

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 6

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 9.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Kitchel,

J.R.S. 9. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at two o'clock in the afternoon to receive the budget message of the Governor, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 27.

By Senators Ram, Cummings, Hardy, Lyons, Perchlik, Pollina and Sirotkin,
An act relating to facilitating cultural liaisons.
To the Committee on Education.

S. 28.

By Senators Lyons and McCormack,
An act relating to banning baby bumper pads.
To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 29.

By Senators Hardy, Perchlik and Ram,
An act relating to the creation of the VSC tuition-free scholarship program
for Vermont residents.
To the Committee on Education.

S. 30.

By Senators Baruth, Balint, Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson,
Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Ram,
Sirotkin and White,

An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities,
hospitals, and certain public buildings.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 31.

By Senators Clarkson and Hardy,
An act relating to crimes and criminal procedures related to firearms.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 32.

By Senators Lyons, Hardy, Clarkson, Hooker, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram,
Sirotkin and Westman,

An act relating to school wellness and feminine hygiene products.

To the Committee on Education.

**Rules Suspended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed
in Concurrence; Bill Messaged**

H. 48.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator White, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its passage in concurrence forthwith.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Standing Committees Appointed

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the appointment of the following standing committees, as follows:

Ethics

Senator Benning, Chair
Campion, Vice-Chair
Brock
Cummings
Pollina

Sexual Harassment Panel

Senator Hardy, Chair
Benning, Vice-Chair
Clarkson
Perchlik
Parent
Ram

Appointment of Senate Members to Joint Rules Committee

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Rules Committee for terms of two years pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule No. 5:

Senator Balint, *ex officio*
Senator Mazza
Senator Clarkson
Senator Brock

Appointment of Senate Members to the Emergency Board

Pursuant to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 131, the President announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Emergency Board for a term of two years:

Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Cummings, *ex officio*

Appointment of Senate Members to Joint Fiscal Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 501, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Fiscal Committee for terms of two years ending February 1, 2023:

Senator Cummings, *ex officio*
Senator Sears
Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Balint
Senator Westman

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Legislative Management Oversight Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 451(b)(2), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Legislative Management Oversight Committee during this biennium:

Senator Balint, *ex officio*
Senator Kitchel
Senator Mazza
Senator Benning

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 12b (Supp.), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee during this biennium:

Senator Mazza, *ex officio*
Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Cummings, *ex officio*

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention

Pursuant to the provisions of 4 V.S.A. § 607, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention during this biennium:

Senator Nitka
Senator Hardy
Senator Benning
Senator McCormack

Appointment of Senate Member to Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 V.S.A. § 1700, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel for a term of two years ending on January 15, 2023:

Senator MacDonald

Appointment of Senate Member to Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 280e(b)(2), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board for a term of two years:

Senator Chittenden

Appointment of Senate Members to Sunset Advisory Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 268(b)(1)(B), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Sunset Advisory Committee for the current biennium:

Senator White, Co-Chair
Senator Collamore

Appointment of Senate Members to Cannabis Control Board Nominating Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 164 7 V.S.A. Chapter 31 § 842 Sec. 2(b)(3) (Acts of 2020)(Adj. Sess.), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Cannabis Control Board Nominating Committee during this biennium:

Senator White
Senator Pearson

Appointment of Senate Member to Select Committee on the Future of Vermont State College System

Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 120 Sec. A.10(b)(1)(B) (Acts of 2020)(Adj. Sess.), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Select Committee on the Future of Vermont State College System until January 31, 2022:

Senator Baruth

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.