

Journal of the House

Friday, March 12, 2021

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Anthony of Barre City.

Committee Bill Introduced

H. 428

By the Committee on Judiciary,

An act relating to hate-motivated crimes and misconduct

Was read, and pursuant to Rule 48, placed on the Calendar for Notice.

House Bill Introduced

H. 429

By Reps. Gannon of Wilmington and Ode of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an advisory group to address bias in State-used software

To the Committee on Energy and Technology.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 20

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

Offered by: Fagan of Rutland City, Achey of Middletown Springs, Anthony of Barre City, Arrison of Weathersfield, Austin of Colchester, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Birong of Vergennes, Black of Essex, Bongartz of Manchester, Brady of Williston, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chase of Colchester, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Conlon of Cornwall, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Dolan of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Donnally of Hyde Park, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Goldman of

Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Grad of Moretown, Graham of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Jessup of Middlesex, Killacky of South Burlington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lefebvre of Orange, Lippert of Hinesburg, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Murphy of Fairfax, Nicoll of Ludlow, Nigro of Bennington, Norris of Sheldon, Norris of Shoreham, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Palasik of Milton, Parsons of Newbury, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Peterson of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Redmond of Essex, Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Sullivan of Dorset, Taylor of Colchester, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toof of St. Albans Town, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Vyhovsky of Essex, Webb of Shelburne, White of Bethel, White of Hartford, Whitman of Bennington, Williams of Granby, Wood of Waterbury, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 26, 2021 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration
and Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 306

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury moved that the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to developing a State Planning Office

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 133

House bill, entitled

An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of firearms

Was taken up and read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass? **Rep. Morrissey of Bennington** 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? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 102. Nays, 44.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

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

Those who voted in the negative are:

Achey of Middletown Springs	Harrison of Chittenden	Norris of Shoreham
Batchelor of Derby	Helm of Fair Haven	Page of Newport City
Brennan of Colchester	Higley of Lowell	Palasik of Milton
Brownell of Pownal	LaClair of Barre Town	Parsons of Newbury
	Lefebvre of Orange	Peterson of Clarendon

Burditt of West Rutland	Leffler of Enosburgh	Rosenquist of Georgia
Canfield of Fair Haven	Marcotte of Coventry	Savage of Swanton
Cupoli of Rutland City	Martel of Waterford	Seymour of Sutton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Martin of Franklin	Shaw of Pittsford
Fagan of Rutland City	Mattos of Milton	Smith of Derby
Feltus of Lyndon	McCoy of Poultney	Smith of New Haven
Goslant of Northfield	McFaun of Barre Town	Strong of Albany
Graham of Williamstown	Morgan, L. of Milton	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Gregoire of Fairfield	Morgan, M. of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town
Hango of Berkshire	Morrissey of Bennington	
	Norris of Sheldon	

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

Christie of Hartford	Hooper of Randolph	Toleno of Brattleboro
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Rep. Austin of Colchester explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

In August 2006 I was at the Essex Middle School preparing for the opening day of school the next day. An announcement came over the intercom that the District was in lockdown - this was not a drill.

Later I learned that my friend and colleague Alicia Shanks was randomly shot and killed by a jilted lover in search of his girlfriend at the Essex Elementary School.

Perhaps if this relief from abuse order had been in effect back then Alicia would be alive today.”

Rep. Vyhovsky of Essex explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

As a gun owner myself and a person who grew up in a family of hunters, I respect the tradition of gun ownership and sportsmanship in Vermont. I am struck today by the one-sided argument that we must protect the right to wield a weapon at all costs with no regard given to the constitutional right to life.

This is a relief from abuse bill that not only does not fundamentally change what is already allowable and common practice, it is also temporary and thus not an issue of rights but a temporary inconvenience to protect the constitutional right to life. I believe based on the statistics that it will save the lives of those who have been abused and terrorized and therefore I vote yes.”

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 420

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

H. 421

House bill, entitled

An act relating to animal cruelty investigation response and training

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 87**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a classification system for criminal offenses

Was taken up and pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Judiciary, on motion of **Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington**, action on the bill was postponed until March 17, 2021.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 18**

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of two Superior Judges and three Magistrates

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and seven minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 17.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 23

House concurrent resolution honoring former Representative Edward H. Paquin Jr. for his exemplary leadership as a disability rights advocate

H.C.R. 24

House concurrent resolution designating March 2021 as Vermont Habitat for Humanity Month

H.C.R. 25

House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of early childhood care services in Vermont

H.C.R. 26

House concurrent resolution in memory of John Pandiani of Bristol

S.C.R. 1

Senate concurrent resolution in memory of former Burlington Alderwoman Janet Stackpole

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House and Senate Calendar Addendums on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2021, seventy-sixth Biennial session.]