

Senate Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Resolution for Second Reading

S.R. 6.

Senate resolution relating to disapproving of Executive Order 02-21.

By the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (Senator Bray for the Committee.)

Joint Resolutions For Action

J.R.S. 13.

Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, an Adjutant and Inspector General, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of February 3, 2021, page 79.)

J.R.S. 14.

Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of UVM trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2021.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal of February 3, 2021, page 80.)

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 18, 2021 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber - Election of a Sergeant at Arms, of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and of three (3) trustees for the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Candidates for the positions of Sergeant at Arms, Adjutant and Inspector General, and legislative candidates for UVM trustees must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 11, 2021, by 4:00 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

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.]

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. *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]

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

By the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy,

S.R. 6. Senate resolution relating to disapproving of Executive Order 02-21.

Whereas, on January 14, 2021, the Governor signed Executive Order 02-21 reorganizing the Natural Resources Board and its District Commissions, and

Whereas, according to the Executive Order, effective April 15, 2021, a professional Natural Resources Board would decide major permit applications with assistance from two District Commissioners from the district where the project is located, and

Whereas, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has taken testimony and public comment concerning this Executive Order, and

Whereas, the Senate agrees with the Governor that it is to the benefit of the State of Vermont to “maximize natural resources protections, enable well planned growth, increase predictability and reduce redundancy with other state regulatory programs,” it finds complexities and possible unintended consequences that must be analyzed and addressed to achieve these goals, and

Whereas, the Senate believes the best mechanism both to resolve these complexities and unintended consequences and to explore, in depth, the options for reorganizing the Natural Resources Board is to use the standing committee process, with the resulting opportunity for enhanced research, analysis, and public participation, and

Whereas, the Senate is committed to working cooperatively with the Administration to produce legislation that will achieve our shared goals of updating the Act 250 process, and

Whereas, as part of this process, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy looks forward to reviewing and taking testimony on the Administration's complete proposal for changing the Act 250 permit process, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2002, disapproves of Executive Order 02-21, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Senate invites the Administration to bring forward draft legislation to optimize the Act 250 permit and appeals process, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott.