

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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.

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 John S. Rodgers Senator Robert A. Starr
Franklin District	Senator Randolph D. Brock Senator Corey. J. Parent
Grand Isle District	Senator Richard T. Mazza
Orange District	Senator Mark A. MacDonald

Rutland District	Senator Brian P. Collamore Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker
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

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 62.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Ashe,

J.R.S. 62. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, September 10, 2020, or, Friday, September 11, 2020, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, September 14, 2020.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 63.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Nitka,

J.R.S. 63. Joint resolution scheduling the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges.

Whereas, the Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges has been scheduled and postponed; and

Whereas, the Joint Assembly on Judicial Retention needs to occur during the 2020 adjourned session of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, Vermont has been declared by the Governor to be in a State of Emergency as a result of a pandemic known as “COVID-19”; and

Whereas, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters and limit the spread of infection in our community; and

Whereas, technology exists which would enable the General Assembly to conduct a Joint Assembly during this time of a declared emergency in a manner: consistent with public access to, and transparency of, its proceedings, as demanded by the Vermont Constitution; and, consistent with and in compliance with statutory and legislative rule requirements regarding Judicial Retention, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Monday, September 14, 2020, at five o'clock in the afternoon to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically at which members of the General Assembly may participate and debate from a remote location; that voting by ballot shall be conducted, as practicable, consistent with Vermont's "Early or Absentee Voters" statute at 17 V.S.A. §2531, et. seq.; that after the reports of the Committee on Judicial Retention, the Joint Assembly shall recess until Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:00 pm (or as otherwise ordered by the Joint Assembly) so that ballots may be submitted; and, that upon reconvening the results of the vote shall be announced or the Joint Assembly shall proceed until the above is completed.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed

S. 352.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to making certain amendments to the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Kitchel moved to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 136, Sec. 14 is amended to read:

Sec. 14. CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, SUMMER CAMPS,
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS; PARENT CHILD CENTERS;
CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES

(a)(1) The sum of \$12,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Department for Children and Families in fiscal year 2021 for the purposes of providing:

(A) additional restart grants to summer camps, afterschool programs, and child care providers;

(B) a prospective hazard pay grant program to staff employed at child care programs regulated by the Department for Children and Families;

(C) the cost incurred by Parent Child Centers in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including the increased demand for services by impacted families; and

~~(C)~~(D) funds to address the immediate needs related to providing Children's Integrated Services, including information technology training and the provision of equipment necessary for telehealth services.

(2) The Department shall determine the allocation of funding for this subsection and develop an application process to distribute funds to providers.

(b) Once the Department has determined how the appropriation set forth in this section shall be distributed, but not later than August 18, 2020, it shall report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare regarding how the funds are to be distributed across programs.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to.

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

Bill Passed

S. 353.

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

An act relating to expanding the Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.