

Journal of the House

Special Session

Monday, November 22, 2021

In accordance with the call for a Special Session by His Excellency, the Governor, the members of the House of Representatives convened at the State House in Montpelier on the twenty-second day of November, 2021.

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Honorable Jill Krowinski of Burlington, Speaker, called the House to order. Noting a lack of quorum, the House recessed until the fall of the gavel.

At twelve o'clock and fifteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotional.

Governor's Call for Special Session

“I, Philip B. Scott, Governor of the State of Vermont, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution, find it necessary to call together the Vermont General Assembly, and I do hereby summon the members of the Senate and House of Representatives to meet in their respective chambers in the State House, together with the officers of the two Houses, on Monday, the 22nd day of November, A.D., 2021, at 10:00 in the forenoon, for the limited purpose of passing legislation to allow, but not require, each municipality to adopt, by action of the municipality’s governing body, a mask mandate beginning Monday, November 29, 2021, or upon passage, whichever is earlier, and as further specified in my letter dated November 15, 2021 to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, attached hereto.

WITNESS my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 17th day of November, A.D., 2021.

/s/ Philip B. Scott
Governor

By the Governor
/s/ Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs”

**Governor's Letter To Speaker Krowinski
and Senate President *Pro Tempore* Becca Balint**

“November 15, 2021

The Honorable Becca Balint, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Jill Krowinski, Speaker of the House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear President Pro Tempore Balint and Speaker Krowinski:

Thank you for finding time to meet this afternoon.

As you know, I believe the Executive's emergency authority should be used judiciously. These powers must be reserved for significant emergencies. As a democratic constitutional republic, our constitution clearly intends to balance the power of government, so no one branch, official, or group of officials, is in a position of absolute power. Abuse of emergency powers – or lowering expectations of when and how they might be used – is a dangerous and slippery slope we must not allow and should never be politicized.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 continues to be a persistent challenge. We will be dealing with periodic surges and clusters as we navigate the path from pandemic to endemic. As Dr. Levine has noted, eventually it will become just another virus like seasonal flu or the common cold. But we must continue to do our part as individuals and community members to move forward on this path by getting vaccinated, receiving boosters, and protecting the elderly Vermonters who are most at risk.

As you know, because of vaccine effectiveness, boosters and advancing treatments, case fatality and case hospitalization rates are declining. In fact, even in this period of high case counts, over the last 30 days rates in the over 65 age bands (those most at risk of hospitalization) have declined by 2.5 percent. In addition, with nearly two years of experience, knowledge of the virus and its risks have increased substantially. Thankfully, while it is a challenge, and we must remain vigilant and encourage the unvaccinated to do their part, it no longer rises to the level of an emergency that would justify use of emergency powers.

As President Biden has frequently noted, this is now a pandemic of the unvaccinated. And I believe confrontations over mandates, and the partisan politicization of these issues, ultimately delay the decisions we need these

individuals to reach. As such, I do not believe a mask mandate will have the impact you hope at this time. Based on our earlier experience with a mandate, we are unlikely to see compliance among the unvaccinated adults we need to mask, and in the places where we need more people to mask – like in social gatherings where food and alcohol is involved.

To put it more bluntly, the people, businesses and communities who comply with guidance – or who welcome mandates – are not where we need the greatest change; politicized conflict only makes it more difficult to persuade those who we need to reach. However, during this period of elevated cases I will continue to strongly encourage these Vermonters to wear masks indoors when around others from outside their household, get vaccinated and make good choices on a day-to-day basis.

In light of your recent press releases, it's obvious we have differences of opinion regarding how best to move forward from pandemic to endemic and use of gubernatorial emergency powers.

For these reasons, I propose a special session of the General Assembly for the single purpose of expressly granting each individual municipality the narrowly crafted, and time-limited, authority to mandate the use of facial coverings indoors within their jurisdictions.

Specifically, I'm willing to support legislation that is clearly and narrowly crafted to do the following:

First, the legislation must be limited to facial covering requirements indoors within a municipality's jurisdiction (except schools, which shall remain governed by the policies set forth by the local school board) for the specific, and exclusive, purpose of addressing COVID-19.

Second, the legislation must allow each municipality to enact, by action of the municipality's governing body, a mask mandate beginning Monday, November 29, 2021, or upon passage, whichever is earlier.

Third, the legislation and authority to impose a local mask mandate shall sunset on April 30, 2022.

Fourth, the statute passed in special session must require the governing body of the municipality to reevaluate and vote to extend or rescind the policy on a month-to-month basis.

I offer this as a compromise – not because I believe mandates are the right approach under current circumstances. Therefore, I want to be very clear, should the Legislature propose any additional restrictions or mandates on a statewide or municipal basis, I will not support them. This special session would be for the exclusive purpose of passing narrowly crafted, and time-limited legislation giving municipalities the temporary authority to mandate the use of facial coverings indoors within their jurisdictions, as outlined above.

I have asked my staff to prepare the paperwork calling a special session for Monday, November 22, 2021, and look forward to discussing this compromise proposal when we meet later today.

Sincerely,
/s/ Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/k”

Pledge of Allegiance

Speaker Krowinski led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communication from Rep. Batchelor

“October 21, 2021

BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Vermont Legislature

Dear BetsyAnn,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am resigning my seat in the Vermont Legislature.

My husband and I have sold our home in Derby Line and are planning to move South to be closer to our family. I have been so blessed and honored to have been reelected for almost 12 years. My constituents are awesome as are my friends and "family" in the House.

It has been my pleasure to have worked with you. Thank you so much for all you do.

Warm regards,
Lynn Batchelor Orleans-1

cc: Honorable Philip B. Scott,
Governor, State of Vermont

Jill Krowinski,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Vermont Legislature”

Roll Call to Open 2021 Special Session

By order of the Speaker, call of the roll was taken.

Present, 114; Absent with leave of the House, 35.

Those present:

Achey of Middletown Springs	Hango of Berkshire	Parsons of Newbury
Ancel of Calais	Harrison of Chittenden	Partridge of Windham
Arrison of Weathersfield	Helm of Fair Haven	Patt of Worcester
Austin of Colchester	Hooper of Montpelier	Pearl of Danville
Bartholomew of Hartland	Houghton of Essex	Peterson of Clarendon
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Jerome of Brandon	Rachelson of Burlington
Birong of Vergennes	Jessup of Middlesex	Rosenquist of Georgia
Black of Essex	Killacky of South Burlington	Savage of Swanton
Bluemle of Burlington	Kimbell of Woodstock	Scheu of Middlebury
Bongartz of Manchester	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Scheuermann of Stowe
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Krowinski of Burlington	Seymour of Sutton
Brennan of Colchester	LaLonde of South Burlington	Shaw of Pittsford
Briglin of Thetford	Lanpher of Vergennes	Sheldon of Middlebury
Brumsted of Shelburne	Lefebvre of Newark	Sibilia of Dover
Burditt of West Rutland	Leffler of Enosburgh	Sims of Craftsbury
Burrows of West Windsor	Lippert of Hinesburg	Small of Winooski
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Long of Newfane	Smith of Derby
Canfield of Fair Haven	Marcotte of Coventry	Smith of New Haven
Chase of Colchester	Martel of Waterford	Squirrell of Underhill
Christie of Hartford	Martin of Franklin	Stebbins of Burlington
Coffey of Guilford	Mattos of Milton	Strong of Albany
Colburn of Burlington	McCoy of Poultney	Surprenant of Barnard
Conlon of Cornwall	McCullough of Williston	Taylor of Colchester
Corcoran of Bennington	McFaun of Barre Town	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Cordes of Lincoln	Morgan, L. of Milton	Till of Jericho
Cupoli of Rutland City	Morgan, M. of Milton	Toleno of Brattleboro
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Morris of Springfield	Toof of St. Albans Town
Dolan of Waitsfield	Morrissey of Bennington	Townsend of South Burlington
Donahue of Northfield	Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington	Troiano of Stannard
		Walz of Barre City

Donnally of Hyde Park	Murphy of Fairfax	White of Bethel
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Nicoll of Ludlow	White of Hartford
Elder of Starksboro	Norris of Sheldon	Whitman of Bennington
Emmons of Springfield	Norris of Shoreham	Williams of Granby
Fagan of Rutland City	Notte of Rutland City	Wood of Waterbury
Feltus of Lyndon	Noyes of Wolcott	Yacovone of Morristown
Goslant of Northfield	Ode of Burlington	Yantachka of Charlotte
Grad of Moretown	Page of Newport City	
Graham of Williamstown	Pajala of Londonderry	
	Palasik of Milton	

Those members absent with leave of the House:

Anthony of Barre City	Gregoire of Fairfield	Mrowicki of Putney
Bock of Chester	Higley of Lowell	Nigro of Bennington
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Randolph	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Brown of Richmond	Hooper of Burlington	Pugh of South Burlington
Brownell of Pownal	Howard of Rutland City	Redmond of Essex
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Rogers of Waterville
Cina of Burlington	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Satcowitz of Randolph
Colston of Winooski	LaClair of Barre Town	Stevens of Waterbury
Copeland Hanzas of Bradford	Lefebvre of Orange	Sullivan of Dorset
Dolan of Essex	Masland of Thetford	Vyhovsky of Essex
Gannon of Wilmington	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Webb of Shelburne
Goldman of Rockingham	McCormack of Burlington	

Quorum Present

Thereupon, the Speaker declared that a quorum of the members was present.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 1

House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to the adoption of rules to govern the Special Session of 2021.

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the Rules of the House of Representatives in effect on June 23, 2021 be the rules of this Special Session of 2021 except for the following additions thereto:

Rule 40A. Bills and resolutions to be placed on the Calendar for notice and subsequent action shall comprise solely those bills and resolutions consisting of new matters introduced during the Special Session. Bills or resolutions may

be introduced during this Special Session only with the consent of the Committee on Rules. Upon adjournment *sine die* of the Special Session, all such matters contained in these new bills and resolutions not enacted into law or adopted shall terminate automatically and be of no further force and effect and shall not be pending upon the convening of the General Assembly in January 2022, for the continuation of the 2021 biennial session.

Was read and adopted.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 2

House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to informing the Senate of the organization of the House.

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the Clerk be directed to inform the Senate that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives has assembled and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the Special Session.

Was read and adopted.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 3

House resolution, entitled

House Resolution relating to informing the Governor of the organization of the House.

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the Clerk be directed to inform His Excellency, the Governor, that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives has assembled and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the Special Session.

Was read and adopted.

Recess

At twelve o'clock and thirty-two minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 1**Special Session**

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that a quorum of the Senate has assembled and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the Special Session.

Message from the Senate No. 2**Special Session**

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 1. An act relating to temporary municipal rules in response to COVID-19.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 1. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment.

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

Message from the Senate No. 3**Special Session**

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that the Senate has on its part completed the business of the Special Session and is ready to adjourn *sine die*, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 1.

Session Resumed

At one o'clock and twenty-one minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 1**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary municipal rules in response to COVID-19

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

Recess

At one o'clock and twenty-one minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At two o'clock and seven minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Rules Suspended; Second Reading;

Request for Roll Call Withdrawn; Recess; Third Reading Ordered; Consideration Resumed; Rules Suspended; Bill Placed in All Remaining Stages of Passage; Amendment Offered; Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged to Senate Forthwith and Bill Ordered to Be Delivered to the Governor Forthwith

S. 1

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to temporary rules in response to COVID-19

Pending entry on the Calendar for Notice, was taken up for immediate consideration and the bill was read for the second time.

Rep. Gannon of Wilmington, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which had been referred the Senate bill, reported in favor of its passage in concurrence.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Brennan of Colchester** asked for a roll call, which was sustained by the Constitutional number. He then requested and was granted leave to withdraw his roll call request to allow for an amendment to be offered. Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

At three and twenty-three minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel to allow for the amendment's preparation and distribution.

At three o'clock and fifty-one minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order and consideration resumed.

On motion of **Rep. LaClair of Barre Town**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** moved to propose to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 1, municipal regulatory authority; temporary authority to adopt rules requiring face coverings, in subsection (c), immediately following subdivision (2), by inserting a subdivision (3) to read as follows:

(3) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 1971(b) or any municipal charter to the contrary, a rule adopted pursuant to this section shall not be designated as criminal.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as offered by Rep. Donahue of Northfield? **Rep. Murphy of Fairfax** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as offered by Rep. Donahue of Northfield? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 46. Nays, 85.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Achey of Middletown Springs	Harrison of Chittenden	Page of Newport City
Arrison of Weathersfield	Helm of Fair Haven	Pajala of Londonderry
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Higley of Lowell	Palasik of Milton
Brennan of Colchester	LaClair of Barre Town	Parsons of Newbury
Burditt of West Rutland	Lefebvre of Orange	Peterson of Clarendon
Canfield of Fair Haven	Leffler of Enosburgh	Rosenquist of Georgia
Cupoli of Rutland City	Martel of Waterford	Savage of Swanton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Martin of Franklin	Scheuermann of Stowe
Donahue of Northfield	Mattos of Milton	Seymour of Sutton
Fagan of Rutland City	McFaun of Barre Town	Shaw of Pittsford
Feltus of Lyndon	Morgan, L. of Milton	Smith of Derby
Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, M. of Milton	Smith of New Haven
Graham of Williamstown	Morrissey of Bennington	Strong of Albany
Hango of Berkshire	Murphy of Fairfax	Terenzini of Rutland Town
	Norris of Sheldon	Toof of St. Albans Town
	Norris of Shoreham	Williams of Granby

Those who voted in the negative are:

Ancel of Calais	Emmons of Springfield	Partridge of Windham
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Anthony of Barre City	Gannon of Wilmington	Patt of Worcester
Austin of Colchester	Grad of Moretown	Pearl of Danville
Bartholomew of Hartland	Hooper of Montpelier	Rachelson of Burlington
Birong of Vergennes	Hooper of Randolph	Rogers of Waterville
Black of Essex	Hooper of Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Bluemle of Burlington	Houghton of Essex	Sheldon of Middlebury
Bongartz of Manchester	Howard of Rutland City	Sibilia of Dover
Bos-Lun of Westminster *	Jerome of Brandon	Sims of Craftsbury
Brady of Williston	Jessup of Middlesex	Small of Winooski
Briglin of Thetford	Killacky of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Brown of Richmond	Kimbell of Woodstock	Stebbins of Burlington
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro *	Stevens of Waterbury
Burrows of West Windsor	LaLonde of South	Surprenant of Barnard
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Burlington	Taylor of Colchester
Chase of Colchester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Till of Jericho
Christie of Hartford	Lefebvre of Newark	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cina of Burlington	Lippert of Hinesburg	Townsend of South
Coffey of Guilford	Long of Newfane	Burlington
Colburn of Burlington *	Masland of Thetford	Troiano of Stannard
Colston of Winooski	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Vyhovsky of Essex
Conlon of Cornwall	McCullough of Williston	Walz of Barre City
Copeland Hanzas of	Morris of Springfield	White of Bethel
Bradford	Mrowicki of Putney	White of Hartford
Corcoran of Bennington	Mulvaney-Stanak of	Whitman of Bennington
Cordes of Lincoln	Burlington	Wood of Waterbury
Dolan of Waitsfield	Nicoll of Ludlow	Yacovone of Morristown
Donnally of Hyde Park	Notte of Rutland City	Yantachka of Charlotte
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Noyes of Wolcott	
Elder of Starksboro	O'Brien of Tunbridge	
	Ode of Burlington	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bock of Chester	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Redmond of Essex
Brownell of Pownal	Marcotte of Coventry	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burke of Brattleboro	McCormack of Burlington	Sullivan of Dorset
Dolan of Essex	McCoy of Poultney	Webb of Shelburne
Goldman of Rockingham	Nigro of Bennington	
Gregoire of Fairfield	Pugh of South Burlington	
James of Manchester		

Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I believe this amendment is a good idea but there is not adequate time to process it fully and move forward with the mask guidelines we came together to address today. I hope we can revisit the issue of removing criminal penalties when we convene in January.”

Rep. Colburn of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While I oppose criminalization of this issue – and many others- I don’t think it makes sense to treat this matter differently than any other municipal authority. Furthermore, as has been widely acknowledged, it is highly unlikely that any municipality will take this action. Thus, I don’t think the additional expense to taxpayers that it would take to enact this is justified. I’d rather sent that money to a syringe exchange program.”

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I trust my community to hold neighbors accountable to public health measures with the tools they need and the lightest possible touch.”

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence? **Rep. Brennan of Colchester** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 90. Nays, 41.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Emmons of Springfield	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Anthony of Barre City	Feltus of Lyndon	Ode of Burlington
Arrison of Weathersfield	Gannon of Wilmington	Pajala of Londonderry
Austin of Colchester	Grad of Moretown	Partridge of Windham
Bartholomew of Hartland	Harrison of Chittenden	Patt of Worcester
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Hooper of Montpelier	Pearl of Danville
Birong of Vergennes	Hooper of Randolph	Rachelson of Burlington
Black of Essex	Hooper of Burlington	Rogers of Waterville
Bluemle of Burlington	Houghton of Essex	Scheu of Middlebury
Bongartz of Manchester	Howard of Rutland City	Sheldon of Middlebury
Bos-Lun of Westminster *	Jerome of Brandon	Sibilia of Dover
Brady of Williston	Jessup of Middlesex	Sims of Craftsbury
Briglin of Thetford	Killacky of South Burlington	Small of Winooski
Brown of Richmond	Kimbell of Woodstock	Squirrell of Underhill
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Stebbins of Burlington
Burrows of West Windsor	LaLonde of South	Stevens of Waterbury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard
Chase of Colchester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Taylor of Colchester
Christie of Hartford	Lefebvre of Newark	Till of Jericho
Cina of Burlington	Lippert of Hinesburg	Toleno of Brattleboro
Coffey of Guilford	Long of Newfane	Townsend of South
Colburn of Burlington	Masland of Thetford	Burlington

Colston of Winooski	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Troiano of Stannard
Conlon of Cornwall	McCullough of Williston	Vyhovsky of Essex *
Copeland Hanzas of Bradford	McFaun of Barre Town	Walz of Barre City
Corcoran of Bennington	Morris of Springfield	White of Bethel
Cordes of Lincoln *	Mrowicki of Putney	White of Hartford
Dolan of Waitsfield	Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington	Whitman of Bennington
Donnally of Hyde Park	Nicoll of Ludlow	Wood of Waterbury
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Notte of Rutland City	Yantachka of Charlotte
Elder of Starksboro	Noyes of Wolcott	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Achey of Middletown Springs	LaClair of Barre Town	Peterson of Clarendon
Brennan of Colchester	Lefebvre of Orange	Rosenquist of Georgia
Burditt of West Rutland	Leffler of Enosburgh *	Savage of Swanton
Canfield of Fair Haven	Martel of Waterford	Scheuermann of Stowe
Cupoli of Rutland City	Martin of Franklin	Seymour of Sutton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Mattos of Milton	Shaw of Pittsford
Donahue of Northfield *	Morgan, L. of Milton	Smith of Derby
Fagan of Rutland City	Morgan, M. of Milton	Smith of New Haven
Goslant of Northfield	Morrissey of Bennington	Strong of Albany
Graham of Williamstown	Murphy of Fairfax	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Hango of Berkshire	Norris of Sheldon	Toof of St. Albans Town
Helm of Fair Haven	Norris of Shoreham	Williams of Granby
Higley of Lowell	Page of Newport City	Yacovone of Morristown *
	Palasik of Milton	
	Parsons of Newbury	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bock of Chester	James of Manchester	Pugh of South Burlington
Brownell of Pownal	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Redmond of Essex
Burke of Brattleboro	Marcotte of Coventry	Satcowitz of Randolph
Dolan of Essex	McCormack of Burlington	Sullivan of Dorset
Goldman of Rockingham	McCoy of Poultney	Webb of Shelburne
Gregoire of Fairfield	Nigro of Bennington	

Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes for this bill because I believe in science. Masks prevent spread, which can save lives. Early in the pandemic, my dear friend Archana Mandpe contracted COVID and did not survive. I cast my vote today in the hope that Vermont communities will use the strategies we know to protect and preserve life. I urge communities around Vermont to pass protective mask policies. When we return in January we need to pass more comprehensive protective

legislation. We have already lost 404 Vermonters. We must work together to prevent loss of life and other difficult consequences of COVID.”

Rep. Cordes of Lincoln explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

A haiku

Thousands dead or disrupted

Healthcare is drowning

The Governor walks away.”

Rep. Donahue of Northfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I believe it is the appropriate time to go even beyond the underlying intent of this bill as it addresses urgent public health issues. However, I will not support a bill that permits criminal convictions that are presumably not the intent of the majority of this body. We ought to only pass bills that enact what we intend to enact as law, especially when it is a substantive issue such as giving the authority to impose criminal sanctions.”

Rep. Leffler of Enosburgh explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I wholeheartedly support governance in following best practices in this pandemic. Washing of hands, testing when feeling ill or preemptively for large gatherings, getting vaccinated, and wearing masks to protect myself and those around me.

I support people choosing to mask up and I continue to support businesses’ right to require masks within their stores/locations.

However, this bill crosses lines that make it something I cannot support. I cannot support passing this buck onto our towns in this manner. I cannot support the vague and altogether too broad guidelines on enforcement and penalties and other various definitions that we are leaving up to the towns, especially the matter of criminal penalties to a local rule. Vermonters deserve clear, concise, and uniform guidance when it comes to this pandemic and this bill does not serve this purpose. I do not support this bill but I will continue to support Vermonters as they mask up, vax up, and work to bring this virus to an endemic stage.”

Rep. Vyhovsky of Essex explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am voting yes today not because I think this is a good policy, I do not. If we were following the science we would be enacting a masking policy driven by the data. However, this is the corner we have been backed into by the administration’s unwillingness to lead and protect Vermonters. I hope it at least reduces the harm in the communities that have the resources and capacity to enact it.”

Rep. Yacovone of Morristown explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

United we stand, divided we fall. This bill divides us. The juice is simply not worth the squeeze.”

Thereupon, on motion of **Rep. LaClair of Barre Town**, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith and the bill delivered to the Governor forthwith.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 1

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 1. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives adjourn their respective Houses *sine die* on the twenty-second day of November, 2021.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Senate Notified of Completion of House Business

Rep. Long of Newfane moved that the House direct the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House has completed the business of the Special Session and is ready to adjourn *sine die* pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 1.

Governor Notified of Completion of House Business

Rep. LaClair of Barre Town moved that the Clerk be directed to inform the Governor that the House has completed the business of the Special Session and is ready to adjourn *sine die* pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S.1.

Adjournment

At four o'clock and thirty-six minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Long of Newfane**, the House adjourned *sine die* pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 1.

Message from the Senate No. 4**Special Session**

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the twenty-third day of November, 2021, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 1. An act relating to temporary municipal rules in response to COVID-19.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true journal of the proceedings of the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont for the Special Session, beginning on the twenty-second day of November, A.D. 2021.

/s/ BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the House