

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Sally May of Mallets Bay.

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

Richardson, Thaddeus of Lyndon - Member of the Vermont Economic Progress Council - from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2023.

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

The nomination of

Davis, John of South Burlington - Chair of the Vermont Economic Progress Council - from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2023.

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

The nomination of

Russell, John of Rutland - Member of the Vermont Economic Progress Council - from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2023.

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

The nomination of

Ozarowski, Peter of South Burlington - Member of the Parole Board - from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Dengler, Wayne of Saxtons River - Member of the Parole Board - from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Roberto, Lynn of Springfield - Aternate Member of the Parole Board - from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2022.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Bailey, Brian of Barre - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Bancroft, Michael of West Topsham - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The nomination of

Sweeny, Jay of St. Albans - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from April 1, 2019 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 154.

By Senator Cummings,

An act relating to miscellaneous banking provisions.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 155.

By Senators Rodgers and Parent,

An act relating to possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices by out-of-state law enforcement officers.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred

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

H. 327.

An act relating to automatic renewal contract provisions.

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

**House Proposals of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment
Concurred In with Further Proposal of Amendment**

H. 97.

House proposals of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill entitled:

An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments.

Were taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the Senate proposal of amendment as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 47 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 47 to read as follows:

Sec. 47. [Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 49 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 49 to read as follows:

Sec. 49. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. B.813 is amended to read:

Sec. B.813 Total commerce and community development

Source of funds

General fund	15,902,584	15,932,584
Special funds	18,557,328	18,557,328
Federal funds	25,950,869	25,950,869
Interdepartmental transfers	110,751	110,751
Enterprise funds	<u>650,605</u>	<u>650,605</u>
Total	61,172,137	61,202,137

Third: In Sec. 56, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The following General Fund amount shall be reserved for appropriation or transfer in the fiscal year 2020 budget: \$12,350,000.

Fourth: In Sec. 60, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) It is the public policy of the State of Vermont to move to a continuum of mental health care that is fully integrated within the health care system. In recognition that Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) are an essential part of the current continuum of care, the Secretary of Human Services may seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 waiver as it relates to receiving expenditure authority for the treatment of serious mental illness provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 73 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 73 to read as follows:

Sec. 73. 32 V.S.A. § 10402 is amended to read:

§ 10402. HEALTH CARE CLAIMS TAX

(a) There is imposed on every health insurer an annual tax in an amount equal to ~~0.999~~ 0.8 of one percent of all health insurance claims paid by the health insurer for its Vermont members in the previous fiscal year ending June 30. The annual fee shall be paid to the Commissioner of Taxes in one installment due by on or before January 1.

(b) Revenues paid and collected under this chapter shall be deposited as ~~follows:~~ into the General Fund.

~~(1) 0.199 of one percent of all health insurance claims into the Health IT-Fund established in section 10301 of this title; and~~

~~(2) 0.8 of one percent of all health insurance claims into the General Fund.~~

(c) The annual cost to obtain Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) data, pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9410, for use by the Department of Taxes shall be paid from ~~the Vermont Health IT-Fund and the General Fund in the same proportion as revenues are deposited into those Funds.~~

* * *

Sixth: In Sec. 88, by striking out subdivisions (a)(2) and (a)(3) in their entirety and by striking out subdivision (a)(6)(A) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(6)(A) to read as follows:

(A) \$250,000 to be reserved to fund contracted services for research and findings to identify and examine the factors contributing to Vermont's high rate of children entering the custody of the State. Such research shall study the

preventive and upstream services and interventions provided to families and the extent to which these supports to families have demonstrated effectiveness in allowing children to remain with their families. Policy recommendations resulting from this research is intended to inform funding decisions regarding these services to ensure the safety of Vermont's vulnerable children and to enhance the long-term stability and well-being of these families.

and at the end of subdivision (a)(6)(B) by adding a new sentence to read as follows: The report shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2019.

and by renumbering the subdivisions to be numerically correct

Seventh: In Sec. 91, by striking out subdivision (b)(1)(D) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(1)(D) to read as follows:

(D) \$700,000 allocated in fiscal year 2019 and carried forward to fiscal year 2020 pending submission of a proposal. The CHINS workgroup shall continue its evaluation of strategic reforms to the CHINS system and may submit a proposal to the General Assembly for approval. The proposal shall have a budget and proposed method of evaluation.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 93 in its entire and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 93 to read as follows:

Sec. 93. VIDEO RECORDS RETENTION POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) On or before March 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations on the status of record schedules, as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 117(a)(6), that have been approved by the State Archivist and on the status of internal proposed video records management retention policies for the Vermont State Police and Vermont law enforcement agencies that apply to dash-mounted or body-mounted camera video. The report shall include any proposed changes to the record schedules and policies, including recommendations for whether policies should be adopted or changed with respect to:

- (1) the retention period for storage of such video;
- (2) the process for determining when a particular case or incident warrants retaining video records for longer than the standard schedule;
- (3) the manner in which the public shall be notified and kept informed about record schedules; and

(4) the budget and estimated costs for the storage of video records with a cloud-based service, including a comparison of the costs of cloud-based storage and the existing on-site physical storage, and whether cloud-based storage creates greater efficiencies in the overall management of video records.

(b) The Commissioner shall consult with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA) and the Agency of Digital Services for purposes of making the proposals required by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) On or before April 15, 2019, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report the final proposed record schedules and management policies to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations.

Ninth: In Sec. 94, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) Given the loss of federal matching funds for the Woodside facility, on or before April 15, 2019 the Secretary of Human Services and the Commissioner for Children and Families, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Appropriations related to the continuation of operations beyond July 1, 2019 limited only to short-term placements of delinquent youths. Any plan should be consistent with legislative intent related to loss of federal funding expressed in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Sec. E.327. Any plan should also consider the role of Woodside in the system of care and evaluate the current need and other treatment options for youths in Vermont and out-of-state.

Tenth: In Sec. 101, in subsection (a), by inserting five new subdivisions to be numbered (5) through (9) to read as follows:

(5) JFO #2950 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The position would be titled Environmental Analyst V and would provide engineering support within the wastewater system and potable water supply program to review permit application through the Department of Environmental Conservation's five regional offices. The position would be funded with approximately \$95,000 annually through a federal award from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Department is seeking authorization for the position for two years from the date of authorization.

(6) JFO #2951 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The position would be titled Agricultural Water Quality Specialist II and would provide additional capacity for the Agency to perform its commitments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily

Load (TMDL). Specifically, this position would support the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which is a program that compensates agricultural landowners for taking land out of production for a period of time and also provides cost-share for the establishment of vegetative buffers between agricultural land and waterways. The position would be funded from two sources: 1) a sub-grant from the Agency of Natural Resources that will leverage 2) grant funding from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

(7) JFO #2952 - One (1) limited-service position within the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The position would be titled Agricultural Engineer I and would provide additional capacity for the Agency to perform its commitments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Specifically, this position would support the agricultural best management practices (BMP) program and the environmental quality incentives program. The position would provide engineering and hydrogeology assistance with agricultural waste management systems, environmental monitoring and other projects aimed at reducing environmental contamination from agricultural operations. The position would be funded by a sub-grant of federal funds from the Agency of Natural Resources.

(8) JFO #2953 - \$199,160 from the U.S. Dept. of Justice to the Vermont Department of Corrections. The funds would be used to develop a strategic plan for a system-wide approach to enhance employment outcomes of offenders who are reentering the workforce. The effort would be focused on student assessments and increasing capacity within the culinary program in the corrections kitchen. Funds would be distributed between two personal service contracts, a workforce skills certification system, a pro-start culinary trainer certification, and other supplies/packages. The planning effort would be completed through the remainder of State fiscal year 2019 and part of fiscal year 2020.

(9) JFO #2954 - \$2,295,876 from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to the Vermont Department of Labor. The funding is being provided through Phase I of the Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) demonstration project. The overall project would be focused on developing early intervention strategies to improve stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) outcomes for individuals who experience a work disability while employed. One (1) limited-service position, titled Grant Manager, is associated with this request. Phase I, which is estimated to last for 18 months, would be focused on project development, while phase II would focus on broader implementation and funding for phase II would be awarded based on the outcomes of phase I. The project would be 100 percent federally funded.

Eleventh: In Sec. 103, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) The Department of Mental Health shall explore solutions to improve therapeutic care and supports for patients in emergency departments that includes the study of security protocols in emergency departments to ensure the safety of patients and hospital staff and compliance with federal regulations in consultation with:

(1) the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems;

(2) DAIL – Licensing and Protection;

(3) Vermont Care Partners;

(4) the Department of State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs; and

(5) an individual who provides peer support services in an emergency department, appointed by Vermont Psychiatric Survivors.

Twelfth: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 104 to read as follows:

Sec. 104. JUDICIARY; FEDERAL TITLE IV-D FUNDS

(a) Any general funds added to the Judiciary to compensate for errors in billing for eligible federal Title IV-D funds that are greater than the actual lost funds resulting from the errors shall be carried forward to offset Title IV-D funding impacts in the fiscal year 2020 Judiciary budget.

And by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposals of amendment to the Senate proposal of amendment?, Senators Kitchel, Nitka, Sears, Starr, McCormack, Westman and Ashe moved that the Senate concur in the House proposals of amendment to the Senate proposal of amendment with the following proposals of amendment:

First: By striking out the *First* and *Second* House proposals of amendment in their entirety.

Second: By striking out the *Third* House proposal of amendment in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new *Third* proposal of amendment to read as follows:

Third: In Sec. 56, by striking out subsection (e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The following General Fund amount shall be reserved for appropriation or transfer in the fiscal year 2020 budget: \$9,700,000.

Third: By striking out the *Sixth* House proposal of amendment in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new *Sixth* proposal of amendment to read as follows:

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 88 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 88 to read as follows:

Sec. 88. FISCAL YEAR 2019 ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS AND
TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND

(a) The following appropriations are made from the General Fund in fiscal year 2019:

(1) To the Agency of Digital Services: \$1,800,000 to be apportioned as follows:

(A) \$1,300,000 for firewalls;

(B) \$500,000 to invest in hardware for the data storage of State devices.

(2) To the Department of Health: \$2,400,000 to fund the testing for lead content in schools' and licensed child care centers' drinking water consistent with the program established in S.40 of 2019. These funds are allocated as follows:

(A) \$125,000 to fund the limited service program position established in S.40 of 2019.

(B) \$150,000 to fund program start-up and data management costs for the program.

(C) \$1,265,000 to fund the initial testing and retesting costs.

(D) \$860,000 to fund the estimated 50 percent State share of tap remediation costs. This State share funding commitment is limited to remediation of tap fixtures only. The funding will provide 50 percent of up to \$300 for each tap fixture replacement excluding labor at schools, and 50 percent of up to \$600 for each tap fixture replacement including labor at licensed childcare providers.

(3) To the Department of Environmental Conservation: \$125,000 to fund the limited service remediation position established in S.40 of 2019.

(4) To the Attorney General: \$22,662 for the increased diversion and pre-trial services caseload increases in fiscal year 2019.

(5) To Department of Public Safety: \$196,812 for the cost of replacement holsters, sidearm lighting, communications equipment, and less lethal weapons.

(6) To the Joint Fiscal Office: \$275,000 to be allocated as follows for studies that will be comprehensively defined in the fiscal year 2020 budget process:

(A) \$250,000 to be reserved to fund contracted services for research and findings to identify and examine the factors contributing to Vermont's high rate of children entering the custody of the State. Such research shall study the preventive and upstream services and interventions provided to families and the extent to which these supports to families have demonstrated effectiveness in allowing children to remain with their families. Policy recommendations resulting from this research is intended to inform funding decisions regarding these services to ensure the safety of Vermont's vulnerable children and to enhance the long-term stability and well-being of these families.

(B) \$25,000 to be reserved to fund contracted services for research and findings related to the detention population of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and policy recommendations to reduce this population and/or reduce the need for DOC in-state bed capacity for this population. The report shall be submitted to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2019.

(b) The following transfers are made from the General Fund in fiscal year 2019:

(1) State Treasurer: \$22,200,000 from the General Fund to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits Fund to repay-in-full in fiscal year 2019 the interfund loan obligation authorized by 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(e). This transfer shall be recognized as an additional contribution to the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Fund in fiscal year 2019.

(2) State Treasurer: \$3,293,817 from the General Fund to the Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund, established pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944. This amount reflects an additional contribution above the actuarially determined employer contribution and the VSTRS Board of Trustees' request for fiscal year 2020. This amount shall be transferred in fiscal year 2019.

Which was agreed to.

Third Reading Ordered

S. 42.

Senator Westman, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to requiring at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board to be a health care professional.

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.

Bills Passed

Senate bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed:

S. 37. An act relating to medical monitoring damages.

S. 41. An act relating to regulating entities that administer health reimbursement arrangements.

S. 65. An act relating to banning baby bumper pads.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed

S. 133.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to juvenile jurisdiction.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Ingram moved to amend the bill in Sec. 9, 3 V.S.A. § 164, in subdivision (e)(1)(B)(i)(I), by striking out the word “abuse” and inserting in lieu thereof the word use

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Baruth moved to amend the bill in Sec. 9, 3 V.S.A. § 164, in subdivision (e)(1)(B), by striking out subdivision (iv) in its entirety.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Third Reading Ordered

S. 118.

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

An act relating to the time frame for the adoption of administrative rules.

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.

Message from the House No. 25

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 passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 26. An act relating to restricting retail and Internet sales of electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine, and tobacco paraphernalia in Vermont.

H. 511. An act relating to criminal statutes of limitations.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to the following House bill:

H. 3. An act relating to ethnic and social equity studies standards for public schools.

And has severally concurred therein.

Adjournment

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