

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

Those who voted in the negative are:

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

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

Bock of Chester	Dolan of Essex	Burlington
Brady of Williston	Howard of Rutland City	Sims of Craftsbury
Brownell of Pownal	Martin of Franklin	Smith of New Haven
Burditt of West Rutland	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Stebbins of Burlington
Christie of Hartford	McCormack of Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury

Cina of Burlington
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town

McFaun of Barre Town
Morrissey of Bennington
Mulvaney-Stanak of

Till of Jericho
Vyhovsky of Essex
Yantachka of Charlotte

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 Poultney**, 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.