

# Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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. 22

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 House bills of the following titles:

**H. 81.** An act relating to statewide public school employee health benefits.

**H. 122.** An act relating to boards and commissions.

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

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to the following House bill:

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

And has severally concurred therein with a further proposal of amendment thereto, in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

## Message from the House No. 23

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 adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

**H.C.R. 18.** House concurrent resolution in memory of Cynthia M. (Peterson) Eastman.

**H.C.R. 19.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Megan Nick of Shelburne on her victories in the 2021 FIS Freestyle World Cup competition.

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

### **Bill Introduced**

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

#### **S. 88.**

By Senator Cummings,

An act relating to insurance, banking, and securities.

To the Committee on Finance.

### **Bills Referred**

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

#### **H. 81.**

An act relating to statewide public school employee health benefits.

To the Committee on Education.

#### **H. 122.**

An act relating to boards and commissions.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

### **Rules Suspended; House Proposals of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred In; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged**

#### **H. 138.**

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

An act relating to fiscal year 2021 budget adjustments.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with the following amendments thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 57, body camera deployment, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 57 to read as follows:

Sec. 57. BODY CAMERA DEPLOYMENT

The Departments of Fish and Wildlife, of Liquor Control, of Motor Vehicles shall only deploy the use of body cameras after appropriate training

of staff and the adoptions of policies on use and retention of records. The departments shall identify the on-going cost and funding source for training, data storage and redaction and report these findings to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on or before March 15, 2021. The Secretary of Administration shall provide a report to the Joint Fiscal and the Joint Justice Oversight Committees in September 2021 on the status of use of body cameras in these departments.

Second: By striking out Sec. 59, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 59. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. B.1122 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1122 VERMONT CORONAVIRUS ECONOMIC STIMULUS  
EQUITY PROGRAM

\* \* \*

(b) Establishment of Program; eligibility; maximum award.

(1) On or before November 15, 2020, the Agency of Administration shall establish the Vermont Coronavirus Economic Stimulus Equity Program to award direct relief grant payments to eligible adults and eligible children.

(2) In order to receive payment under the Program, an eligible adult shall certify that he or she:

(A) is a resident of Vermont;

(B) was ineligible to receive an economic impact payment under the CARES Act due to reasons of immigration status; and

(C) had an adjusted gross income of less than \$99,000.00 in taxable year 2019 or, if filing jointly, an adjusted gross income of less than \$198,000.00 in taxable year 2019.

(3) Each eligible adult shall receive \$1,200.00 and \$500.00 for each eligible child, provided that an eligible adult shall not receive an award for an eligible child if another applicant received an award for that child.

(4) Each award issued under this section shall be issued as a direct payment from the State of Vermont.

(5) All applications for a payment under this section shall be submitted on or before ~~March 1,~~ May 1, 2021.

\* \* \*

Sec. 60. 32 V.S.A. § 3102 is amended to read as follows:

§ 3102. CONFIDENTIALITY OF TAX RECORDS

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\* \* \*

(e) The Commissioner may, in his or her discretion and subject to such conditions and requirements as he or she may provide, including any confidentiality requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, disclose a return or return information:

\* \* \*

(8) To the Commissioner of Labor for the purpose of establishing the identity or liability of employers for unemployment compensation, for the purpose of verifying the earnings of individuals in order to determine the amount of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance they are eligible to receive, and for the purpose of verifying and correcting personally identifiable information necessary for the creation and issuance of tax documents to individuals who received benefits through unemployment insurance and related federal and State benefit programs administered by the Department of Labor.

\* \* \*

Sec. 61. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(e)(8) is amended to read:

(8) To the Commissioner of Labor for the purpose of establishing the identity or liability of employers for unemployment compensation, and for the purpose of verifying the earnings of individuals in order to determine the amount of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance they are eligible to receive, ~~and for the purpose of verifying and correcting personally identifiable information necessary for the creation and issuance of tax documents to individuals who received benefits through unemployment insurance and related federal and State benefit programs administered by the Department of Labor.~~

Sec. 62. 32 V.S.A. § 3102(e)(8) is amended to read:

(8) To the Commissioner of Labor for the purpose of establishing the identity or liability of employers for unemployment compensation ~~and for the purpose of verifying the earnings of individuals in order to determine the amount of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance they are eligible to receive.~~

Sec. 63. USE OF FORCE TRAINING

Funds appropriated to the Department of Public Safety for use of force training pursuant to Act 165 of 2020 that are not expended in fiscal year 2021 shall carry forward to fiscal year 2022 and shall only be used for training in accordance with the standards for law enforcement use of force policy that is in place on July 1, 2021.

## Sec. 64. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214:

(1) Sec. 50(e)(1) (extraordinary relief to long-term care facilities) shall take effect retroactively on November 1, 2020;

(2) Secs. 50(e)(2) (adult day programs) and 49 (judicial filing fees) shall take effect retroactively on December 1, 2020;

(3) Sec. 50(e)(3) (transfer authority) shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2020;

(4) Secs. 47 (broadband access) and 54 (hazard pay reports) shall take effect retroactively on December 15, 2020; and

(5) Sec. 60 (32 V.S.A. § 3102) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to January 15, 2021.

(b) Sec. 61 (32 V.S.A. § 3102 (e)(8)) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

(c) Sec. 62 (32 V.S.A. § 3102 (e)(8)) shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(d) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposals of amendment to the Senate proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

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

### House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Lefebvre and Graham,

#### H.C.R. 18.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Cynthia M. (Peterson) Eastman.

By Reps. Brumsted and Webb,

#### H.C.R. 19.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Megan Nick of Shelburne on her victories in the 2021 FIS Freestyle World Cup competition.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 16.