

# Journal of the House

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

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

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Donahue of Northfield.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Page Hazen (Hazel) Longo of Morristown led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 25th day of March, 2022, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

**H. 701 An act relating to cannabis license fees and the regulation of the medical cannabis registry**

## Message from the Senate No. 40

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its 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. 155.** An act relating to the creation of the Agency of Public Safety.

**S. 197.** An act relating to to the provision of mental health supports.

**S. 219.** An act relating to ensuring compliance with the U.S. and Vermont Constitutions in the use of public funds for tuition.

**S. 254.** An act relating to recovering damages for Article 11 violations by law enforcement and a report on qualified immunity.

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

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

**H. 628.** An act relating to amending a birth certificate to reflect gender identity.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

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

**H. 722.** An act relating to final reapportionment of the House of Representatives.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

**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.

### **House Bill Introduced**

#### **H. 742**

By Reps. Morgan, M. of Milton, Mattos of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, and Palasik of Milton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Milton

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

### **Senate Bills Referred**

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

#### **S. 155**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Agency of Public Safety

To the Committee on Government Operations.

#### **S. 197**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the provision of mental health supports

To the Committee on Education.

#### **S. 219**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to ensuring compliance with the U.S. and Vermont Constitutions in the use of public funds for tuition

To the Committee on Education.

#### **S. 254**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to recovering damages for Article 11 violations by law enforcement and a report on qualified immunity

To the Committee on Judiciary.

### **Joint Resolution Referred to Committee**

#### **J.R.H. 21**

Joint resolution urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to approve the use of R-1234yf refrigerant for use in heavy-duty truck air conditioning systems

Offered by: Representative McCormack of Burlington

Whereas, the air conditioning refrigerant known as R-134a was an alternative to the powerful greenhouse gas- and ozone-depleting refrigerant R-12, and

Whereas, R-134a has an ozone-depleting potential of zero, but is still is a major greenhouse gas, and

Whereas, the refrigerant R-1234yf has an ozone-depleting potential of zero and a global-warming impact of close to zero, and it is a workable alternative refrigerant to R-134, and

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use of R-1234yf for use in automobile and off-road vehicle air conditioning systems, and R-1234yf has been successfully used in automobiles since 2013, and

Whereas, changing from R-134a to R-1234yf for use in heavy-duty truck air conditioning systems would result in significant environmental benefits in the effort to reduce the impact of global warming, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to approve the use of R-1234yf refrigerant for use in heavy-duty truck air conditioning systems and that truck manufacturers make this transition as soon as possible following federal approval, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the EPA Administrator in Washington, D.C.

Was read by title only, treated as bill, and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife pursuant to House Rule 52.

### **House Resolution Placed on Calendar**

#### **H.R. 23**

House resolution amending the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives related to the prevention of sexual harassment

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Bluemle of Burlington, Feltus of Lyndon, McCoy of Poultney, and Mrowicki of Putney

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That Rule 90(c) of the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives be amended to read:

(c) Sexual Harassment

(1) The House of Representatives is opposed to and prohibits sexual harassment without qualification. This ~~policy rule~~ covers the conduct of Representatives and persons that either the Speaker's Office or the Office of the Clerk of the House employs.

(2) This policy protects Representatives, employees, and members of the public, including lobbyists, advocates, and members of the press, from sexual harassment attributable to a Representative or an employee of these offices.

(3) The Rules Committee shall, at the beginning of the biennium, appoint a Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel composed of five members of the House who shall serve until successors are appointed.

(4) The Panel shall elect a chair, adopt procedures to conduct its business, adopt a policy against sexual harassment in compliance with 21 V.S.A. § 495h and as necessary to implement this ~~policy rule~~, and shall provide copies of ~~the policy set forth in~~ this rule and the adopted procedures and policy against sexual harassment to all members of the House and employees of the Speaker's Office and the Office of the Clerk of the House.

(5) The Panel shall receive and investigate complaints of alleged sexual harassment made against members of the House or an employee of the Speaker's Office or the Office of the Clerk of the House. The Panel may meet remotely during adjournment to consider complaints as set forth in the Panel's adopted procedures.

(6) The Panel shall advise individual members and provide training to all House members, employees, and interns on the scope of conduct constituting prohibited sexual harassment.

(7) The Panel, if it deems it necessary, may recommend to the House any disciplinary action against a member for a sexual harassment violation.

(8) These Rules prohibit retaliation against a person who complains, reports, or cooperates in an investigation of sexual harassment.

(9) Annually, on or before December 31, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel shall report to the House the number of complaints filed, the disposition of those complaints, and the number of member requests for advice on sexual harassment inquiries.

Was read by title only and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 33.

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**Committee Relieved of Consideration  
and Bill Committed to Other Committee**

**S. 90**

**Rep. Lippert of Hinesburg** moved that the Committee on Health Care be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis registry

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Human Services, which was agreed to.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 739**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

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

**Action on Bill Postponed**

**H. 444**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre

Was taken up and, pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, on motion of **Rep. Copeland Hanzas of Bradford**, action on the bill was postponed until March 31, 2022.

**Adjournment**

At ten o'clock and twenty-seven minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.