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

**Devotional Exercises**

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

**Senate Bills Referred**

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred as follows:

**S. 88**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to insurance, banking, and securities

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

**S. 114**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to improving prekindergarten through grade 12 literacy within the State

To the Committee on Education.

**Amendment Withdrawn; Read Third Time; Bill Passed**

**H. 152**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to education property tax

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill Reps. Sibila of Dover, Colburn of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Sims of Craftsbury, and Small of Winooski moved to amend the bill as follows:

**First:** By striking out Sec. 2, capital project costs exclusion from excess spending penalty, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Suspension of Excess Spending Penalty * * *

Sec. 2. SUSPENSION OF EXCESS SPENDING PENALTY
Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2022, the excess spending penalty under 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B) and 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12) is suspended.

Second: By striking out Sec. 5, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 2–4 (suspension of excess spending penalty; 3.5 percent hold harmless; small schools grant) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 1 (yield and nonhomestead property tax rate) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

Rep. Sibilia of Dover asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw her amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

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

H. 153
House bill, entitled
An act relating to Medicaid reimbursement rates for home- and community-based service providers

H. 159
House bill, entitled
An act relating to creating the Better Places Program

H. 171
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the governance and financing of Vermont’s child care system

Bill Amended; Read Third Time; Bill Passed

H. 183
House bill, entitled
An act relating to sexual violence

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, Rep. Rogers of Waterville moved to amend the bill as follows:
In Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 3251, in subdivision (3), by striking out “or” and inserting in lieu thereof “and”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 435**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Corrections-related amendments

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.


**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 436**

**Rep. Ode of Burlington** spoke for the Committee on Ways and Means.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to Vermont’s tax laws

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice and appearing on the Calendar for Action, was taken up, and read the second time.

**Speaker Krowinski** presiding.

Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Amendment Offered; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 437**

**Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro** spoke for the Committee on Ways and Means.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to changes that affect the revenue of the State

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice and appearing on the Calendar for Action, was taken up, and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? **Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe** moved to amend the bill as follows:
By striking out Secs. 1–3, property transfer tax surcharge, and their reader assistance headings in their entireties and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe? Rep. Harrison of Chittenden 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 be amended as offered by Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 53. Nays, 94.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Achey of Middletown  Harrison of Chittenden  Page of Newport City
Springs  Helm of Fair Haven  Pajala of Londonderry
Arrison of Weathersfield  Higley of Lowell  Palasik of Milton
Batchelor of Derby  Kimbell of Woodstock  Parsons of Newbury
Brennan of Colchester  LaClair of Barre Town  Peterson of Clarendon
Burditt of West Rutland  Lefebvre of Newark  Rosenquist of Georgia
Canfield of Fair Haven  Lefebvre of Orange  Savage of Swanton
Corcoran of Bennington  Leffler of Enosburgh  Scheuermann of Stowe
Cupoli of Rutland City  Marcotte of Coventry  Shaw of Pittsford
Dickinson of St. Albans Town  Martel of Waterford  Sibilia of Dover
Donahue of Northfield  Martin of Franklin  Smith of Derby
Fagan of Rutland City  McCoy of Poultney  Strong of Albany
Feltus of Lyndon  McFaun of Barre Town  Sullivan of Dorset
Gannon of Wilmington  Morgan, L. of Milton  Terenzini of Rutland Town
Gosland of Northfield  Morgan, M. of Milton  Toof of St. Albans Town
Graham of Williamstown  Morrissey of Bennington  Williams of Granby
Gregoire of Fairfield  Murphy of Fairfax  
Hango of Berkshire  Norris of Shoreham  

Those who voted in the negative are:

Ancel of Calais  Elder of Starksboro  Ode of Burlington
Anthony of Barre City  Emmons of Springfield  Partridge of Windham
Austin of Colchester  Goldman of Rockingham  Patt of Worcester
Bartholomew of Hartland  Grad of Moretown  Pearl of Danville
Beck of St. Johnsbury  Hooper of Montpelier  Pugh of South Burlington
Birong of Vergennes  Hooper of Randolph  Rachelson of Burlington
Black of Essex  Hooper of Burlington  Redmond of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington  Houghton of Essex  Rogers of Waterville
Bock of Chester  Howard of Rutland City  Satcowitz of Randolph
Bongartz of Manchester  James of Manchester  Scheu of Middlebury
Bos-Lun of Westminster  Jerome of Brandon  Seymour of Sutton
Brady of Williston  Jessup of Middlesex  Sheldon of Middlebury
Briglin of Thetford  Killacky of South Burlington  Sims of Craftsbury *
Brown of Richmond  Kitzmiller of Montpelier  Small of Winooski
Brownell of Pownal  Kornheiser of Brattleboro  Squirrell of Underhill
Rep. Sims of Craftsbury explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

H. 437 builds on a successful program that helps Vermonters purchase replacement homes. We’re all acutely aware that we have a significant shortage of housing opportunities in our community. I voted no so that we can move forward with this program to invest in the future of our housing stock, our communities, and our economy."

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? Rep. Burditt of West Rutland 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 be read a third time? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 95. Nays, 51.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

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

Those who voted in the negative are:

Achey of Middletown  Hango of Berkshire  Page of Newport City
Springs  Harrison of Chittenden  Pajala of Londonderry
Batchelor of Derby  Helm of Fair Haven  Palasik of Milton
Birong of Vergennes  Higley of Lowell  Parsons of Newbury
Brennan of Colchester  LaClair of Barre Town  Peterson of Clarendon
Burditt of West Rutland *  Lefebvre of Orange  Rosenquist of Georgia
Canfield of Fair Haven  Leffler of Enosburgh  Savage of Swanton
Corcoran of Bennington  Marcotte of Coventry  Scheuermann of Stowe
Cupoli of Rutland City  Martel of Waterford  Seymour of Sutton
Dickinson of St. Albans  Martin of Franklin *  Shaw of Pittsford
Town  Mattos of Milton  Sibilia of Dover
Donahue of Northfield  McCoy of Poultney  Smith of Derby
Fagan of Rutland City  McFaun of Barre Town  Strong of Albany
Feltus of Lyndon  Morgan, L. of Milton  Sullivan of Dorset
Gannon of Wilmington  Morgan, M. of Milton  Terenzini of Rutland Town
Goslant of Northfield  Morrissey of Bennington  Toof of St. Albans Town
Graham of Williamstown  Murphy of Fairfax  Williams of Granby
Gregoire of Fairfield *  Norris of Shoreham

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

Norris of Sheldon  Smith of New Haven  Yacovone of Morristown
Rep. Burditt of West Rutland explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

A recent study has Vermont at 48th in the U.S. in total taxes per capita. I fear we are headed toward that not so coveted 50th position.”

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Despite how some would frame the issue- I doubt anyone opposes affordable housing or fails to recognize its need. It is probably an issue we can all agree on. As with many issues, it’s a matter of whether this is the right way to achieve those goals. I do not think it is.”

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I was proud to vote yes, to better to equalize the public burdens and build a Vermont that works for all of us.”

Rep. Martin of Franklin explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

A vote of yes on this bill is a slap in the face to all of the industry workers that rely on tourists and second home owners for their income.”

Rep. Till of Jericho explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes. A no vote is a slap in the face to every manufacturer in Vermont. Our manufacturers desperately want the sales tax exemption for inputs which is contained in this bill.”

Recess

At three o'clock and fifty minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

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

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 438

Rep. Emmons of Springfield spoke for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

House bill, entitled
An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

Rep. Harrison of Chittenden for the Committee on Appropriations recommended the bill ought to pass.

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice, was taken up, and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? Reps. Donahue of Northfield and Cordes of Lincoln moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, human services, in subsection (a), in subdivision (1), by striking out “Physically Secure Recovery Residence” and inserting in lieu thereof “Secure Residential Recovery Facility”

Second: In Sec. 3, human services, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The amount appropriated in subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall be used to construct a 16-bed Secure Residential Recovery Facility on Parcel ID# 200-5-003-001 as designated on the Town of Essex’s Tax Parcel Maps for transitional support for individuals who are being discharged from inpatient psychiatric care. Through interior fit-up, versus building redesign, the 16-bed facility shall include two eight-bed wings designed with the capability to allow for separation of one wing from the main section of the facility, if necessary. Both wings shall be served by common clinical and activity spaces. Neither wing shall include a locked seclusion area, and the facility shall not use emergency involuntary procedures. Outdoor space shall be adequate for exercise and other activities but not less than 10,000 square feet.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 439


House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice and appearing on the Calendar for Action, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 210

House bill, entitled
An act relating to addressing disparities and promoting equity in the health care system

Was taken up and, pending third reading, on motion of Rep. Lippert of Hinesburg, action on the bill was postponed until March 26, 2021.

Message from the Senate No. 33

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 3. An act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense.

S. 51. An act relating to the persons authorized to make contributions to candidates and political parties and to political committee names.

S. 60. An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services.

S. 62. An act relating to creating incentives for new remote and relocation workers.

S. 66. An act relating to electric bicycles.

S. 97. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

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

The Senate has considered bill originating in the House of the following title:


And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At eight o'clock in the evening, on motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.