Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

At ten o'clock in the forenoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Speaker Krowinski led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communication from the Governor

“December 13, 2021

The Honorable Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Speaker Krowinski:

I have the great honor to inform you that I have appointed Larry Labor of Morgan, Vermont to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Orleans-1.

Sincerely,

/s/ Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/tb
CC: James Condos, Secretary of State
    BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House”

Committee Appointment Announced

The Speaker appointed Rep. Larry Labor of Morgan to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.
Communication from Rep. Savage of Swanton

November 22, 2021

Hon. BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Please be advised that I have accepted full time employment with the Town of Swanton as the Town Administrator effective December 1, 2021.

Due to the time requirements of my new position, I find it necessary to resign as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives, effective 12:01 a.m. on November 23, 2021.

Sincerely,
/s/ Brian K. Savage
State Representative
Franklin-4

cc: Governor Philip B.Scott
    Speaker Jill Krowinski

Without objection, the Speaker postponed the reading of the resignation letter until Friday, January 7, 2022.

Communication from Rep. Redmond of Essex

Dear Speaker Krowinski and Clerk of the House Wrask:
(copying Gov. Phil Scott via Agency of Administration)

It is with a sad and heavy heart that I inform you I will be resigning my Essex seat in the Vermont House of Representatives, effective today, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021.

It has become clear during the past few weeks and months that my personal health and well-being must become my central priorities in the coming days. The year-round activity of serving my constituents and my caucus as an assistant majority leader, and the natural stressors that this work entails (particularly during two years of pandemic), have left minimal space for the prioritization of my own health and wellness.
I am not experiencing a recurrence of cancer but am dealing with some health concerns that require my prompt and focused attention. It has become clear that stepping away from this role that I have cherished would be the most responsible thing to do – for me, as well as for the Vermonters I have been elected to serve.

It has been the deepest honor to serve as a champion and voice for Vermonters over the past three years, advocating for such priorities as an evidence-based public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic; a strengthening of the social safety net; bold climate-change solutions; deep investments in affordable housing; criminal justice reform; support of Afghans resettling in Vermont; policy considered through the lens of racial and social equity; and so much more.

I will be working with House leadership and the Essex Town Democrats to ensure that the names of several highly competent candidates for the Chittenden 8-1 seat be forwarded to the Governor quickly, so as not to delay participation in the coming legislative session.

I have appreciated problem-solving some of the state’s challenges as well as celebrating its successes; they have become my own and have expanded greatly my understanding of our Brave Little State, its people and systems, and how extraordinary the communities we create and live in are. Thank you for your faith and trust in me; it has been a sincere joy of my life.

Kind regards,

Rep. Marybeth Redmond
Chittenden 8-1/Essex

Without objection, the Speaker postponed the reading of the resignation letter until Friday, January 7, 2022.

**Introduction of House Bills Postponed**

Without objection, the Speaker postponed introduction of House bills until Friday, January 7, 2022.

**Message from the Senate No. 1**

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 adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

**J.R.S. 30.** Joint resolution amending temporary Joint Rule 22A.

**J.R.S. 31.** Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

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

**House Resolution Adopted**

**H.R. 13**

House resolution, entitled

House resolution authorizing remote operation of the House of Representatives and House committees

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular the anticipated impact of the highly-transmissible Omicron variant, poses a risk to the health and safety of House members, legislative staff, and members of the public if the House of Representatives and its committees operate in-person in the first two weeks of January 2022, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives and its committees shall operate remotely until Tuesday, January 18, 2022, and be it further

Resolved: That the House and its committees shall continue to livestream their remote proceedings in order to maintain public access to the legislative process.

Was read.

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the resolution?, Rep. Terenzini of Rutland Town 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 House adopt the resolution?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 106. Nays, 19.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais  Goldman of Rockingham  Noyes of Wolcott
Anthony of Barre City  Goslant of Northfield  O'Brien of Tunbridge
Arrison of Weathersfield  Grad of Moretown  Ode of Burlington *
Austin of Colchester  Gregoire of Fairfield *  Pajala of Londonderry
Bartholomew of Hartland
Beck of St. Johnsbury
Birong of Vergennes
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bongartz of Manchester
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Braggin of Thetford
Brown of Richmond
Brumsted of Shelburne
Burke of Brattleboro
Burrows of West Windsor
Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Canfield of Fair Haven
Chase of Colchester
Coffey of Guilford
Colburn of Burlington
Colston of Winooski
Conlon of Cornwall
Copeland Hanzas of
Bradford
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Lincoln
Cupoli of Rutland City
Dolan of Waitsfield
Donahue of Northfield
Donnally of Hyde Park
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Elder of Starksboro
Emmons of Springfield
Fagan of Rutland City
Feltus of Lyndon
Gannon of Wilmington
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Helm of Fair Haven
Hooper of Montpelier
Hooper of Randolph
Houghton of Essex
James of Manchester
Jerome of Brandon
Jessup of Middlesex
Killacky of South Burlington
Kimbell of Woodstock
Kitzmiller of Montpelier
Kornheiser of Brattleboro
Labor of Morgan
LaClair of Barre Town
LaLonde of South
Burlington
Lanpher of Vergennes
Lippert of Hinesburg
Long of Newfane
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCoy of Poultney
McCullough of Williston *
Morris of Springfield
Mrowicki of Putney
Murphy of Fairfax
Nicoll of Ludlow
Nigro of Bennington
Norris of Sheldon
Norris of Shoreham
Notte of Rutland City
Palasik of Milton
Partridge of Windham
Patt of Worcester
Pearl of Danville
Pugh of South Burlington
Rachelson of Burlington
Rogers of Waterville
Satcowitz of Randolph
Scheu of Middlebury
Shaw of Pittsford
Sheldon of Middlebury
Sibilia of Dover
Small of Winooski
Smith of Derby
Squirrel of Underhill
Sullivan of Dorset
Surprenant of Barnard
Taylor of Colchester
Toleno of Brattleboro
Toof of St. Albans Town
Townsend of South
Burlington
Toleno of Barre City
Troiano of Stannard
Walz of Barre City
White of Bethel
White of Hartford
Whitman of Bennington
Williams of Granby *
Wood of Waterbury
Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Achey of Middletown
Springs
Brennan of Colchester
Graham of Williamstown
Higley of Lowell
Lefebvre of Newark
Lefebvre of Orange
Leffler of Enosburgh
Martel of Waterford
Mattos of Milton
Morgan, L. of Milton
Morgan, M. of Milton
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Peterson of Clarendon
Rosenquist of Georgia
Scheuermann of Stowe
Seymour of Sutton
Strong of Albany *
Terenzini of Rutland Town

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

Bock of Chester
Brady of Williston
Brownell of Pownal
Burditt of West Rutland
Christie of Hartford
Dolan of Essex
Howard of Rutland City
Martin of Franklin
McCarthy of St. Albans City
McCormack of Burlington
Burlington
Sims of Crafsbury
Smith of New Haven
Stebbins of Burlington
Stevens of Waterbury
Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes out of respect for minority leadership who worked to achieve compromise. However, we must not continue to hold this body above those we represent, those who go to work every day including those who work around populations. This is especially true given the extraordinary efforts of leadership to ensure that our workplace is safe. I will not vote to extend remote legislation in the future.”

Rep. McCullough of Williston explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted for H.R.13 with the intention of avoiding, not creating, a legislative *annus horribilis*.”

Rep. Ode of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

The Legislature is in the unique position of drawing representatives from every single corner of Vermont. Each of us represents 4000 or 8000 Vermonters. I vote yes today based on the best advice we have to protect all of the more than 624,000 Vermonters.”

Rep. Strong of Albany explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

‘Two weeks to flatten the curve’ was a year and a half ago. Let’s represent our constituents here in person without restriction.”

Rep. Williams of Granby explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am voting yes not because I am concerned about the risk factor. I am voting yes to show my respect to those who have a concern.

The State of Vermont has spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayers’ money to make us safe here. God bless the people that planned, diagrammed, measured, coordinated, moved, connected, and reconnected for hours and days on end to make this a safe working environment.
I look forward to getting back to the State House on the 18th day of this month to do the work I was elected to do in a way that best serves the people.”

**Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**

**J.R.S. 30**

By Senator Balint,

**J.R.S. 30.** Joint resolution amending temporary Joint Rule 22A.

**Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:**

That Temporary Joint Rule 22A is amended to read as follows:

Rule 22A  Emergency Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) The Joint Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit any joint committees of the Vermont Legislature (including itself and Conference Committees) to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate. If necessary, the Joint Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformity with this Rule.

(b) The authority of the Joint Rules Committee under this Rule 22A terminates on January 18, 2022.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this rule, if the Governor thereafter reissues capacity restrictions at gatherings and events or requires masks and physical distancing in response to COVID-19, the Joint Rules Committee is again authorized to meet remotely and to permit any joint committees of the Legislature to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

**Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**

**J.R.S. 31**

By Senator Balint,

**J.R.S. 31.** Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor.

**Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:**

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at two o’clock in the afternoon to receive the State-of-the-State message from the Governor, and be it further
Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically, such that members of the Joint Assembly may participate as permitted by their respective chambers.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the forenoon, on motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultey, the House adjourned until Friday, January 7th at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.

Message from the Senate No. 2

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 adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

J.R.S. 32. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

J.R.S. 33. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

J.R.S. 34. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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