

House Calendar

Thursday, February 25, 2021

51st DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:15 PM

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 135

An act relating to the State Ethics Commission

Favorable

H. 199

An act relating to validating legal instruments used in connection with the conveyance of real estate

Rep. Leffler of Enosburgh, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 315

An act relating to COVID-19 relief.

(Rep. Hooper of Montpelier will speak for the Committee on Appropriations.)

Rep. Ancel of Calais, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Amendment to be offered by Reps. Hooper of Montpelier, Fagan of Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Jessup of Middlesex, Scheu of Middlebury, Squirrell of Underhill, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington and Yacovone of Morristown to H. 315

That the bill be amended in Sec. 14, pension and other postemployment benefits; Vermont State Employees' Retirement System; Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System; reservation of funds; long-term plan, in subsection (a), by striking out "support" and inserting in lieu thereof "be part of" and in subsection (b), in the second sentence, by striking out "plan development" and inserting in lieu thereof "long-term funding initiative"

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Hooper of Burlington to H. 315

Representative Hooper of Burlington moves that the bill be amended by adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec. 18a to read as follows:

* * * COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution; Frontline Essential
State Employees * * *

Sec. 18a. COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION; PRIORITIZATION;
FRONTLINE ESSENTIAL STATE EMPLOYEES

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that, when supplies of COVID-19 vaccines are limited, vaccination should be offered using a phased approach.

(2) The ACIP recommendation directs states to use its guidance for COVID-19 vaccination program planning and implementation.

(b) Prioritization of frontline essential State employees. Notwithstanding any provision of an emergency order, protocol, plan, or directive to the contrary, the following frontline essential State employees shall receive priority for obtaining COVID-19 vaccines at the earliest possible opportunity based on their elevated risk for work-related exposure to SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because the nature of their positions require them to perform their work-related duties onsite and because those duties involve being within six feet of members of the public or co-workers, or both:

(1) in the Department of Corrections: correctional officers, other employees who work in a correctional facility, community correctional officers, probation officers, community service team members, and work crew leaders;

(2) in the Department for Children and Families: family service workers, social workers, case workers, and investigators;

(3) employees of the Vermont Judiciary, the Vermont State Colleges system, and the Vermont Housing Authority;

(4) in the Vermont State Police: lieutenants, dispatchers, and E-911 call takers at public safety answering points; and

(5) any other State employee whose work-related duties must be performed onsite and whose duties involve being within six feet of members of the public or co-workers, or both.

(c) Identification of eligible State employees. Within five days following the effective date of this act, the Secretary of Administration, the Court Administrator, the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges System, and the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs shall collaborate to identify all State employees who fit one or more of the criteria set forth in subsection (b) of this section and shall communicate their vaccine prioritization to them and provide their names and employee numbers to the Department of Health. The Department of Health shall facilitate delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to identified employees who wish to receive the vaccine at the earliest possible opportunity.

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 337

An act relating to the printing and distribution of State publications.

(Rep. Lefebvre of Orange will speak for the Committee on Government Operations.)

H. 338

An act relating to reapportionment proposal deadlines.

(Rep. Higley of Lowell will speak for the Committee on Government Operations.)

Favorable with Amendment

H. 88

An act relating to certification of agricultural use for purposes of the use value appraisal program

Rep. Pearl of Danville, for the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 3755(f) is amended to read:

(f) On or before November 1 of each year, the owner of agricultural land or buildings enrolled in the use value program as agricultural land or buildings shall certify in writing under oath to the Commissioner that the agricultural land or buildings enrolled by that owner continue to meet the requirements for

enrollment in the use value program at the time of the certification. The Commissioner may waive the eligibility requirement under this subsection, provided the Commissioner obtains through other means satisfactory information that the enrolled agricultural land continues or enrolled agricultural buildings continue to meet the requirements for enrollment. The form of the certification shall be made on a form specified by the Director of Property Valuation and Review.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

(**Committee Vote: 8-0-0**)

Consent Calendar

Concurrent Resolutions

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Secretary's office and/or the House Clerk's office, respectively. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar.

H.C.R. 20

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 class of Boy Scouts who have achieved the rank of Eagle

H.C.R. 21

House concurrent resolution honoring the Georgia Elementary and Middle School for its effective active shooter response training

H.C.R. 22

House concurrent resolution congratulating Elinor Purrier of Berkshire on her record U.S. indoor two-mile run at the 2021 New Balance Indoor Grand Prix and on her recent marriage to Jamie St. Pierre

CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2)) on or before **Friday, March 12, 2021**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so that they may be placed on the

Calendar for Notice the next legislative day- Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by Friday, March 12, 2021.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 19, 2021**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Note: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill and the Fee/Revenue bills.

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)

JFO #3030 - \$450,000 to the VT Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living from the Kessler Foundation. Funds will be used to support the expansion or re-designation of current positions in the Department and to create three (3) limited service positions to assist Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries to transition to self-sustaining employment. The request includes one (1) Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits Counselor and two (2) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II to complete the work. **[NOTE: Kessler grant funds will support 70% of the VR Benefit Counselor position and 21% of the VR Counselor II positions. The remaining balance will be covered by VR federal funds.]** *[JFO received 1/25/2021]*

JFO #3031 - \$450,000 to the Department of Public Safety from the Office of Justice Programs for the services and support for victims in the immediate aftermath and during the investigation of a crime. The grant will fully fund one (1) limited-service position, Victim Services Specialist, to provide these services through 9/30/2023 and will also cover \$15,417 in indirect departmental costs.*[JFO received 1/25/2021]*

JFO #3032 - \$206,394 to the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation from the United States Climate Alliance, United Nations Fund, for one (1) limited service position, Environmental Analyst VII, to serve in a leadership role in

advancing Vermont's climate mitigation priorities. Position to be funded through 9/30/22. *[JFO received 1/25/2021]*

JFO #3033 - One (1) limited service position, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, to the VT. Dept of Public Safety to support information sharing and analysis to prevent and prepare for hazards and threats. Funds from the US Dept. of Homeland Security from previously awarded JFO Grant #2212. *[JFO received 1/27/2021]*

JFO #3034 - \$200,000,000 to the VT Agency of Administration from the US Dept. of the Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The funds will be used to assist eligible households that have difficulty making timely payments of rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the funding are five (5) limited service positions to administer this sizable grant program. *[JFO received 2/3/2021]*

JFO #3035 - \$550,749 to the VT Agency of Human Services from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance and coordinate healthy aging efforts within the 'Healthy Brain Initiative' framework. Funds will be used to develop systemic public health approaches to improve the public health approach to Alzheimer's and related dementias and decrease preventable hospitalizations among Vermonters 65 and older with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Two (2) limited service positions: One (1) Public Health Program Administrator and one (1) Public Health Analyst II to administer the program. *[JFO received 2/4/2021]*

JFO #3036 - \$3,800,000 to the VT Dept of Health from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to increase and sustain the public health approach to suicide prevention. This grant includes funding for three (3) limited service positions. Two (2) positions in the Dept of Health: Public Health Programs Administrator and Public Health Analyst II. One (1) position in the Dept of Mental Health: Marketing and Outreach Coordinator. Grant amount is \$760,000 per year for 5 years. *[JFO received 2/16/2021]*

JFO #3037 - \$135,000 to the VT Dept of Mental Health from Vibrant Emotional Health for the development of the 988-implementation plan to ensure compliance with the federal mandate for universal access to suicide and prevention services by July 16, 2022. ***[Note: One (1) limited service position is included within JFO #3036].*** *[JFO received 2/16/2021]*

