or note issuances during the previous 12 calendar months does not exceed 20 percent of the municipality's total assets; and

(B) after the proposed issuance, the total amount of the municipality's outstanding bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness would not exceed 50 percent of its total assets.

Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 5031(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) Bonds and notes may be issued in accordance with this chapter, ~~subject to~~ without the need to obtain the consent and approval of the Public Utility Commission as provided in this title.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

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

### **Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

#### **J.R.S. 17.**

Joint Senate resolution entitled:

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of eight Superior Judges and one Magistrate.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, was taken up and adopted on the part of the Senate.

### **Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.