

# Journal of the House

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Friday, January 28, 2022

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

## Devotional Exercises

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

## House Bill Introduced

**H. 696**

By Rep. Birong of Vergennes,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to on-farm restaurants

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

## Committee Bill Introduced; Referred to Ways and Means

**H. 697**

By the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife

House bill, entitled

An act relating to eligibility of reserve forestland for enrollment in the Use Value Appraisal Program

Was read the first time and, pending appearance on the Notice Calendar and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

**H. 698**

By Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock, Sibilia of Dover, and Sims of Craftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of the recreational trails

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To the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife.

**H. 699**

By Rep. Black of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting surveillance devices on private property without consent of the property owner

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**H. 700**

By Reps. Black of Essex, Brady of Williston, Dolan of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Garofano of Essex, Houghton of Essex, and Page of Newport City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to suicide prevention

To the Committee on Health Care.

**Committee Bill Introduced**

**H. 701**

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to cannabis license fees

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

**House Resolution Adopted**

**H.R. 16**

House resolution, entitled

House resolution relating to time-limited hybrid operation of the House of Representatives and House committees and to House Rules Committee meeting authority

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Whereas, 2022, H.R. 14 authorized through Tuesday, February 1, 2022 the remote operation of the House of Representatives; hybrid operation of House committees; and remote operation of the House Rules Committee, and

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a risk to the health and safety of House members, legislative staff, and members of the public, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives wants to ensure a safe process in returning to in-person legislating, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives shall operate in a hybrid manner, whereby House members shall debate and vote in the House chamber but may do so through remote participation if the member must be absent from the chamber due to symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19-related circumstances, *and be it further*

Resolved: That House committees shall continue to operate in a hybrid manner, such that a member of a House committee may debate and vote remotely in their committee if the member confirms with the member's committee chair that the member must be absent from committee due to symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19-related circumstances, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Committee on Rules is authorized to meet remotely as necessary to address COVID-19-related matters that may impact the operation of the House and its committees, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the hybrid and remote authority set forth in this resolution shall remain in effect through Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Was read and adopted.

**Joint Resolution Adopted;  
Rules Suspended; Resolution Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

**J.R.H. 13**

Joint resolution extending the application of temporary Joint Rule 22A

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

Rule 22A. Temporary Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) A member of a joint committee may debate and vote remotely in that committee if the member confirms with the committee's chair or co-chairs, as applicable, that the member must be absent from committee due to symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19-related circumstances.

(b) The Joint Rules Committee is authorized to meet remotely as necessary to address COVID-19-related matters that may impact the operation of the General Assembly and joint committees.

(c) The remote authority set forth in this rule shall remain in effect through Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) 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 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 and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the resolution was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

### **Ceremonial Reading**

#### **H.C.R. 86**

House concurrent resolution designating January 2022 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont

Offered by: Conlon of Cornwall, Brady of Williston, Christie of Hartford, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Hango of Berkshire, Long of Newfane, and Sibia of Dover

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 21, 2022 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

### **Third Reading; Bills Passed**

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

#### **H. 462**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous Department of Health programs

#### **H. 466**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to surface water withdrawals and interbasin transfers

**H. 693**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the annual budget vote of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District

**Amendment to Proposal of Amendment Withdrawn; Third Reading;  
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

**S. 30**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms within hospital buildings

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Brennan of Colchester** moved to amend the House proposal of amendment as follows:

In Sec. 2, 13 V.S.A. § 4019, in subdivision (d)(2), by striking out “30” and inserting in lieu thereof “15 business”

Thereafter, **Rep. Brennan of Colchester** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw this amendment. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment in a vote by division: Yeas, 84; Nays, 42.

**Adjournment**

At ten o'clock and thirty-seven minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 37.

**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 Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

**H.C.R. 88**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' cross-country championship team

**H.C.R. 89**

House concurrent resolution congratulating St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltopper Evan Thornton-Sherman on winning the 2021 individual boys'

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Division I cross-country running championship

**H.C.R. 90**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship varsity football team

**H.C.R. 91**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Iris Hsiang on winning the 2021 Rights & Democracy Human Rights Award for Vermont

**H.C.R. 92**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship boys' varsity soccer team

**H.C.R. 93**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III girls' cross-country championship team

**H.C.R. 94**

House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert D. Bates

**H.C.R. 95**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Essex High School Hornets State championship girls' varsity volleyball team

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2022 Adjourned Session.]