

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Donavee Copenhaver of Richford.

Message from the House No. 9

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

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill of the following title:

S. 23. An act relating to increasing the minimum wage.

And has adopted the same on its part.

Rules Suspended; Bill Not Referred to Committee Finance

H. 760

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, and, pending referral of the bill to the Committee on Finance pursuant to Senate Rule 31, Senator Ashe moved that the rules be suspended and the House bill entitled:

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 budget adjustments.

Not be referred to the Committee on Finance pursuant to Senate Rule 31 (and thereby remain on the Calendar for notice),

Which was agreed to.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 335.

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 universal access to afterschool programs.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 255.**

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

An act relating to captive insurance.

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

* * * Agency Captives * * *

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 6002 is amended to read:

§ 6002. LICENSING; AUTHORITY

(a) Any captive insurance company, when permitted by its articles of association, charter, or other organizational document, may apply to the Commissioner for a license to do any and all insurance comprised in subdivisions 3301(a)(1), (2), (3)(A)–(C), (E)–(Q), and (4)–(9) of this title and may grant annuity contracts as defined in section 3717 of this title; provided, however, that:

(1) No pure captive insurance company may insure any risks other than those of its parent and affiliated companies or controlled unaffiliated business.

(2) No agency captive insurance company may do any insurance business in this State unless:

(A) an insurance agency or brokerage that owns or controls the agency captive insurance company remains in regulatory good standing in all states in which it is licensed;

(B) it insures only the risks of the commercial policies that are placed by or through an insurance agency or brokerage that owns or directly or indirectly controls the agency captive insurance company and, if required by the Commissioner in his or her discretion, it provides the Commissioner the form of such commercial policies;

(C) it discloses to the original policyholder or policyholders, in a form or manner approved by the Commissioner, ~~any limitations, rights, and obligations held by~~ that the agency captive insurance company as a result of its affiliation with an insurance agency or brokerage may enter into a reinsurance or other risk-sharing agreement with the agency or brokerage; and

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* * * Dormant Captives * * *

Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. § 6024 is amended to read:

§ 6024. DORMANT CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

(a) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise, “dormant captive insurance company” means a captive insurance company that has:

(1) ceased transacting the business of insurance, including the issuance of insurance policies; and

(2) no remaining liabilities associated with insurance business transactions or insurance policies issued prior to the filing of its application for a certificate of dormancy under this section.

(b) A captive insurance company domiciled in Vermont that meets the criteria of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the Commissioner for a certificate of dormancy. The certificate of dormancy shall be subject to renewal every five years and shall be forfeited if not renewed within such time.

(c) A dormant captive insurance company that has been issued a certificate of dormancy shall:

(1) possess and thereafter maintain unimpaired, paid-in capital and surplus of not less than \$25,000.00; provided, however, that if the dormant captive insurance company had never capitalized, it shall not be required to add capital upon entering dormancy;

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* * * Sponsored Captives; Capitalization * * *

Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 6004 is amended to read:

§ 6004. MINIMUM CAPITAL AND SURPLUS; LETTER OF CREDIT

(a) No captive insurance company shall be issued a license unless it shall possess and thereafter maintain unimpaired paid-in capital and surplus of:

* * *

(6) in the case of a sponsored captive insurance company, not less than ~~\$250,000.00~~ \$100,000.00.

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* * * Protected Cells; Unaffiliated Businesses * * *

Sec. 4. 8 V.S.A. § 6034 is amended to read:

§ 6034. PROTECTED CELLS

A sponsored captive insurance company formed or licensed under the provisions of this chapter may establish and maintain one or more protected cells to insure risks of one or more participants or, subject to Commissioner approval, other parties unaffiliated with a participant, subject to the following conditions:

* * *

* * * Protected Cells; Separate Accounts * * *

Sec. 5. REDESIGNATION

8 V.S.A. § 6034b, § 6034c, and § 6034d are redesignated as § 6034c, § 6034d, and § 6034e.

Sec. 6. 8 V.S.A. § 6034b is added to read:

§ 6034b. SEPARATE ACCOUNTS OF PROTECTED CELLS

With the Commissioner's prior written approval, a protected cell of a sponsored captive insurance company may establish one or more separate accounts and may allocate to them amounts to provide for the insurance of risks of one or more participants, or controlled unaffiliated business of such participant or participants, subject to the following:

(1) The income, gains, and losses, realized or unrealized, from assets allocated to a separate account shall be credited to or charged against the account, without regard to other income, gains, or losses of the protected cell.

(2) Amounts allocated to a separate account in the exercise of the power granted by this subsection are owned by the protected cell, and the protected cell may not be nor hold itself out to be a trustee with respect to such amounts.

(3) Unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner, assets allocated to a protected cell shall be valued in accordance with the rules otherwise applicable to the protected cell's assets.

(4) If and to the extent so provided under the applicable contracts, that portion of the assets of any such protected cell equal to the reserves and other contract liabilities with respect to such account shall not be chargeable with liabilities arising out of any other business the protected cell may conduct.

(5) No sale, exchange, or other transfer of assets may be made by such protected cell between any of its separate accounts or between any other investment account and one or more of its separate accounts unless, in the case

of a transfer into a separate account, such transfer is made solely to establish the account or to support the operation of the contracts with respect to the separate account to which the transfer is made, and unless such transfer, whether into or from a separate account, is made by a transfer of cash or by a transfer of securities having a readily determinable market value, provided that such transfer of securities is approved by the Commissioner. The Commissioner may approve other transfers among such accounts if, in his or her opinion, such transfers would be equitable.

(6) To the extent such protected cell deems it necessary to comply with any applicable federal or State laws, such protected cell, with respect to any separate account, including any separate account that is a management investment company or a unit investment trust, may provide for persons having an interest therein appropriate voting and other rights and special procedures for the conduct of the business of such account, including special rights and procedures relating to investment policy, investment advisory services, selection of independent public accountants, and the selection of a committee, the members of which need not be otherwise affiliated with such protected cell, to manage the business of such account.

Sec. 7. 8 V.S.A. § 6010 is amended to read:

§ 6010. LEGAL INVESTMENTS

(a)(1) Except as may be otherwise authorized by the Commissioner, agency captive insurance companies, association captive insurance companies, sponsored captive insurance companies, protected cells in sponsored captive insurance companies, and risk retention groups shall:

(A) comply with the investment requirements contained in sections 3461 through 3472 of this title, as applicable; or

(B) submit for approval by the Commissioner the investment policy of the company. In reviewing the investment policy, the Commissioner shall consider diversification as to both type and issue; limits on the aggregate investment that may be made in any category of investment; limits on the aggregate investment in any one business, issuer, or risk; liquidity; and matching of assets and liabilities. The Commissioner shall determine whether the investment policy provides for the reasonable preservation, administration, and management of assets with respect to the risks associated with the company's transactions and whether the investment policy supports the approved business plan. Subdivision 6002(c)(3) of this title shall apply to all information submitted pursuant to this subsection.

(2) The Commissioner may require any company subject to this subsection to limit or withdraw from certain investments or discontinue certain

investment practices if the Commissioner determines that such investments or practices of the company might be hazardous to the policyholders or the general public.

Sec. 8. 8 V.S.A. § 6037 is amended to read:

§ 6037. INVESTMENTS BY SPONSORED CAPTIVE INSURANCE
COMPANIES AND PROTECTED CELLS

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6034 of this title, the assets of two or more protected cells may be combined for purposes of investment, and such combination shall not be construed as defeating the segregation of such assets for accounting or other purposes. Sponsored captive insurance companies and protected cells shall comply with the investment requirements contained in ~~sections 3461 through 3472~~ section 6010 of this title, as applicable; ~~provided, however, that compliance with such investment requirements shall be waived for sponsored captive insurance companies to the extent that credit for reinsurance ceded to reinsurers is allowed pursuant to section 6011 of this title or to the extent otherwise deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Commissioner. Section 3463a of this title shall apply to sponsored captive insurance companies except to the extent it is inconsistent with approved accounting standards in use by the company. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Commissioner may approve the use of alternative reliable methods of valuation and rating.~~

* * * Conforming Cross-references * * *

Sec. 9. 8 V.S.A. § 6018 is amended to read:

§ 6018. DELINQUENCY

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the terms and conditions set forth in chapter 145 of this title shall apply in full to captive insurance companies formed or licensed under this chapter; however, the assets of a separate account established under subsection 6006~~(p)~~(q) of this chapter shall not be used to pay any expenses or claims other than those attributable to such separate account.

Sec. 10. 8 V.S.A. § 6034a is amended to read:

§ 6034a. INCORPORATED PROTECTED CELLS

(a) A protected cell of a sponsored captive insurance company may be formed as an incorporated protected cell, as defined in subdivision 6032~~(1)~~(2) of this title.

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* * * Risk Retention Groups; Examinations; Conduct; Reports; NAIC
Accreditation Standards * * *

Sec. 11. 8 V.S.A. § 6052(d) is amended to read:

(d) The provisions of subsection 6008(c) and sections 3573 and 3574 of this title shall apply to risk retention groups chartered in this State, except that such provisions shall not apply to final examination reports relating to risk retention groups and except that the Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's discretion, grant access to any other examination information covered by subsection 6008(c) of this title to representatives of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to inspect (but not copy) such information in connection with accreditation examinations, so long as the National Association of Insurance Commissioners agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

* * * Effective Date * * *

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.

Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 35.

Joint Senate resolution entitled:

Joint resolution condemning the continuing occurrence of street harassment in Vermont.

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 Thursday, January 30, 2020.