

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Diane Nancekivell of Middlebury.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Senate Resolution Referred

S.R. 7.

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

Senate resolution reaffirming the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supporting enhanced United States–Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan’s role in the international community.

By Senators Kitchel, Cummings and Westman,

S.R. 7. Senate resolution reaffirming the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supporting enhanced United States–Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan’s role in the international community.

Whereas, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, and

Whereas, the United States is Taiwan’s second-largest trading partner; Taiwan is the tenth-largest goods trading partner of the United States; and bilateral trade in goods and services between the United States and Taiwan totaled approximately \$103.9 billion in 2019, and

Whereas, President Tsai Ing-wen has expressed Taiwan’s desire to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States that will benefit the Vermont–Taiwan trade relationship, and

Whereas, Vermont and Taiwan have enjoyed vibrant bilateral relations that include: Taiwan being Vermont's second-largest export market and in 2019 its largest Asian export market; the establishment of a driver's license reciprocity agreement between Vermont and Taiwan; and Taiwan's donation of 44,000 surgical masks to Vermont to help combat COVID-19, and

Whereas, Taiwan can be a vital partner on issues related to public health, criminal justice, aviation safety, and climate change, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate of the State of Vermont reaffirms the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supports enhanced United States–Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's role in the international community, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Governor Philip B. Scott, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and Jonathan Sun, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

Thereupon, the President, in her discretion, treated the joint resolution as a bill and referred it to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 15.

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. 15. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 12, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 67.

By Senators Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina and Sirotkin,

An act relating to creating a right to repair agricultural equipment.

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

S. 68.

By Senators Hooker, Balint, Clarkson, Collamore and Terenzini,

An act relating to low-alcohol spirits beverages.

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

S. 69.

By Senators Benning, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Hooker, Parent, Pollina and Terenzini,

An act relating to suicide prevention initiatives.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 70.

By Senator Pearson,

An act relating to requiring health insurance plans to provide two primary care visits per year without cost sharing.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 71.

By Senators Pearson and Sirotkin,

An act relating to applying Vermont prevailing wages to school construction projects.

To the Committee on Institutions.

S. 72.

By Senators Lyons and Sears,

An act relating to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 73.

By Senators Collamore, Brock, Ingalls, Parent and Terenzini,

An act relating to allowing probation and parole officers to carry firearms while on duty.

To the Committee on Institutions.

S. 74.

By Senators McCormack, Clarkson, Lyons and Sirotkin,

An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.