

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

Pursuant to the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President, the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.H. 6.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read and adopted in concurrence and is as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives

That when the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives adjourn their respective houses on the twenty fourth day of May, 2019 they shall do so to reconvene on the seventh day of January, 2020, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Secretary Directed to Inform the House of Completion of Business

On motion of Senator Mazza, the Secretary was directed to inform the House that the Senate has completed the business of the session and is ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 6.

Committee Appointed to Inform Governor of Completion of Business

On motion of Senator Mazza, the President appointed the following three Senators as members of a committee to wait upon His Excellency, Philip B. Scott, the Governor, and inform him that the Senate has completed the business of the session and is ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 6:

Senator Balint
Senator Benning
Senator Pearson

Report of Committee

The Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, to inform him that the Senate had, on its part, completed the business of the session and was ready to adjourn pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 6, performed the duties assigned to it and escorted the Governor to the rostrum where he delivered his remarks in person.

Remarks of Governor

The Governor, the Honorable Philip B. Scott, assumed the rostrum and briefly addressed the Senate.

Departure of Governor

The Governor, having completed the delivery of his message, was escorted from the Chamber by the committee appointed by the Chair.

Final Adjournment

On motion of Senator Mazza, at four o'clock and twenty-seven minutes in the evening (4:27 P.M.), the Senate adjourned to January 7, 2020, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 6.

Messages Received After Final Adjournment

After final adjournment, the following messages were received by the Secretary:

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the thirtieth day of May, 2019 he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 43. An act relating to limiting prior authorization requirements for medication-assisted treatment.

S. 58. An act relating to the State hemp program.

S. 133. An act relating to juvenile jurisdiction.

Message from the House No. 90

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

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on May 28, 2019, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 79. An act relating to eligibility for farm-to-school grant assistance.

H. 205. An act relating to the regulation of neonicotinoid pesticides.

H. 287. An act relating to small probate estates.

H. 330. An act relating to repealing the statute of limitations for civil actions based on childhood sexual abuse.

H. 526. An act relating to town clerk recording fees and town restoration and preservation reserve funds.

The Governor has informed the House that on May 30, 2019, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

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

H. 512. An act relating to miscellaneous court and Judiciary related amendments.

H. 518. An act relating to fair and impartial policing.

H. 543. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

H. 547. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier.

Message from the House No. 91

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

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 4, 2019, he approved and signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 536. An act relating to education finance.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the tenth day of June, 2019 he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 7. An act relating to social service integration with Vermont's health care system.

S. 31. An act relating to informed health care financial decision making and the consent policy for the Vermont Health Information Exchange.

S. 41. An act relating to regulating entities that administer tax-advantaged accounts for health-related expenses.

S. 73. An act relating to licensure of ambulatory surgical centers.

S. 112. An act relating to earned good time.

S. 131. An act relating to insurance and securities.

S. 134. An act relating to background investigations for State employees with access to federal tax information.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the tenth day of June, 2019 he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 169. An act relating to firearms procedures.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication to the Senate from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 169** to the Senate is as follows:

“June 10, 2019

The Honorable John Bloomer, Jr.
Secretary of the Senate
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5401

Dear Secretary Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.169, *An act relating firearms procedures* without my signature in the time permitted by the Constitution because of my objections described herein.

Last year, I called for and signed a package of historic gun safety reforms because I believe they make schools, communities, families and individuals safer, while upholding Vermonters' constitutional rights.

Over the last year, among other gun safety measures, we have established:

- Mandatory background check requirements;
- Extreme risk protection orders, giving families tools to remove guns from those who may harm themselves or others;
- The ability of law enforcement to remove firearms from those accused of domestic violence; and
- Requirements increasing the age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21.

With these measures in place, we must now prioritize strategies that address the underlying causes of violence and suicide. I do not believe S.169 addresses these areas.

Moving forward, I ask the Legislature to work with me to strengthen our mental health system, reduce adverse childhood experiences, combat addiction, and provide every Vermonter with hope and economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor"