

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Bill for Second Reading

S. 36.

An act relating to modifications to the use of certain Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriations.

By the Committee on Appropriations. (Senator Kitchel for the Committee.)

Amendment to S. 36 to be offered by Senators Kitchel, Balint, Baruth, Cummings, Nitka, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr and Westman

Senators Kitchel, Balint, Baruth, Cummings, Nitka, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr and Westman move to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 3a to read as follows:

Sec. 3a. HOUSING; RENTAL ASSISTANCE; APPROPRIATION

Of the \$200,000,000.00 available to the State for emergency rental assistance pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, Sec. 501, the amount of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide rental assistance to Vermonters in need, consistent with the requirements of the Act.

Second: By striking out Sec. 4, Accelerated Broadband Connectivity Program; extension, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

Sec. 13. COVID-RESPONSE ACCELERATED BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

* * *

(n) Any unexpended funds under the Program as of December 20, 2020 shall be returned to the State Coronavirus Relief Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Public Service is authorized to continue disbursing funds under the Program for any broadband project contracted for prior to December 20, 2020 and not completed on or before December 30, 2020. The Commissioner shall retain any remaining balance of funds appropriated under this section and shall not disburse them

for any other purpose without specific authorization from the General Assembly.

* * *

Third: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 4a to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. COVID-RESPONSE TEMPORARY BROADBAND SUBSIDY PROGRAM; EXTENSION

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the COVID-Response Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program established under 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 13(d) be extended for an additional two months covering the period beginning on January 1, 2021 and ending on February 28, 2021.

(b) To accomplish the purpose of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Public Service is authorized to use \$275,000.00 of the unobligated balance remaining from the appropriations for broadband programs under Act 137 and 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154 to extend the COVID-Response Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program to cover the period from January 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 9, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that, notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214:

(1) Sec. 1(e)(1) (extraordinary relief to long-term care facilities) shall take effect retroactively on November 1, 2020;

(2) Secs. 1(e)(2) (adult day programs) and 6 (judicial filing fees) shall take effect retroactively on December 1, 2020;

(3) Sec. 1(e)(3) (transfer authority) shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2020; and

(4) Secs. 4 (broadband access) and 7 (hazard pay reports) shall take effect retroactively on December 15, 2020.

House Proposal of Amendment

J.R.S. 9

Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the resolution as follows:
In the first Resolved clause, following “That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on” by striking out “Thursday, January 21, 2021, at two o’clock” and inserting in lieu thereof “Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at one o’clock”

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 14.

An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density.

Reported favorably by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE

Concurrent Resolution For Notice Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolution has been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. It will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary’s Office.

H.C.R. 7 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 20, 2021)

JFO NOTICE

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

JFO #3029 - \$250,000 to the VT. Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. One (1) limited service position, Agriculture Water Quality Program Coordinator III, and \$100,000 for a software upgrade and associated costs. *The grant application reflects State in-kind matching dollars for a total budget of \$500,000.*

[JFO received 1/7/2021.]