

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Tom Redden, Zen Peacemaker Order, Newfane.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 210

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to rental housing health and safety and affordable housing

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 234

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to changes to Act 250

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State or materially affecting the revenues of one or more municipalities, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 286

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to amending various public pension and other postemployment benefits

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 51**

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 51. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 22, 2022, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

House Resolution Adopted**H.R. 25**

House resolution honoring Senator Patrick J. Leahy for his nearly half century of extraordinary public service in the U.S. Senate

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, the true origin of U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy's illustrious senatorial career can be traced back to the then four-year-old Montpelier boy's obtaining his first library card at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, and

Whereas, after graduating from St. Michael's College and the Georgetown University Law Center, Pat Leahy turned his attention to public service, first as Chittenden County State's Attorney, and then, in 1974, at 34 years of age, as a U.S. Senator, beginning the longest tenure of any Vermonter in the nation's senior legislative chamber where he is currently the U.S. Senate's longest-serving member, and

Whereas, Senator Leahy has been honored to serve terms as Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Appropriations, and Judiciary Committees, and has twice been President Pro Tempore, the third in line to the presidency, and

Whereas, issues pertaining to the economic prosperity and environmental protection of Vermont have always been of paramount importance to him, and

Whereas, Senator Leahy's advocacy of open government earned him membership in the FOIA Hall of Fame and won him the John Peter Zenger Press Freedom Award, and his concern for personal privacy in the digital age influenced his co-founding of the Congressional Internet Caucus, and

Whereas, he was an early and ardent advocate for the banning of anti-personnel landmines and shepherded the legislation establishing the Leahy War Victims Fund, and

Whereas, unique among his colleagues, Senator Leahy's thousands of photographs of congressional life have been prominently published and exhibited, and they form an extraordinary congressional archive, and

Whereas, the fees and royalties Senator Leahy has earned for appearing in five *Batman* movies have all been donated to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, whose children's wing is named in his honor, and

Whereas, Pat Leahy and the love of his life, Marcelle, are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year, and, at the conclusion of his current term, he will end an amazing eight terms as Vermont's U.S. Senator, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body honors Senator Patrick J. Leahy for his nearly half century of extraordinary public service in the U.S. Senate, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senator Pat Leahy.

Was read and adopted.

Recess

At one o'clock and twenty-three minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At two o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 157

House bill, entitled

An act relating to registration of construction contractors

On motion of **Rep. Stevens of Waterbury**, action on the bill was postponed until May 6, 2022.

**Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in
With a Further Amendment Thereto**

H. 447

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

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

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149, section 3, subdivision (b)(1), by striking out subdivision (B) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (B) to read as follows:

(B) is injurious to other property in the vicinity; or

Second: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149, section 3, subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (3) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (3) to read as follows:

(3) Not less than 30 days before any action taken under this subsection, the Town shall provide to the property owner and any recorded lienholders a notice of the Town's intent to issue civil penalties; clean or repair the premises; or remove rubbish, waste, or objectionable material. The Town shall provide to the property owner and any recorded lienholders reasonable opportunity and information to appeal the proposed action or to clean or repair the premises before the Town takes any final action.

Third: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149, in section 11, in subsection (c), in the last sentence, immediately following the words "may not be petitioned again for a period of", by striking out the words "one year" and inserting in lieu thereof the words three years

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Vyhovsky of Essex**, for the Committee on Government Operations, recommended that the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149, in section 3, in subdivision (b)(1), by striking out subdivision (B) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (B) to read as follows:

(B) may physically injure other property in the vicinity; or

Second: In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149, in section 11, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) In addition to the procedure set forth above in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the charter may be revised or amended by the submission of a citizen initiative (petition) specifying the amendments or revisions desired and signed by 10 percent of the registered voters. The petition and subsequent action shall conform to the requirements of State statutes relating to charter amendment procedures, ~~shall be subject to the determination of the Selectboard as to whether or not they are comprehensive in nature,~~ and shall be approved by a an annual Town meeting vote with at least 25 15 percent of voters participating. If a proposed amendment or revision under this subsection is voted down at the annual Town meeting, it or a substantially similar amendment may not be petitioned again for a period of one year.

Which was agreed to.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 731

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2022 legislative session

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 381, 20 V.S.A. § 1601, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 381. 20 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

Chapter 85. Needy Veterans in Need

§ 1601. AID TO ~~NEEDY~~ VETERANS IN NEED

(a) The monies annually available for the purposes of this chapter, or ~~so much thereof as may be~~ the amount of those monies that is necessary, shall be expended under the supervision of the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs at the direction of the Adjutant and Inspector General. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall disburse ~~such~~ the funds, ~~or such part thereof as may be~~ necessary, in aiding, caring for, and educating ~~needy~~ veterans in need and ~~needy~~ persons in need who are legal dependents of veterans. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall award funds to applicants approved for assistance based on criteria approved by the Adjutant and Inspector General. Monetary assistance will be given only to applicants who would not be better served by other State, federal, or private assistance programs. The Adjutant and Inspector General shall determine conditions for eligibility and ~~will~~ shall ensure that the program is managed to the limit imposed by the available funding. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall submit an annual report to the Adjutant and Inspector

General on all fund activities at the end of each fiscal year. In addition, the Adjutant and Inspector General ~~will~~ shall review all fund expenditures at least once per fiscal year.

(b) The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall develop application and operating procedures for the fund, which must be approved by the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General. Any deviation from the application and operating procedures shall be approved by the Adjutant and Inspector General. The application and operating procedures shall be available for review by applicants, service providers, and others that may have an interest in the fund.

* * *

§ 1605. VETERAN EDUCATION

The Office of Veterans' Affairs may use some, none, or all of the funds to educate ~~needy~~ veterans in need about programs and benefits that will provide more permanent solutions to their financial situation. Any use of funds for veteran education or program support shall be approved in advance by the Adjutant and Inspector General.

Second: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 432a to read as follows:

Sec. 432a. 24 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. CHITTENDEN

The County of Chittenden is formed of the towns of Bolton, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, St. George, Shelburne, the City of South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, Williston, the City of Burlington, the City of Essex Junction, the City of Winooski, Buel's Gore, and so much of Lake Champlain as lies in this State west of the towns in the county adjoining the lake and not included within the limits of the County of Grand Isle. The City of Burlington is the shire town.

Proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Adjournment

At two o'clock and thirteen minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.