

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Peter Plagge of Waterbury.

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

Kimel, David of St. Albans - Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank - from January 31, 2020 to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Winters, Deborah of Swanton - Director of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank - from January 31, 2020 to January 31, 2022.

To the Committee on Finance.

The nomination of

Shouldice, Heather of Montpelier - Member of the Capitol Complex Commission - from January 1, 2020 to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Institutions.

The nomination of

Hayward, Susan of Middlesex - Member of the Capitol Complex Commission - from January 1, 2020 to February 28, 2023.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Bill Passed**S. 255.**

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

An act relating to captive insurance.

Proposals of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 760.**

Senator Kitchel, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 budget adjustments.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Secs. 12, 14, and 34 in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 12, 14, and 34 to read as follows:

Sec. 12. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.301 is amended to read:

Sec. B.301 Secretary's office - global commitment

Operating expenses	3,150,212	3,150,212
Grants	<u>1,631,994,544</u>	<u>1,630,119,013</u>
Total	<u>1,635,144,756</u>	<u>1,633,269,225</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	562,258,602	557,208,815
Special funds	34,969,169	34,969,169
Tobacco fund	21,049,373	21,049,373
State health care resources fund	16,915,501	21,101,110
Federal funds	984,584,332	983,572,979
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>15,367,779</u>	<u>15,367,779</u>
Total	<u>1,635,144,756</u>	<u>1,633,269,225</u>

Sec. 14. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.306 is amended to read:

Sec. B.306 Department of Vermont health access - administration

Personal services	134,603,806	140,308,825
Operating expenses	29,905,859	29,905,859
Grants	<u>7,314,723</u>	<u>6,764,723</u>
Total	<u>171,824,388</u>	<u>176,979,407</u>
Source of funds		
General fund	29,222,317	32,242,529
Special funds	6,096,108	6,096,108
Federal funds	124,749,165	124,749,165

Global Commitment fund	4,214,196	9,369,215
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>7,542,602</u>	<u>4,522,390</u>
Total	171,824,388	176,979,407

Sec. 34. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. B.346 is amended to read:

Sec. B.346 Total human services

Source of funds

General fund	997,706,686	1,007,088,907
Special funds	123,880,549	123,986,513
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	16,915,501	21,101,110
Federal funds	1,420,544,308	1,422,626,911
Global Commitment fund	1,590,055,367	1,374,334,713
Internal service funds	2,035,610	2,035,610
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>39,446,402</u>	<u>36,346,190</u>
Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	4,213,697,631	4,010,633,162

Second: In Sec. 45, by striking out subdivision (c)(1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (c)(1) to read as follows:

(1) The following amounts shall revert to the General Funds Fund from the accounts indicated:

<u>1130030000</u>	<u>Department of Libraries</u>	<u>106,000.00</u>
<u>1210001000</u>	<u>Legislative Council</u>	<u>75,000.00</u>
<u>1210002000</u>	<u>Legislature</u>	<u>175,000.00</u>
<u>1210891801</u>	<u>Working Group Expenses</u>	<u>7,704.00</u>
<u>1220000000</u>	<u>Joint Fiscal Office</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>
<u>1240001000</u>	<u>Lieutenant Governor</u>	<u>1,555.54</u>
<u>2130100000</u>	<u>State's Attorneys</u>	<u>116,991.45</u>
<u>2130200000</u>	<u>Sheriffs</u>	<u>354,968.67</u>
<u>2130400000</u>	<u>Special investigative unit</u>	<u>2,603.49</u>
<u>2170010000</u>	<u>Criminal Justice Training Council</u>	<u>6,772.00</u>
<u>3300010000</u>	<u>Vermont Veterans' Home</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>
<u>3310000000</u>	<u>Commission on Women</u>	<u>1,732.18</u>
<u>3330010000</u>	<u>Green Mountain Care Board</u>	<u>80,674.56</u>
<u>1260891402</u>	<u>Public Retirement Plan Study</u>	<u>1,159.71</u>
<u>2240891101</u>	<u>Case Mgmt Syst-docket files</u>	<u>3,777.50</u>
<u>5100891904</u>	<u>Staff to Student Task Force</u>	<u>7,320.00</u>

And by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) The following General Fund amount shall be reserved in fiscal year 2020 for fiscal year 2021 budget expenditures: \$18,365,715. These funds shall be unreserved in fiscal year 2021.

Third: In Sec. 49 by inserting a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) In fiscal year 2020, the sum of \$25,000 is appropriated to the Secretary of Administration to support initial planning and expenses of the Vermont 250th Commission to be formed to coordinate commemorative celebrations statewide for the 250th anniversary of various historic events and battles leading to our declaration as an independent State (this period is currently referred to as the Vermont Republic).

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 52 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 52 to read as follows:

Sec. 52. 16 V.S.A. § 2857 amended to read:

§ 2857. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM

(a) Program creation. The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program (Program) is created, under which a member of the Vermont National Guard (member) who meets the eligibility requirements in subsection (c) of this section is entitled to the following tuition benefit for up to full-time attendance:

(1) For courses at either campus of the Northern Vermont University (NVU), the Vermont Technical College (VTC), the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM), or at the Community College of Vermont (CCV), the benefit shall be the in-state residence tuition rate for the relevant institution.

(2) For courses at a Vermont State College, other than NVU, VTC, or CCV, or at any eligible Vermont private postsecondary institution, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by NVU.

(3) For courses at an eligible training institution offering nondegree, certificate training, or continuing education programs, the benefit shall be the lower of the institution's standard tuition or the in-state tuition rate charged by NVU.

* * *

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 54 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 54 to read as follows:

Sec. 54. CALENDAR YEAR 2020 DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM
INVESTMENT COORDINATION

(a) In order to ensure coordination of funding and the strategic alignment of resources for delivery system-reform (DSR) related investments in calendar year 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall ensure that DSR projects recommended for funding are consistent with the criteria defined in Attachment I (Menu of Approvable Delivery System Investments) of the Global Commitment for Health Section 1115 Demonstration. At a minimum, the Agency shall apply the metrics for evaluation as prescribed in Attachments I and J (Investment Application Template) of the Global Commitment for Health Section 1115 Demonstration and may also consider additional metrics that align with the Vermont All-Payer Accountable Care Organization Model Agreement's three population health and health outcomes targets. In addition, the Agency shall require the Accountable Care Organization and DSR investment recipients to evaluate each project to determine whether it should be scaled or sunset, based on its performance against established metrics. All DSR investment projects to support implementation of Vermont's All-Payer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model shall be designed and prioritized in partnership with the Agency and with the relevant departments within the Agency and funding shall be dependent on the approval of the Agency and relevant departments.

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 70 in its entirety and inserting two new sections to be numbered Secs. 70 and 71 to read as follows:

Sec. 70. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 5, is amended to read:

Sec. 5. CREATION OF NEW CORRECTIONAL OFFICER POSITIONS

~~On or before June 30, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall create 30 new Correctional Officer I positions in the Department of Corrections, which shall be funded within existing departmental appropriations.~~

(a) The establishment of the following permanent classified positions is authorized in fiscal year 2020:

(1) In the Department of Corrections – fifteen (15) Correctional Officer I.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, through December 31, 2021, no vacant Correctional Officer I positions shall be reassigned to the Department of Human Resources State position pool.

(c) The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Corrections shall report to the Legislative Joint Justice Oversight and Joint Fiscal Committees at their respective meetings in November 2020 on the status of

correctional facility staff recruitment, retention and reduction in the use of overtime, and the status of initial and ongoing training for correctional facility staff.

Sec. 71. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This act shall take effect on passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 52 (National Guard tuition benefit program) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2019.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

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

Report of Committee of Conference Accepted and Adopted on the Part of the Senate

S. 23.

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee of Conference, submitted the following report:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 384(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) An employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.15. Beginning on January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.60. Beginning on January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.00. Beginning on January 1, 2018, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.50, and beginning \$10.96. Beginning on January 1, 2019 January 1, 2021, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$11.75. Beginning on January 1, 2022, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$12.55, and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the percentage

increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest \$0.01.

(2) An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than one-half the minimum wage. As used in this subsection, "a service or tipped employee" means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than \$120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service.

(3) If the minimum wage rate established by the U.S. government is greater than the rate established for Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the U.S. government.

Sec. 2. TIPPED AND STUDENT MINIMUM WAGE STUDY; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2021, the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the potential effects of altering or eliminating the basic wage rate for tipped employees in Vermont and of eliminating the subminimum wage for secondary school students during the school year. In particular, the report shall:

(1) for states that have eliminated their tipped minimum wage, examine available research and information regarding the impact on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the state economy; and

(B) the welfare of tipped workers, women, and working families with children;

(2) for states that have increased their tipped wage during the last 10 years, examine available research and information regarding the impact on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the state economy; and

(B) the welfare of tipped workers, women, and working families with children;

(3) for states that have decoupled their tipped wage from the standard minimum wage during the last 10 years, examine available research and information regarding the impact on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the state economy; and

(B) the welfare of tipped workers, women, and working families with children;

(4) examine any available research and information regarding the projected impact in Vermont of altering or eliminating the basic wage rate for tipped employees on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the State economy; and

(B) the welfare of tipped workers, women, and working families with children;

(5) for states that have eliminated a subminimum wage for secondary school students, examine available research and information regarding the impact on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the state economy; and

(B) the welfare of individuals under 22 years of age; and

(6) for Vermont, examine available research and information regarding the projected impact in Vermont of eliminating the subminimum wage for secondary school students on:

(A) jobs, prices, and the State economy; and

(B) the welfare of individuals under 22 years of age.

Sec. 3. WAGE AND HOUR LAWS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2021, the Office of Legislative Council shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the wage and hour laws for agricultural workers. In particular, the report shall:

(1) examine the overlapping legal requirements of Vermont's wage and hour laws, the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, and other federal employment laws with respect to agricultural employees and employers; and

(2) summarize how other states' wage and hour laws address agricultural employees and employers.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

*MICHAEL D. SIROTKIN
ALISON CLARKSON
REBECCA A. BALINT*

Committee on the part of the Senate

THOMAS S. STEVENS
JOHN R KILLACKY
MARY S. HOOPER

Committee on the part of the House

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate accept and adopt the report of the Committee of Conference?, was decided in the affirmative on a roll call, Yeas 23, Nays 6.

Senator Sirotkin 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, Bray, Campion, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benning, Brock, Collamore, Mazza, McNeil, Parent.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Rodgers.

Adjournment

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