

# Journal of the Senate

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Joan Javier-Duval of Montpelier.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

## Senate Resolution Placed on Calendar

### S.R. 6.

Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy,

**S.R. 6.** Senate resolution relating to disapproving of Executive Order 02-21.

*Whereas*, on January 14, 2021, the Governor signed Executive Order 02-21 reorganizing the Natural Resources Board and its District Commissions, and

*Whereas*, according to the Executive Order, effective April 15, 2021, a professional Natural Resources Board would decide major permit applications with assistance from two District Commissioners from the district where the project is located, and

*Whereas*, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy has taken testimony and public comment concerning this Executive Order, and

*Whereas*, the Senate agrees with the Governor that it is to the benefit of the State of Vermont to “maximize natural resources protections, enable well planned growth, increase predictability and reduce redundancy with other state regulatory programs,” it finds complexities and possible unintended consequences that must be analyzed and addressed to achieve these goals, and

*Whereas*, the Senate believes the best mechanism both to resolve these complexities and unintended consequences and to explore, in depth, the options for reorganizing the Natural Resources Board is to use the standing

committee process, with the resulting opportunity for enhanced research, analysis, and public participation, and

*Whereas*, the Senate is committed to working cooperatively with the Administration to produce legislation that will achieve our shared goals of updating the Act 250 process, and

*Whereas*, as part of this process, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy looks forward to reviewing and taking testimony on the Administration's complete proposal for changing the Act 250 permit process, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2002, disapproves of Executive Order 02-21, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Senate invites the Administration to bring forward draft legislation to optimize the Act 250 permit and appeals process, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Philip B. Scott.

Thereupon, under Rule 34 and 51, the resolution was placed on the Calendar for notice.

**Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

**J.R.S. 12.**

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

By Senator Balint,

**J.R.S. 12.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 5, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

**Bills Introduced**

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

**S. 57.**

By Senators Perchlik, Benning, Collamore, Starr and White,

An act relating to secondary enforcement of the motorcycle helmet law.

To the Committee on Transportation.

**S. 58.**

By Senators McCormack, Brock and Perchlik,

An act relating to prohibiting use of the gay and trans panic defense.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**Message from the House No. 14**

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed a House bill of the following title:

**H. 138.** An act relating to fiscal year 2021 budget adjustments.

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

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.