

# Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

## Joint Resolutions Placed on Calendar

### J.R.S. 13.

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

By Senator Balint,

**J.R.S. 13.** Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, an Adjutant and Inspector General, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

*Whereas*, Vermont has been declared by the Governor to be in a State of Emergency as a result of a pandemic known as “COVID-19”; and

*Whereas*, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters, and limit the spread of infection in our community; and

*Whereas*, technology exists that would enable the General Assembly to conduct a Joint Assembly during this time of a declared emergency in a manner: consistent with public access to, and transparency of, its proceedings, as demanded by the Vermont Constitution; and consistent with and in compliance with statutory and legislative rule requirements regarding the election of a Sergeant at Arms, an Adjutant and Inspector General, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, *now therefore be it*

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

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at ten o’clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to vote on the election of a Sergeant at Arms, an Adjutant and Inspector General, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically at which members of the General Assembly may participate and debate from a remote location; that voting by ballot shall be conducted, as practicable, consistent with Vermont’s “Early or Absentee Voters” statute at 17 V.S.A. §2531, et seq.; that after nominations and debates, if necessary, the Joint Assembly shall recess until Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 2:00 pm (or as otherwise ordered by the Joint Assembly) so that ballots may be submitted; and that upon reconvening, the results of the vote shall be announced or the Joint Assembly shall proceed until the above is completed.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow.

**J.R.S. 14.**

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

By Senator Balint,

**J.R.S. 14.** Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of UVM trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2021.

*Whereas*, in 1997 the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was decided by plurality vote, which required one ballot only, and

*Whereas*, in 1999 the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was decided by majority vote, which required a total of eight ballots, and

*Whereas*, in 2001 and subsequent bienniums the elections of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College were decided by plurality vote, each of which required one ballot only, and

*Whereas*, if an election for multiple vacancies is to be decided by a plurality vote, then a great savings of time can be effectuated, *now therefore be it*

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

That, notwithstanding the current provisions of Joint Rule 10, and for this election only, the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College at a Joint Assembly to be held on February 18, 2021, shall be governed by the following procedure:

(1) All candidates for the office of Trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be three.

(2) The three candidates receiving the most votes shall be declared elected to fill the three vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the Trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for one or more of the three vacant positions, then as necessary voting shall continue on successive ballots until the vacancies have been filled, again by election declared of those candidates receiving the most votes.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow.

### **Bills Introduced**

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

#### **S. 59.**

By Senators Hooker, Hardy, Lyons, Pollina and Ram,

An act relating to an income tax surcharge to reduce State retirement liabilities.

To the Committee on Finance.

#### **S. 60.**

By Senator Cummings,

An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services.

To the Committee on Finance.

#### **S. 61.**

By Senator Starr,

An act relating to the definition of agricultural land for the purposes of use value appraisals.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

#### **S. 62.**

By Senators Sirotkin, Balint, Clarkson, Hooker and Lyons,

An act relating to creating a New Vermont Employee Incentive Program.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

### **Bill Referred**

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

**H. 138.**

An act relating to fiscal year 2021 budget adjustments.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, February 4, 2021.