

Journal of the House

Friday, March 25, 2022

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Deacon Beth Ann Maier, Good Shepherd Church, Barre and Christ Church, Montpelier.

Senate Bills Referred

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

S. 72

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
To the Committee on Human Services.

S. 90

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis registry
To the Committee on Health Care.

S. 91

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Parent Child Center Network
To the Committee on Human Services.

S. 127

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the procedures and review of community supervision
furlough revocation or interruption appeals
To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

S. 140

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting civil arrests at courthouses

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 161

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement

To the Committee on Energy and Technology.

S. 162

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the collective bargaining rights of teachers

To the Committee on Education.

S. 163

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to State court petitions for vulnerable noncitizen youth

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 171

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to adoption of a State code of ethics

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 178

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to supermajority verdicts in civil trials

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 201

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to best management practices for trapping

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

S. 214

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to valuation for purposes of the education property tax

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 250

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to law enforcement data collection and interrogation

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 258

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to agricultural water quality, enforcement, and dairy farming

To the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

S. 269

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to extending the Energy Savings Account Partnership Pilot Program

To the Committee on Energy and Technology.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Sims of Craftsbury**, the following remarks by **Rep. Norris of Shoreham** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Earlier this week we finally were able to hold the traditional seating ceremony for a historical class of new members elected during the pandemic and sworn in remotely on the same day as the insurrection in our nation's capital.

This group of legislators has many noteworthy and historical traits, including one that has had significant history to the Vermont Legislature.

May I quote from the journal of May 8, 2020?

The following remarks by Rep. Graham of Williamstown were ordered printed in the Journal: ‘The end of a very long-standing tradition probably dating back to the creation of the House of Representatives as on May 2, 2020 there is no longer an active dairy farmer serving in the State Legislature.’

That was a sobering announcement and day in this chamber, which sits

under the golden dome and the watchful eye of Ceres.

Many of us know how difficult it is to serve when you also need to hold a year-round job to feed your family. Even harder still when that job involves working the land.

Since this is the last day of National Agriculture Week:

This body is fortunate to once again have two members in their 30s who are also actively dairy farming, the member from Danville and the member from Barnard, who are both active dairy farmers at Hillview Farm and Kiss the Cow Farm.

Sorry to say Rep. Pearl is absent today because of a tractor being delivered – the life of a farmer.”

Bill Amended; Read Third Time; Bill Passed

H. 703

House bill, entitled

An act relating to promoting workforce development

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Cordes of Lincoln** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In the Sec. 20 section heading, by striking out “NURSE EDUCATORS” and inserting in lieu thereof “NURSE FACULTY AND STAFF”

Second: By striking out Secs. 28, 18 V.S.A. § 36, and 29, Nurse Educator Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program; appropriation, in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 28. 18 V.S.A. § 36 is added to read:

§ 36. NURSE FACULTY FORGIVABLE LOAN AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Eligible individual” means an individual who satisfies the eligibility requirements under this section for a forgivable loan or loan repayment.

(2) “Eligible school” means an approved postsecondary education institution, as defined under 16 V.S.A. § 2822.

(3) “Forgivable loan” means a loan awarded under this section covering tuition, room, board, and the cost of required books and supplies for up to full-time attendance at an eligible school.

(4) “Gift aid” means grant or scholarship financial aid received from the federal government or from the State.

(5) “Loan repayment” means the cancellation and repayment of loans under this section.

(6) “Loans” means education loans guaranteed, made, financed, serviced, or otherwise administered by the Corporation under this subchapter for attendance at an eligible school.

(7) “Nurse faculty member” or “member of the nurse faculty” means a nurse with a master’s or doctoral degree that qualifies the individual to teach at a nursing school in this State.

(8) “Program” means the Nurse Faculty Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program created under this section.

(b) Program creation. The Nurse Faculty Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program is created and shall be administered by the Department of Health in collaboration with the Corporation. The Program provides forgivable loans to students enrolled in an eligible school who commit to working as a member of the nurse faculty at a nursing school in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (d) of this section. The Program also provides loan repayment on behalf of individuals who work as nurse faculty members at a nursing school in this State and who meet the eligibility requirements in subsection (e) of this section.

(c) Payment. The forgivable loan and loan repayment benefits provided under the Program shall be paid on behalf of the eligible individual by the Corporation, subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly specifically for this purpose.

(d) Eligibility for forgivable loans. To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual, whether a resident or nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) be enrolled at an eligible school in a program that leads to a graduate degree in nursing;

(2) continually demonstrate satisfactory academic progress by maintaining the minimum grade point average or better or the equivalent as determined by the Corporation if the eligible school does not use grade point averages;

(3) have used any available gift aid;

(4) have executed a contract with the Corporation committing the individual to work as a member of the nurse faculty at a nursing school in this State;

(5) have executed a promissory note that will reduce the individual's forgivable loan benefit, in whole or in part, if the individual fails to complete the period of service required in subsection (f) of this section; and

(6) have completed the Program's application form, the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA), and the Vermont grant application each academic year of enrollment in accordance with a schedule determined by the Corporation.

(e) Eligibility for loan repayment. To be eligible for loan repayment under the Program, an individual shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) graduated from an eligible school where the individual has, within the past five years, been awarded a graduate degree in nursing;

(2) had the minimum grade point average or better or the equivalent as determined by the Corporation if the eligible school does not use grade point averages from the eligible school;

(3) work as a member of the nurse faculty at a nursing school in this State; and

(4) be a resident of Vermont.

(f) Service commitment.

(1) Forgivable loans. For each year of service as a nurse faculty member at a nursing school in this State, an eligible individual shall be entitled to a full academic year of forgivable loan benefit under the Program. If an eligible individual fails to serve as a nurse faculty member at a nursing school in this State for a period that would entitle the individual to the full forgivable loan benefit received by the individual, other than for good cause as determined by the Corporation in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, then the individual shall receive only partial loan forgiveness for a pro rata portion of the loan pursuant to the terms of the interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

(2) Loan repayment. An eligible individual shall be entitled to an amount of loan cancellation and repayment under this section equal to one year of loans for each year of service as a member of the nurse faculty at a nursing school in this State.

(g) Adoption of policies, procedures, and guidelines. The Corporation shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

Sec. 29. NURSE FACULTY FORGIVABLE LOAN AND LOAN
REPAYMENT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Department of Health for forgivable loans and loan repayment for nurse faculty members under the Nurse Faculty Forgivable Loan and Loan Repayment Program established in Sec. 28 of this act.

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

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Marcotte of Coventry** 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, 139. Nays, 0.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Grad of Moretown	Notte of Rutland City
Anthony of Barre City *	Gregoire of Fairfield	Noyes of Wolcott
Arrison of Weathersfield	Hango of Berkshire	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Austin of Colchester	Harrison of Chittenden	Ode of Burlington
Bartholomew of Hartland	Helm of Fair Haven	Page of Newport City
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Higley of Lowell	Pajala of Londonderry
Birong of Vergennes	Hooper of Montpelier	Partridge of Windham
Black of Essex	Hooper of Randolph	Patt of Worcester
Bluemle of Burlington	Hooper of Burlington	Peterson of Clarendon
Bock of Chester	Houghton of Essex	Pugh of South Burlington
Bongartz of Manchester	Howard of Rutland City	Rachelson of Burlington *
Bos-Lun of Westminster	James of Manchester	Rogers of Waterville
Brady of Williston	Jerome of Brandon	Rosenquist of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester	Jessup of Middlesex	Satcowitz of Randolph
Briglin of Thetford	Killacky of South Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Brown of Richmond	Kimbell of Woodstock	Scheuermann of Stowe
Brownell of Pownal	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Shaw of Pittsford
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Burditt of West Rutland	Labor of Morgan	Sibilia of Dover
Burke of Brattleboro	LaClair of Barre Town	Sims of Craftsbury
Burrows of West Windsor	LaLonde of South Burlington	Small of Winooski
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Lanpher of Vergennes	Smith of Derby
Canfield of Fair Haven	Laroche of Franklin	Smith of New Haven
Chase of Colchester	Lefebvre of Newark	Squirrell of Underhill
Christie of Hartford	Lefebvre of Orange	Stebbins of Burlington
Cina of Burlington	Lippert of Hinesburg	Stevens of Waterbury
Coffey of Guilford		Strong of Albany

Colburn of Burlington	Long of Newfane	Surprenant of Barnard
Colston of Winooski	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Colchester
Conlon of Cornwall	Martel of Waterford	Till of Jericho
Copeland Hanzas of Bradford	Masland of Thetford	Toleno of Brattleboro
Corcoran of Bennington	Mattos of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town
Cordes of Lincoln	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Townsend of South Burlington
Cupoli of Rutland City	McCormack of Burlington	Troiano of Stannard
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	McCoy of Poultney	Vyhovsky of Essex
Dolan of Essex	McCullough of Williston	Walker of Swanton
Dolan of Waitsfield	McFaun of Barre Town	Walz of Barre City
Donahue of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton	Webb of Shelburne
Donnally of Hyde Park	Morgan, M. of Milton	White of Bethel
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morris of Springfield	White of Hartford
Emmons of Springfield	Morrissey of Bennington	Whitman of Bennington
Fagan of Rutland City	Mrowicki of Putney	Williams of Granby
Feltus of Lyndon	Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington	Wood of Waterbury
Gannon of Wilmington	Murphy of Fairfax	Yacovone of Morristown
Garofano of Essex	Nicoll of Ludlow	Yantachka of Charlotte
Goldman of Rockingham	Nigro of Bennington	
Goslant of Northfield	Norris of Sheldon	
	Norris of Shoreham	

Those who voted in the negative are: none

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

Achey of Middletown Springs	Kascenska of Burke	Pearl of Danville
Elder of Starksboro	Leffler of Enosburgh	Sullivan of Dorset
Graham of Williamstown	Palasik of Milton	Terenzini of Rutland Town
	Parsons of Newbury	

Rep. Anthony of Barre City explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

H.703 represents a welcome process of connecting career, technical education at our career centers to a continuum of workforce development.”

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I’ve talked to constituents eager to get into nursing, other constituents who are employers in dire need of trained staff, and so many of my constituents came here for college, fell in love with Vermont, and want to stay. This bill will make all of this a real possibility for so many of them.”

Third Reading; Bills Passed

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

H. 728

House bill, entitled

An act relating to opioid overdose response services

H. 736

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation

Bill Amended; Read Third Time; Bill Passed**H. 740**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Hooper of Montpelier, Fagan of Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Harrison of Chittenden, Helm of Fair Haven, Jessup of Middlesex, Scheu of Middlebury, Toleno of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, Squirrell of Underhill, and Yacovone of Morristown** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By Striking out Sec. B.111, Tax – administration/collection in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.111 to read as follows:

Sec. B.111 Tax - administration/collection

Personal services	17,681,398
Operating expenses	<u>5,790,925</u>
Total	23,472,323
Source of funds	
General fund	21,259,826
Special funds	2,178,388
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>34,109</u>
Total	23,472,323

Second: By striking out Sec. B.313, Health - alcohol and drug abuse programs,

in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.313 to read as follows:

Sec. B.313 Health - alcohol and drug abuse programs

Personal services	5,533,379
Operating expenses	511,500
Grants	<u>54,565,624</u>
Total	60,610,503
Source of funds	
General fund	4,938,392
Special funds	1,392,101
Tobacco fund	949,917
Federal funds	21,131,903
Global Commitment fund	<u>32,198,190</u>
Total	60,610,503

Third: By striking out Sec. B.711, Environmental conservation - office of water programs, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.711 to read as follows:

Sec. B.711 Environmental conservation - office of water programs

Personal services	28,912,366
Operating expenses	7,706,054
Grants	<u>34,868,553</u>
Total	71,486,973
Source of funds	
General fund	8,429,243
Special funds	26,283,274
Federal funds	36,032,470
Interdepartmental transfers	<u>741,986</u>
Total	71,486,973

Fourth: In Sec. B.1100, fiscal year 2023 one-time General Fund appropriations, subdivision (a)(7)(B), after the number “\$200,000” by striking out “to grant to the Northeast Organic Farmers Association-Vermont”

Fifth: In Sec. C.104, fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023; out-of-state-beds savings appropriation, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) \$300,000 to the Department of Corrections to expand community-based domestic violence intervention programming for individuals under Department of Corrections supervision and ensure that programming is free of charge and to create domestic violence intervention programming and curricula for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) individuals; and

Sixth: By striking Sec. C.107 subdivision (a)(1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) To the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment Program: \$2,000,000 for the State match for the 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155 Nurse Scholarship Program and University of Vermont College of Medicine, Medical Student Incentive Scholarship Program, as amended in Sec. E. 311.3 of this act. Of these general funds, \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2022, and \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2023. To extent that funds are unexpended and unobligated at the close of fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023, these funds shall be available for the Vermont Nursing Forgivable Loan Incentive Program established in Sec. 25 of H.703 of 2022.

Seventh: In Sec. D.103, subsection (a), by striking out the number “\$8,500,000” and inserting in lieu thereof the number “\$7,200,000”

Eighth: In Sec. G.600, Climate Action Investments, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (8) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(8) \$5,000,000 to the Department of Public Service to offer up to 50 percent reimbursement to municipal and cooperative electrical distribution utilities for the implementation of one or more systems of Advanced Metering Infrastructure that has been approved by the Public Utility Commission.

Ninth: By striking out Sec. G.400 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. G.400 to read as follows:

Sec. G.400 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INVESTMENTS

(a) \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) to provide affordable

mixed-income rental housing and homeownership units, improvements to manufactured homes and communities, recovery residences and, if determined eligible, housing available to farm workers and refugees. VHCB shall also use the funds for shelter and permanent homes for those experiencing homelessness in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services. These funds shall carryforward into fiscal year 2024.

Tenth: By renumbering the effective dates section to be Sec. H.100.

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

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Fagan of Rutland City** 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, 135. Nays, 4.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Grad of Moretown	Norris of Shoreham
Anthony of Barre City	Gregoire of Fairfield *	Notte of Rutland City
Arrison of Weathersfield	Hango of Berkshire	Noyes of Wolcott
Austin of Colchester	Harrison of Chittenden	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bartholomew of Hartland	Helm of Fair Haven	Ode of Burlington
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Higley of Lowell	Page of Newport City
Birong of Vergennes	Hooper of Montpelier	Pajala of Londonderry
Black of Essex	Hooper of Randolph	Partridge of Windham
Bluemle of Burlington	Hooper of Burlington	Patt of Worcester
Bock of Chester	Houghton of Essex	Pugh of South Burlington
Bongartz of Manchester	Howard of Rutland City	Rachelson of Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster	James of Manchester	Rogers of Waterville
Brady of Williston	Jerome of Brandon	Rosenquist of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester	Jessup of Middlesex	Satcowitz of Randolph
Briglin of Thetford	Killacky of South Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Brown of Richmond	Kimbell of Woodstock *	Scheuermann of Stowe *
Brownell of Pownal	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Shaw of Pittsford
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Burke of Brattleboro	Labor of Morgan	Sibilia of Dover
Burrows of West Windsor	LaClair of Barre Town	Sims of Craftsbury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	LaLonde of South	Small of Winooski
Canfield of Fair Haven	Burlington	Smith of Derby
Chase of Colchester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Smith of New Haven
Christie of Hartford *	Laroche of Franklin	Squirrell of Underhill
Cina of Burlington	Lefebvre of Newark	Stebbins of Burlington
Coffey of Guilford	Lefebvre of Orange	Stevens of Waterbury
Colburn of Burlington	Lippert of Hinesburg	Strong of Albany
Colston of Winooski	Long of Newfane *	Surprenant of Barnard
Conlon of Cornwall	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Colchester
Copeland Hanzas of	Martel of Waterford	Till of Jericho
Bradford	Masland of Thetford	Toleno of Brattleboro
Corcoran of Bennington	Mattos of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town *

Cordes of Lincoln	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Townsend of South
Cupoli of Rutland City	McCormack of Burlington	Burlington
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	McCoy of Poultney *	Troiano of Stannard
Dolan of Essex	McCullough of Williston	Vyhovsky of Essex
Dolan of Waitsfield	McFaun of Barre Town	Walker of Swanton
Donahue of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton	Walz of Barre City
Donnally of Hyde Park	Morgan, M. of Milton *	Webb of Shelburne
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morris of Springfield	White of Bethel
Emmons of Springfield	Morrissey of Bennington	White of Hartford *
Fagan of Rutland City	Mrowicki of Putney	Whitman of Bennington
Feltus of Lyndon	Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington	Williams of Granby
Gannon of Wilmington	Murphy of Fairfax	Wood of Waterbury *
Garofano of Essex	Nicoll of Ludlow	Yacovone of Morristown
Goldman of Rockingham	Nigro of Bennington	Yantachka of Charlotte

Those who voted in the negative are:

Burditt of West Rutland	Norris of Sheldon
Goslant of Northfield *	Peterson of Clarendon

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

Achey of Middletown	Kascenska of Burke	Pearl of Danville
Springs	Leffler of Enosburgh	Sullivan of Dorset
Elder of Starksboro	Palasik of Milton	Terenzini of Rutland Town
Graham of Williamstown	Parsons of Newbury	

Rep. Christie of Hartford explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on our Budget today because a budget is ‘the collection of values expectations and practices that guide and inform the actions of all of its members.’ Our budget said today that we care about Equity and Inclusion for ALL Vermonters, with intentional regard to BIPOC and Disenfranchised Vermonters. Our work here is a Marathon and we may be at different mile markers, yet rest assured, we can cross the finish line. This budget says we care.”

Rep. Goslant of Northfield explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While this budget does make important investments in Vermonters, there are several areas of concern that I am basing my no vote on today.

First and foremost, this budget removes 100 million dollars for economic development. These programs would help the businesses and their workers that

I hear from, every single day. I understand the Senate may restore some of these funds... but my vote is based on the budget in front of me.

Additionally, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to make historic investments in our rural communities...we need to meet the moment...and this budget falls short.”

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Overall this is a good budget but I’m disappointed that too little funding is invested in economic development, that it does not contain \$15M for middle income housing, that it spends ARPA money on programs instead of on infrastructure, that it is devoid of the Governor’s tax relief ideas, which I believe would best help Vermonters.”

Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This budget invests \$41.9 million in workforce development, one of the greatest challenges facing our economy now and in the future.”

Rep. Long of Newfane explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Every year, we pass a balanced budget that reflects careful stewardship of Vermont’s financial resources. This budget invests in programs that reflect and bring to life our deepest values. I vote yes today to support Vermont families and communities in all 14 counties, to protect the most vulnerable, and to build a more vibrant future for all of us.”

Rep. McCoy of Poultney explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Our House Appropriations Committee has my sincere thanks for the massive job they undertake every year to ensure our budget leaves the House balanced. I voted yes on the bill, however am disappointed the Governor’s budget proposals of 100 million dollars for robust economic recovery funding to help our State move forward towards transformative change to our economy, as well as tax relief for the military and student loan interest and housing income and child card workers tax credits, were left on the cutting room floor.”

Rep. Morgan, M. of Milton explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on the Appropriations Bill today. However, I do hope this body, in future years, takes the appropriate action to reduce our budgetary spending when Federal dollars have been exhausted.”

Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

While I do not support all that is included in this budget, and never have in a budget, I voted in favor of the bill. I am specifically grateful for the full funding of the Governor’s proposal surrounding tourism and marketing.”

Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I appreciate the hard work done by the House Committee on Appropriations. Although I ultimately voted in favor of H.740, I was disappointed to see that the budget cuts \$100 million of proposed economic recovery spending. Businesses across the State are struggling and these funds could be crucial in helping them recover.”

Rep. White of Hartford explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes for this transformational budget that supports Vermont today and invests strategically in the next generation. Thank you to the Appropriations Committee for strengthening our infrastructure, both physical and social.”

Rep. Wood of Waterbury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

The people of Vermont are fortunate to have the balanced approach to investing in Vermont and its citizens, particularly older Vermonters and those with disabilities. This budget represents the intensity of needs of Vermonters and invests in our future.”

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

H. 739

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

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

Rep. Long of Newfane presiding.

Rep. Krowinski of Burlington presiding.

Rep. Feltus of Lyndon, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 13, adding 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 17c, in subdivision (b)(4), by striking out “critical communications expansion program” and inserting in lieu thereof “Critical Communications Infrastructure Program, as established in Sec. 20 of this act.”

Second: By striking out Sec. 20, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 20. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 34a is added to read:

* * * Public Service * * *

Sec. 34a. CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

PROGRAM

(a) The purpose of the Critical Communications Infrastructure Program is to improve availability of commercial mobile wireless voice services (CMRS) in areas where those services are currently unavailable.

(b) The Department of Public Service, in cooperation with the Agency of Transportation, shall:

(1) Evaluate CMRS through a driving test of all federal aid highways.

(2) Prioritize road segments identified from the drive test as having no or low-quality voice service using traffic counts and the quantity of E-911 business and residential locations in proximity. In identifying priority road segments, the Department shall seek input on a draft set of priority road segments, including from State agencies and regional planning commissions and any other stakeholders that the Commissioner deems necessary.

(3) Retain an expert to identify search rings, defined as geographic areas in which towers could be deployed to provide mobile wireless service to the priority road segments. In developing the search rings, the expert shall consider the locations of existing tower sites and the optimal extension of existing coverage.

(c) The Department shall develop a program to competitively award grants to facilities-based carriers and tower operators that results in the deployment of

new wireless facilities in areas identified for priority in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. In creating the program, the Department shall ensure that the funding is awarded in a manner that:

(1) ensures wireless voice coverage from national facilities-based CMRS carriers;

(2) provides coverage in unserved areas of all Vermont counties; and

(3) provides low-cost or free access to some facilities by Vermont public safety organizations.

(d) In developing the Program, the Commissioner may retain outside consultants for assistance. The Commissioner may also consider neutral host networks in areas that cannot otherwise be supported by the Program.

Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Appropriations agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

At twelve o'clock and two minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 47.

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. 122

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 Blue Mountain Union School Bucks Division IV championship boys' basketball team

H.C.R. 123

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 Champlain Valley Union High School Redhawks State championship girls' Alpine skiing team

H.C.R. 124

House concurrent resolution congratulating Anna Chandler of Orange on

her centennial birthday

H.C.R. 125

House concurrent resolution honoring Gill Coates for a half century of exemplary community leadership in Hinesburg

H.C.R. 126

House concurrent resolution commemorating Thomas Davenport, electrical inventor

H.C.R. 127

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 Champlain Valley Union High School Redhawks boys' Alpine ski team on winning a second consecutive State championship

[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.]