

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Roll Call

The roll of the Senate was thereupon called by the Secretary, John H. Bloomer, Jr., and it appeared that the following Senators were present.

Addison District	Senator Christopher A. Bray Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy
Bennington District	Senator Brian A. Campion Senator Richard W. Sears, Jr.
Caledonia District	Senator Joseph C. Benning Senator M. Jane Kitchel
Chittenden District	Senator Timothy R. Ashe Senator Philip E. Baruth Senator Deborah J. Ingram Senator Virginia V. Lyons Senator Christopher A. Pearson Senator Michael D. Sirotkin
Essex-Orleans District	Senator Robert A. Starr
Franklin District	Senator Randolph D. Brock Senator Corey. J. Parent
Grand Isle District	Senator Richard T. Mazza
Lamoille District	Senator Richard A. Westman
Orange District	Senator Mark A. MacDonald
Rutland District	Senator Brian P. Collamore Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker Senator James L. McNeil

Washington District	Senator Ann E. Cummings Senator Andrew J. Perchlik Senator Anthony Pollina
Windham District	Senator Rebecca A. Balint Senator Jeanette K. White
Windsor District	Senator Alison Clarkson Senator Richard J. McCormack Senator Alice W. Nitka

**Rules Suspended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed;
Bill Messaged**

S. 351.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to providing financial relief assistance to the agricultural community due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

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

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its passage.

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

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 558.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

An act relating to exempting the Victims Compensation Board from the Open Meeting Law.

Bill Passed in Concurrence

H. 608.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

An act relating to incompatible local offices.

Third Reading Ordered**H. 958.**

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

An act relating to communications union districts.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

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

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 59.**

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the creation of the Sports Betting Study Committee.

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

Sec. 1. SPORTS BETTING; FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) An estimated 28 percent of adults in the United States bet on sports.

(2) Based on current participation rates and expected growth, studies have estimated that Vermont could generate from \$1.1 million to \$4.2 million in gaming revenue taxes.

(3) As of March 2020, 15 states have active legal sports betting operations while an additional five states and Washington, D.C. have enacted laws or adopted ballot measures to permit legal sports betting.

(4) Legislation has also been introduced in at least 26 states, including Vermont, to legalize, regulate, and tax sports betting.

(5) Given the widespread participation in sports betting, the General Assembly finds that careful examination of whether and how best to regulate sports betting in Vermont and protect Vermonters involved in sports betting is necessary.

Sec. 2. SPORTS BETTING; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Sports Betting Study Committee to examine whether and how to regulate sports betting in Vermont.

(b) Membership. The Study Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) the Attorney General or designee;
- (2) the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery or designee;
- (3) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee;
- (4) the Secretary of State or designee;
- (5) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;
- (6) two current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and
- (7) two current members of the House, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) Powers and duties. The Study Committee shall study various models for legalizing, taxing, and regulating sports betting, including the following issues:

- (1) studies carried out by other states concerning the legalization, taxation, and regulation of sports betting;
- (2) laws enacted by other states to legalize, tax, and regulate sports betting;
- (3) potential models for legalizing and regulating sports betting in Vermont, including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;
- (4) potential models for legalizing and regulating online sports betting, including any advantages or drawbacks to each model;
- (5) potential tax and fee structures for sports betting activities; and
- (6) potential restrictions or limitations on the types of sports that may be bet on.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2020, the Study Committee 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 with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Attorney General or designee shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2020.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 30, 2020.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee serving in their capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than four meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Senator Sears, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass when so amended.

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.

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged

On motion of Senator Ashe, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

H. 558, H. 608.

Senate 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 on the part of the Senate:

By Senators Parent and Brock,

By Reps. McCarthy and Toof,

S.C.R. 20.

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Destiny Thompson on winning first place for Region 1 in Hildene's 2020 Eighth Grade Lincoln Essay Competition.

By Senators Campion and Sears,

By Reps. Bates and others,

S.C.R. 21.

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Bennington native Alyssa Clark on her remarkable running achievement.

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. Hango and others,

By Senators Brock and Parent,

H.C.R. 297.

House concurrent resolution congratulating O.C. McCuin & Sons of Highgate on its centennial.

By Reps. Potter and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and McNeil,

H.C.R. 298.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Mill River Union High School Minutemen Division II championship cheerleading team.

By Reps. Fagan and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and McNeil,

H.C.R. 299.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rutland High School Raiders cheerleading program on winning its sixth consecutive Division I championship.

By Reps. Burke and others,

By Senators Balint and White,

H.C.R. 300.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Brattleboro Union High School Colonels Division I championship boys' Nordic skiing team.

By Reps. Rogers and others,

By Senators Westman and Benning,

H.C.R. 301.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Bernard Juskiewicz of Cambridge.

By Reps. Macaig and McCullough,

By Senators Ingram and Lyons,

H.C.R. 302.

House concurrent resolution honoring former Williston Town Manager Richard McGuire.

By Rep. Long,

H.C.R. 303.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Richard Veitch of Townshend on his designation as the fourth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate.

By Reps. Grad and others,

By Senators Cummings, Pearson and Pollina,

H.C.R. 304.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Harwood Union High School Highlanders Division II championship boys' ice hockey team.

By Rep. Ancel,

H.C.R. 305.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert Irving Barasch of Plainfield.

By Reps. Canfield and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and McNeil,

H.C.R. 306.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team.

By Reps. Canfield and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and McNeil,

H.C.R. 307.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' basketball team.

By Reps. Myers and others,

H.C.R. 308.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Essex High School Hornets girls' ice hockey program on winning a second consecutive Division I championship.

By Reps. Morrissey and others,

By Senators Campion and Sears,

H.C.R. 309.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Pownal Town Moderator and State Representative Charles B. Palmer of Pownal.

By Reps. Morrissey and others,

By Senators Campion and Sears,

H.C.R. 310.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School Patriots on winning a 32nd consecutive State wrestling championship.

By Reps. Christie and others,

By Senators Clarkson, McCormack and Nitka,

H.C.R. 311.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship girls' indoor track and field team.

By Rep. Potter,

H.C.R. 312.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rutland County Agricultural Society on the 175th anniversary of the Vermont State Fair.

By Reps. Marcotte and Page,

By Senators Rodgers and Starr,

H.C.R. 313.

House concurrent resolution honoring Steven Edgerley for his outstanding community leadership in Orleans County.

By Reps. Strong and others,

By Senators Rodgers and Starr,

H.C.R. 314.

House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, September 23, 2020 as Alexander Twilight Day in Vermont.

By Reps. Austin and others,

By Senator Mazza,

H.C.R. 315.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Madison Chagnon of Colchester on her selection by the Burlington Free Press as Miss Hockey 2020.

By Reps. McFaun and others,

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik and Pollina,

H.C.R. 316.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Spaulding High School Crimson Tide Division II championship girls' ice hockey team.

By Reps. Masland and Briglin,

By Senator MacDonald,

H.C.R. 317.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II championship boys' indoor track and field team.

By Reps. Masland and Briglin,

By Senator MacDonald,

H.C.R. 318.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Thetford Academy Panthers boys' basketball program on winning a second consecutive Division III championship.

By Reps. Sullivan and others,

By Senators Campion and Sears,

H.C.R. 319.

House concurrent resolution honoring the Shaffe family and Shaffe's Men's Shop of Bennington.

By Reps. Corcoran and others,

By Senators Campion and Sears,

H.C.R. 320.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Fiddlehead at Four Corners fine art and contemporary craft gallery on its 20th anniversary.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 57.