

# Journal of the Senate

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

## Message from the House No. 10

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 House has passed a House bill of the following title:

**H. 606.** An act relating to regulating storage units.

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

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

**J.R.S. 36.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

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

**H. 143.** An act relating to appointing town agents.

And has severally concurred therein.

## Message from the House No. 11

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 adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

**H.C.R. 227.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers girls' track and field team on winning a fourth consecutive Division I championship.

**H.C.R. 228.** House concurrent resolution honoring the Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow for her inspiring academic, community, and religious leadership in Windham County.

**H.C.R. 229.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the Williston Federated Church on its 150th anniversary.

**H.C.R. 230.** House concurrent resolution honoring Zoe Hardy for her outstanding leadership at Age Well Vermont.

**H.C.R. 231.** House concurrent resolution in memory of Bonnie L. Burke of Dorset.

**H.C.R. 232.** House concurrent resolution honoring Nancy Heydinger for her visionary leadership of Girls on the Run.

**H.C.R. 233.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics on its 25th anniversary.

**H.C.R. 234.** House concurrent resolution honoring Herb Meyer for his community leadership in the towns of Guilford and Vernon.

**H.C.R. 235.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 Black River High School Presidents Division IV championship baseball team.

**H.C.R. 236.** House concurrent resolution in memory of Preservation Trust of Vermont Executive Director Paul Alan Bruhn.

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

### **Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**

#### **H. 550.**

House 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 unclaimed property.

### **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 the next legislative day:

**S. 336.**

By the Committee on Agriculture,

An act relating to establishing standards for the sale of hemp seed.

**Bill Referred**

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

**H. 606.**

An act relating to regulating storage units.

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

**Proposal of Amendment; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposals of Amendment****H. 760.**

House bill entitled:

An act relating to fiscal year 2020 budget adjustments.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Sears, Kitchel, Nitka, Starr, McCormack, Westman and Ashe moved to amend the Senate proposal of amendment by adding Sec. 70a, to read as follows:

Sec. 70a. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; GRADUATED  
SANCTIONS; REENTRY HOUSING; REPORT

(a) The Department of Corrections shall review and strengthen existing graduated sanctions and incentives policies to ensure they reflect current research on best practices for responses to violation behavior that most effectively achieve behavior change and uphold public safety. The Department shall also identify reentry housing needs for corrections populations. As a part of this work, the Department shall:

(1) formalize the use of incentives and sanctions in supervision practices at a 4:1 ratio and require incentives to be entered and tracked in the community supervision case management system;

(2) analyze how supervision staff currently understand, implement, and input data regarding the Department's graduated sanctions policy to identify where practices differ across the State and, where necessary, provide additional staff training on the use and tracking of graduated sanctions;

(3) develop and implement a homeless screening tool for use when a person is booked into or released from Department facilities and track reports of homelessness among corrections populations in the Department's case management system;

(4) identify and quantify high utilizers of corrections, homeless, and behavioral health services; inform statewide permanent supportive housing planning; and establish data match partnerships with appropriate Agency of Human Services departments to match Department of Corrections, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Medicaid information;

(5) explore establishing a collaborative approach for the Department, the Department of Mental Health, and the Vermont Department of Health to contract with housing providers to coordinate responses for shared clients and identify how the State can better leverage local and federal housing vouchers;

(6) explore how the Department's contractors could leverage federal Medicaid funding or other funding to allow the Department's contractors' clients to stay in supportive housing after they are no longer under the supervision of the Department;

(7) reduce barriers to recovery housing by establishing evidence-based norms and expectations for contracts and certifications for sober and recovery housing providers, including allowing for the use of medications and restricting evictions due to relapse; and

(8) explore opportunities to redefine housing requirements for incarcerated persons in order to receive approval for furlough release.

(b) On or before April 1, 2020, the Department shall report to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on:

(1) the Department's plan to reduce its use of short-term incarceration sanctions for people on furlough, the number of short-term incarceration sanctions imposed, and the number of graduated sanctions imposed;

(2) recommendations for funding in the fiscal year 2021 budget; and

(3) the Department's progress toward completing the remaining work required by this section.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposals of amendment.

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**Third Reading Ordered****S. 326.**

Senate committee bill entitled:

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

Having appeared on the Calendar for notice for one day, was taken up.

Senator McCormack, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred 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.

**Rules Suspended; Bill Committed**

Senator Starr moved that the rules be suspended and that Senate committee bill entitled:

**S. 336.** An act relating to establishing standards for the sale of hemp seed.

be committed to the Committee on Agriculture,

Which was agreed to.

**House Concurrent Resolutions**

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Beck and others,

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

**H.C.R. 227.**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers girls' track and field team on winning a fourth consecutive Division I championship.

By Reps. Coffey and others,

**H.C.R. 228.**

House concurrent resolution honoring the Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow for her inspiring academic, community, and religious leadership in Windham County.

By Reps. Macaig and McCullough,

By Senators Ingram and Lyons,

**H.C.R. 229.**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Williston Federated Church on its 150th anniversary.

By Reps. Myers and others,

**H.C.R. 230.**

House concurrent resolution honoring Zoe Hardy for her outstanding leadership at Age Well Vermont.

By Rep. Sullivan,

By Senators Campion and Sears,

**H.C.R. 231.**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Bonnie L. Burke of Dorset.

By Rep. Coffey,

**H.C.R. 232.**

House concurrent resolution honoring Nancy Heydinger for her visionary leadership of Girls on the Run.

By Rep. Scheu,

**H.C.R. 233.**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont's Free & Referral Clinics on its 25th anniversary.

By Rep. Coffey,

**H.C.R. 234.**

House concurrent resolution honoring Herb Meyer for his community leadership in the towns of Guilford and Vernon.

By Rep. Nicoll,

By Senators Nitka, Clarkson and McCormack,

**H.C.R. 235.**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2019 Black River High School Presidents Division IV championship baseball team.

By All Members of the House,

By All Members of the Senate,

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**H.C.R. 236.**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Preservation Trust of Vermont Executive Director Paul Alan Bruhn.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Mazza, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 36.