Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 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. 40

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. 360. An act relating to accelerated community broadband deployment.
- **H. 430.** An act relating to expanding eligibility for Dr. Dynasaur to all income-eligible children and pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status.
- **H. 433.** An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

In the passage 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. 131.

By Senators Pollina, Balint, Baruth, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Ram and White,

An act relating to authorizing card check elections.

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

Bills Referred

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

H. 360.

An act relating to accelerated community broadband deployment.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 430.

An act relating to expanding eligibility for Dr. Dynasaur to all incomeeligible children and pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. 433.

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

To the Committee on Transportation.

Consideration Resumed; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 79.

Consideration was resumed on Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by Senators Clarkson, Balint, Brock, Ram and Sirotkin?, Senator Clarkson requested and was granted leave to withdraw the recommendation of amendment.

Thereupon, Senators Clarkson, Balint, Brock, Ram and Sirotkin moved to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 8, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont Housing Investments * * *

Sec. 8. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAM; PURPOSE

(a) Recognizing that Vermont's rental housing stock is some of the oldest in the country and that much of it needs to be updated to meet code requirements and other standards, the Vermont Rental Housing Investment Program is intended to incentivize private apartment owners to make significant improvements to both housing quality and weatherization by providing grants and forgivable loans that are matched in part by the property owner.

- (b) The Program seeks to take the lessons learned from the successful Rehousing Recovery Program established with funds provided by the Federal CARES Act and implement them in a State-funded program.
- Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. chapter 29, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Housing; Investments

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAM

- (a) Creation of program.
- (1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall design and implement the Vermont Rental Housing Investment Program through which the Department shall award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide competitive grants and forgivable loans to private landlords for the rehabilitation and weatherization of eligible rental housing units.
- (2) The Department shall develop statewide standards for the Program, including factors that partner organizations shall use to evaluate applications and award grants and forgivable loans.
- (b) Eligible rental housing units. The following units are eligible for a grant or forgivable loan through the Program:
- (1) Non-code compliant. The unit does not comply with the requirements of applicable building, housing, or health laws.
- (2) Vacant. The unit has not been leased or occupied for at least 90 days prior to the date of application and remains unoccupied on the date of the award.
- (3) Accessory dwelling. The unit is an accessory dwelling unit that meets the requirements of 24 V.S.A. § 4412(1)(E).
- (c) Administration. The Department shall require a housing organization that receives funding under the Program to adopt:
- (1) a standard application form that describes the application process and includes instructions and examples to help landlords apply;
- (2) an award process that ensures equitable selection of landlords, subject to a housing organization's exercise of discretion based on the factors adopted by the Department pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and
- (3) a grants and loan management system that ensures accountability for funds awarded.
 - (d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.

- (1) A grant or loan shall not exceed \$30,000 per unit.
- (2) A landlord shall contribute matching funds or in-kind services that equal or exceed 20 percent of the value of the grant or loan.
 - (3) A project shall include a weatherization component.
- (4) A project shall comply with applicable building, housing, and health laws.
- (5) The terms and conditions of a grant or loan agreement apply to the original recipient and to a successor in interest for the period the grant or loan agreement is in effect.
- (6) The identity of a recipient and the amount of a grant or forgivable loan are public records that shall be available for public copying and inspection and the Department shall publish this information at least monthly on its website.
- (e) Program requirements applicable to grants. For a grant awarded under the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:
- (1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local coordinated entry organizations to identify potential tenants.
- (2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection, a landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is exiting homelessness.
- (B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing organization that issued the grant determines that a household exiting homelessness is not available to lease the unit, then the landlord shall lease the unit:
- (i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of area median income; or
- (ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with the approval of the Department or housing organization.
- (3)(A) A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.
- (B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the total cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the

grant.

- (B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive a 10 percent credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the landlord participates in the grant program.
- (f) Requirements applicable to forgivable loans. For a forgivable loan awarded under the Program, the following requirements apply for a minimum period of 10 years:
- (1)(A) A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.
- (B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (2) The Department shall forgive 10 percent of the amount of a forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.
- (g) Lien priority. A lien for a grant converted to a loan or for a forgivable loan issued pursuant to this section is subordinate to:
- (1) a lien on the property in existence at the time the lien for rehabilitation and weatherization of the rental housing unit is filed in the land records; and
- (2) a first mortgage on the property that is refinanced and recorded after the lien for rehabilitation and weatherization of the rental housing unit is filed in the land records.

Sec. 10. REPORT

On or before February 15, 2022 the Department of Housing and Community Development shall report to the General Assembly concerning the design, implementation, and outcomes of the Vermont Housing Investment Program, including findings and any recommendations related to the amount of grant awards.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a) This section and the following sections shall take effect on passage:
 - (1) Sec. 1 (DPS authority for rental housing health and safety).
 - (2) Sec. 2 (rental housing registry).
 - (3) Sec. 6 (conforming changes to Department of Health statutes).

- (4) Sec. 7 (DPS rulemaking authority and transition provisions).
- (b) The following sections take effect on July 1, 2021:
 - (1) Sec. 4 (DPS positions).
 - (2) Sec. 5 (DHCD positions);
 - (3) Secs. 8-10 (Vermont Housing Investment Program).
- (c) Sec. 3 (rental housing registration) shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the bill be read the third time?, was decided in the affirmative on a roll call, Yeas 22, Nays 7.

Senator Sirotkin having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Balint, Baruth, Bray, Brock, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benning, Collamore, Ingalls, Nitka, Parent, Terenzini, Westman.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Cummings.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 101.

Senator Balint, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to promoting housing choice and opportunity in smart growth areas.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended as follows:

<u>First</u>: In Sec. 11, 10 V.S.A. § 1983, in subdivision (a)(2)(A), by striking out the words: "that serves a single connection"

Second: In Sec. 11, 10 V.S.A. § 1983, in subdivision (a)(2)(B), by striking out the words: "that serves a single connection"

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee on Finance, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass.

Senator Balint, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

<u>First</u>: By striking out Sec. 3 (appropriation; municipal bylaw modernization) in its entirety.

<u>Second</u>: By striking out Sec. 4 (appropriation; training and permitting assistance) in its entirety.

Third: By striking out Sec. 6 (32 V.S.A. § 5930ee) in its entirety.

And by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, as amended? was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read third time?, Senators Bray, Campion, MacDonald and Sirotkin moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 11, 10 V.S.A. § 1983, as follows:

<u>First</u>: In subsection (a), in subdivision (5), after the words "<u>requires</u> <u>documentation</u>" and before the words "<u>in the land records</u>" by inserting the words <u>issued</u> by a professional engineer or licensed designer that is filed

<u>Second</u>: In subsection (b), in the first sentence by striking out the word <u>registration</u>" where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof the word authorization

Third: By adding a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A municipality issuing an authorization under this section shall require the person to whom the authorization is issued to post notice of the authorization as part of the notice required for a permit issued under 24 V.S.A. § 4449 or other bylaw authorized under this chapter.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read third time?, Senator Parent moved to amend the bill as follows:

By striking out Sec. 9, effective dates, and its reader assistance heading their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Act 250 Downtown Exemption * * *

Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

* * *

- (27) "Mixed income housing" means a housing project in which the following apply:
- (A) Owner-occupied housing. At the option of the applicant, owner-occupied housing may be characterized by either of the following:
- (i) at least 15 percent of the housing units have a purchase price that at the time of first sale does not exceed 85 percent of the new construction, targeted area purchase price limits established and published annually by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency; or
- (ii) At the time of initial sale, at least 20 percent of the housing units have a purchase price that at the time of first sale does not exceed 90 percent of the new construction, targeted area purchase price limits meet the requirements of affordable owner-occupied housing under subdivision (29)(A) of this section, adjusted for the number of bedrooms, as established and published annually by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.
- (B) Rental housing. At least 20 percent of the housing units that are rented constitute affordable housing and have a duration of affordability of For not less than 15 years following the date that rental housing is initially placed in service, at least 20 percent of the housing units meet the requirements of affordable rental housing under subdivision (29)(B) of this section, adjusted for the number of bedrooms, as established and published annually by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency.

- (35) "Priority housing project" means a discrete project located on a single tract or multiple contiguous tracts of land that consists exclusively of:
- (A) mixed income housing or mixed use, or any combination thereof, and is located entirely within a designated downtown development district, designated new town center, or designated growth center, or designated village center that is also a designated neighborhood development area under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A; or

(B) mixed income housing and is located entirely within a designated Vermont neighborhood or designated neighborhood development area under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A.

* * *

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 6081 is amended to read:

§ 6081. PERMITS REQUIRED; EXEMPTIONS

* * *

- (o) If a designation pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A is removed, subsection (a) of this section shall apply to any subsequent substantial change to a priority housing project development or subdivision that was originally exempt pursuant to subdivision 6001(3)(A)(iv)(I) of this title or subsection (p) of this section on the basis of that designation.
- (p)(1) No permit or permit amendment is required for any <u>subdivision</u>, <u>development</u>, <u>or</u> change to a project that is located entirely within a downtown development district designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2793, if the change consists exclusively of any combination of mixed use and mixed income housing, and the cumulative changes within any continuous period of five years, commencing on or after May 28, 2002, remain below any applicable jurisdictional threshold specified in subdivision 6001(3)(A)(iv)(I) of this title or a neighborhood development area designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2793e. Upon receiving notice and a copy of the permit issued by an appropriate municipal panel pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4460(f), a previously issued permit for a development or subdivision located in a downtown development area or a neighborhood development area is extinguished.
- (2) No permit or permit amendment is required for a priority housing project in a designated center other than a downtown development district if the project remains below any applicable jurisdictional threshold specified in subdivision 6001(3)(A)(iv)(I) of this title and will comply with all conditions of any existing permit or permit amendment issued under this chapter that applies to the tract or tracts on which the project will be located. If such a priority housing project will not comply with one or more of these conditions, an application may be filed pursuant to section 6084 of this title.

* * *

(v) A permit or permit amendment shall not be required for a development or subdivision in a designated downtown development district for which the District Commission has issued positive findings and conclusions under section 6086b of this title on all the criteria listed in that section. A person shall obtain new or amended findings and conclusions from the District

Commission under section 6086b of this title prior to commencement of a material change, as defined in the rules of the Board, to a development or subdivision for which the District Commission has issued such findings and conclusions. A person may seek a jurisdictional opinion under section 6007 of this title concerning whether such a change is a material change. [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 11. REPEALS

The following are repealed:

- (1) 10 V.S.A. § 6083a(d) (neighborhood development area fees).
- (2) 10 V.S.A. § 6086b (downtown development).
- Sec. 12. 24 V.S.A. § 4460 is amended to read:
- § 4460. APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL PANELS

- (f)(1) This subsection shall apply to a subdivision or development that:
 - (A) was previously permitted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151;
- (B) is located in a downtown development district or neighborhood development area designated pursuant to chapter 76A of this title; and
- (C) has applied for a permit or permit amendment required by zoning regulations or bylaws adopted pursuant to this subchapter.
- (2) The appropriate municipal panel reviewing a municipal permit or permit amendment pursuant to this subsection shall include conditions contained within a permit previously issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 unless the panel determines that the permit condition pertains to any of the following:
- (A) the construction phase of the project that has already been constructed;
- (B) compliance with another State permit that has independent jurisdiction;
 - (C) federal or State law that is no longer in effect or applicable;
- (D) an issue that is addressed by municipal regulation and the project will meet the municipal standards; or
- (E) a physical or use condition that is no longer in effect or applicable, or that will no longer be in effect or applicable once the new project is approved.

- (3) After issuing or amending a permit containing conditions pursuant to this subsection, the appropriate municipal panel shall provide notice and a copy of the permit to the Natural Resources Board.
- (4) The appropriate municipal panel shall comply with the notice and hearing requirements provided in subdivision 4464(a)(1) of this title. In addition, notice shall be provided to those persons requiring notice under 10 V.S.A. § 6084(b) and shall explicitly reference the existing Act 250 permit.
- (5) The appropriate municipal panel's decision shall be issued in accord with subsection 4464(b) of this title and shall include specific findings with respect to its determinations pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- (6) Any final action by the appropriate municipal panel affecting a condition of a permit previously issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 shall be recorded in the municipal land records.
- Sec. 13. 24 V.S.A. § 2792(a) is amended to read:
- (a) A "Vermont Downtown Development Board," also referred to as the "State Board," is created to administer the provisions of this chapter. The State Board shall be composed of the following members or their designees:

* * *

- (12) The executive director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee.
- Sec. 14. 24 V.S.A. § 2793 is amended to read:
- § 2793. DESIGNATION OF DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

* * *

- (b) Within 45 days of receipt of a completed application, the State Board shall designate a downtown development district if the State Board finds in its written decision that the municipality has:
- (1) Demonstrated a commitment to protect and enhance the historic character of the downtown through the adoption of a design review district, through the adoption of an historic district, or through the adoption of regulations that adequately regulate the physical form and scale of development that the State Board determines substantially meet the historic preservation requirements in subdivisions 4414(1)(E) and (F) of this title, or through the creation of a development review board authorized to undertake local Act 250 reviews of municipal impacts pursuant to section 4420 of this title.

- (4) A housing element in its plan in accordance with subdivision 4382(10) of this title that achieves the purposes of subdivision 4302(11) of this title and that includes clear implementation steps for achieving mixed income housing, including affordable housing, a timeline for implementation, responsibility for each implementation step, and potential funding sources.
- (5) Adopted one of the following to promote the availability of affordable housing opportunities in the municipality:
- (A) inclusionary zoning as provided in subdivision 4414(7) of this title;
 - (B) a restricted housing trust fund with designated revenue streams;
 - (C) a housing commission as provided in section 4433 of this title; or
- (D) impact fee exemptions or reductions for affordable housing as provided in section 5205 of this title.
- (c) A designation issued under this section shall be effective for eight years and may be renewed on application by the municipality. The State Board also shall review a community's designation four years after issuance or renewal and may review compliance with the designation requirements at more frequent intervals. Any community applying for renewal shall explain how the designation under this section has furthered the goals of the town plan and shall submit an approved town plan map that depicts the boundary of the designated district. Beginning on July 1, 2023, any community under review or seeking renewal shall comply with subdivisions (b)(4) and (5) of this section. If at any time the State Board determines that the downtown development district no longer meets the standards for designation established in subsection (b) of this section, it may take any of the following actions:
 - (1) require corrective action;
- (2) provide technical assistance through the Vermont Downtown Program;
- (3) limit eligibility for the benefits established in section 2794 of this chapter without affecting any of the district's previously awarded benefits; or
- (4) remove the district's designation without affecting any of the district's previously awarded benefits.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as moved by Senator Parent? Senator Bray raised a point of order under Sec. 402 of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure on the grounds that the amendment offered by Senator Parent was not germane to the bill and therefore could not be considered by the Senate.

In order for an amendment to be considered, it must be germane. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure, Sec. 402.

Whether a proposed amendment is germane is not always an easy question. Generally speaking, the following factors are considered:

- 1. Is the proposed amendment relevant, appropriate, and in a natural or logical sequence to the subject matter of the original proposal?
 - 2. Does the proposed amendment introduce an independent question?
- 3. Does the proposed amendment unreasonably or unduly expand the subject matter of the bill?
 - 4. Does the proposed amendment deal with a different topic or subject?
- 5. Does the proposed amendment change the purpose, scope or object of the original bill?

In deciding a question of germaneness, the threshold determination must be that of the subject matter of the bill or amendment under consideration and its scope.

After weighing the factors the President found the proposed amendment *not germane* to S. 101 and *sustained* the point of order and ruled that the amendment offered by Senator Parent was *not germane* to the bill.

The President thereupon declared that the amendment offered by Senator Parent could *not* be considered by the Senate and the amendment was ordered stricken.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Passed

S. 48.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Terenzini moved to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting two new sections to be numbered Secs. 2 and 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. LICENSE FEES

The Office of Professional Regulation shall not increase the license renewal fee for a Vermont single-state nurse license to recover any revenue the Office of Professional Regulation loses or anticipates losing as a result of Vermont's adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Sec. 1 shall take effect on February 1, 2022.

Which was disagreed to.

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

Bill Passed

H. 81.

Senate bill of the following title:

An act relating to statewide public school employee health benefits.

Was read the third time and passed on a roll call, Yeas 22, Nays 5.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Balint, Baruth, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Hardy, Hooker, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benning, Brock, Collamore, Ingalls, Parent.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Bray, Cummings, Terenzini.

Committee Report Substituted; Consideration Interrupted by Adjournment

S. 10.

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to extending certain unemployment insurance provisions related to COVID-19.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Experience Rating Relief for Calendar Year 2020 * * *

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 1325 is amended to read:

§ 1325. EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE-RATING RECORDS; DISCLOSURE TO SUCCESSOR ENTITY

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall maintain an experience-rating record for each employer. Benefits paid shall be charged against the experience-rating record of each subject employer who provided base-wages to the eligible individual. Each subject employer's experience-rating charge shall bear the same ratio to total benefits paid as the total base-period wages paid by that employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all base-period employers. The experience-rating record of an individual subject base-period employer shall not be charged for benefits paid to an individual under any of the following conditions:

* * *

(G) The Between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020, the individual voluntarily separated from that employer as provided by subdivision 1344(a)(2)(A) of this chapter for one of the following reasons:

- (3)(A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision subdivisions (B) and (C) of this subdivision (a)(3), an employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to an individual between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020 for a period of up to eight weeks with respect to benefits paid because:
- (i) the employer temporarily ceased operation, either partially or completely, at the individual's place of employment in response to a request from a public health authority with jurisdiction that the employer cease operations because of COVID-19, in response to an emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President related to COVID-19, or because the employer voluntarily ceased operations due to the actual exposure of workers at that place of employment to COVID-19;
- (ii) the individual becomes unemployed as a direct result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President in relation to COVID-19 or an order or directive issued by the Governor or President in relation to COVID-19, including through a change or reduction in the

employer's operation at the individual's place of employment that is a direct result of such a state of emergency, order, or directive; or

- (iii) the <u>employer has temporarily laid off the</u> individual has been recommended or requested <u>based on a recommendation or request</u> by a medical professional or a public health authority with jurisdiction to <u>that the individual</u> be isolated or quarantined as a result of COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- (B)(i) An Unless extended by the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (a)(3), an employer shall only be eligible for relief be relieved of charges for up to eight weeks of benefits paid between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020 under the provisions of this subdivision (a)(3) if the employer rehires or offers to rehire the individual within a reasonable period of time after the employer resumes operations at the individual's place of employment, as determined by the Commissioner, or upon the completion of the individual's period of isolation or quarantine unless the Commissioner determines that:
- (I) the employee was not separated from employment for one of the reasons set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(3); or
- (II) the reason for the individual's separation from employment set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(3) no longer exists and the employer has failed to rehire or offer to rehire the individual without good cause.
- (ii) If the Commissioner has cause to believe or receives an allegation or other information indicating that an employer may not be entitled to relief from charges pursuant to this subdivision (a)(3), the Commissioner shall examine the employer's records and any other documents and information necessary to determine if the employer is entitled to relief from charges pursuant to this subdivision (a)(3).
- (C) The Commissioner may extend the period for which an employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to employees pursuant to subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (a)(3) by an amount that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate in light of the terms of any applicable request from a local health official or the Commissioner of Health or any applicable emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President and any other relevant conditions or factors.

* * * Experience Rating Relief for Calendar Year 2021 * * *

Sec. 2. RELIEF FROM COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT CHARGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

- (a) For calendar year 2021, an employer shall be relieved from charges against its unemployment insurance experience rating under 21 V.S.A. § 1325 for benefits paid because:
- (1)(A) the individual voluntarily separated from employment with the employer for one of the reasons set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 1344(a)(2)(A)(ii)–(vi);
- (B) the employer temporarily ceased operation, either partially or completely, at the individual's place of employment in response to a request from a public health authority with jurisdiction that the employer cease operations because of COVID-19, in response to an emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President related to COVID-19, or because the employer voluntarily ceased operations due to the actual exposure of workers at that place of employment to COVID-19;
- (C) the individual became unemployed as a direct result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President in relation to COVID-19 or an order or directive issued by the Governor or President in relation to COVID-19, including through a change or reduction in the employer's operation at the individual's place of employment that was a direct result of such a state of emergency, order, or directive; or
- (D) the employer temporarily laid off the individual based on a recommendation or request by a medical professional or a public health authority with jurisdiction that the individual be isolated or quarantined as a result of COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual was diagnosed with COVID-19; and
- (2)(A) the employer rehired or offered to rehire the employee within a reasonable time, not to exceed 30 days after the reason for the individual's separation from employment set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection (a) no longer exists; or
- (B) the employer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that it had good cause for failing to rehire or offer to rehire the employee within the time period set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(2).
- (b) On or before June 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Labor shall adopt procedures and an application form for employers to apply for relief from charges pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

- (c) The Commissioner shall not be required to initiate rulemaking pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 831(c) in relation to any procedures adopted under subsection (b) of this section.
 - (d) On or before April 15, 2021, the Commissioner shall:
- (1) submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report summarizing the procedures and application form to be adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; and
- (2) commence a public outreach campaign to notify employers and employees of the requirements and procedures to obtain relief from charges under this section.
 - * * * Extension of Unemployment Insurance Related Sunset from 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91 * * *
- Sec. 3. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 38(3) is amended to read:
- (3) Secs. 32 and 33 shall take effect on March 31, 2021 the first day of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20 is terminated, provided that if the state of emergency is terminated within the final 30 days of a calendar quarter, Secs. 32 and 33 shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the state of emergency is terminated.
 - * * * Implementation of Continued Assistance Act Provisions * * *

Sec. 4. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIGGERING AN EXTENDED BENEFIT PERIOD

For purposes of determining whether the State is in an extended benefit period during the period from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021, the Commissioner shall disregard the requirement in 21 V.S.A. § 1421 that no extended benefit period may begin before the 14th week following the end of a prior extended benefit period.

- * * * Increased Unemployment Insurance Benefits * * *
- Sec. 5. 21 V.S.A. § 1338 is amended to read:

§ 1338. WEEKLY BENEFITS

(a) Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such a week a weekly benefit amount determined as provided in this section.

- (e)(1) For benefit years beginning on January 3, 1988 and subsequent thereto, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be determined by dividing the individual's two high quarter total subject wages required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by $45 \ \underline{38}$; provided that the weekly benefit amount so determined shall not exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount computed as provided in subsection (f) of this section.
- (2)(A) In addition to the weekly benefit amount determined pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, an individual shall be entitled to an additional weekly allowance of \$50.00 if the individual has one or more dependent children under 18 years of age.
- (B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply during the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 if, on April 15, 2022, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2022.

* * *

Sec. 6. MAXIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT FOR BENEFIT YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND JULY 1, 2022

- (a) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. § 1338(f) to the contrary, the maximum weekly benefit for the benefit year beginning July 1, 2021 shall be \$637.00 plus the amount of any dependent allowance pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1338(e)(2).
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. § 1338(f) to the contrary, the maximum weekly benefit for the benefit year beginning July 1, 2022 shall be equal to 57 percent of the State annual average weekly wage determined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1338(g).
- Sec. 7. 21 V.S.A. § 1338 is amended to read:

§ 1338. WEEKLY BENEFITS

(a) Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such a week a weekly benefit amount determined as provided in this section.

* * *

(e)(1) For benefit years beginning on January 3, 1988 and subsequent thereto, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be determined by dividing the individual's two high quarter total subject wages required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by 38 45; provided that the weekly benefit

amount so determined shall not exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount computed as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

* * *

- * * * Unemployment Insurance Contribution Relief * * *
- Sec. 8. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RATE SCHEDULE FOR BENEFIT YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND JULY 1, 2022
- (a)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. § 1326 to the contrary, the unemployment insurance contribution rate schedule for the benefit year beginning on July 1, 2021 shall remain at Schedule I.
- (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply if, on April 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.
- (b)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. § 1326 to the contrary, the unemployment insurance contribution rate schedule for the benefit year beginning on July 1, 2022 shall increase to Schedule III.
- (2) The provisions of this section shall not apply if, on April 15, 2022, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2022.
- Sec. 9. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE; BASE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022 AND 2023
- (a)(1) Notwithstanding 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b), the base of contributions for calendar year 2022 shall be the same amount as for calendar year 2021.
- (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if, on October 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this section or 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) to the contrary, the base of contributions for calendar year 2023 shall be determined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) as if the base of contributions for calendar year 2022 had been determined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) rather than the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

- Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATES
 - (a)(1) Secs. 5 and 6 shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

- (2) Sec. 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
- (3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, Secs. 5, 6, and 7 shall not take effect at all if on April 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.
- (b) This section and the remaining sections of this act shall take effect on passage.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Senator Sirotkin moved to substitute a recommendation of amendment for the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs as follows:

- * * * Experience Rating Relief for Calendar Year 2020 * * *
- Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 1325 is amended to read:

§ 1325. EMPLOYERS' EXPERIENCE-RATING RECORDS; DISCLOSURE TO SUCCESSOR ENTITY

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall maintain an experience-rating record for each employer. Benefits paid shall be charged against the experience-rating record of each subject employer who provided base-period wages to the eligible individual. Each subject employer's experience-rating charge shall bear the same ratio to total benefits paid as the total base-period wages paid by that employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all base-period employers. The experience-rating record of an individual subject base-period employer shall not be charged for benefits paid to an individual under any of the following conditions:

* * *

(G) The Between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020, the individual voluntarily separated from that employer as provided by subdivision 1344(a)(2)(A) of this chapter for one of the following reasons:

- (3)(A) Subject to the provisions of subdivision subdivisions (B) and (C) of this subdivision (a)(3), an employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to an individual between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020 for a period of up to eight weeks with respect to benefits paid because:
- (i) the employer temporarily ceased operation, either partially or completely, at the individual's place of employment in response to a request from a public health authority with jurisdiction that the employer cease

operations because of COVID-19, in response to an emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President related to COVID-19, or because the employer voluntarily ceased operations due to the actual exposure of workers at that place of employment to COVID-19;

- (ii) the individual becomes unemployed as a direct result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President in relation to COVID-19 or an order or directive issued by the Governor or President in relation to COVID-19, including through a change or reduction in the employer's operation at the individual's place of employment that is a direct result of such a state of emergency, order, or directive; or
- (iii) the <u>employer has temporarily laid off the</u> individual <u>has been</u> recommended or requested <u>based on a recommendation or request</u> by a medical professional or a public health authority with jurisdiction to <u>that the individual</u> be isolated or quarantined as a result of COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- (B)(i) An Unless extended by the Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (C) of this subdivision (a)(3), an employer shall only be eligible for relief be relieved of charges for up to eight weeks of benefits paid between March 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020 under the provisions of this subdivision (a)(3) if the employer rehires or offers to rehire the individual within a reasonable period of time after the employer resumes operations at the individual's place of employment, as determined by the Commissioner, or upon the completion of the individual's period of isolation or quarantine unless the Commissioner determines that:
- (I) the employee was not separated from employment for one of the reasons set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(3); or
- (II) the reason for the individual's separation from employment set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(3) no longer exists and the employer has failed to rehire or offer to rehire the individual without good cause.
- (ii) If the Commissioner has cause to believe or receives an allegation or other information indicating that an employer may not be entitled to relief from charges pursuant to this subdivision (a)(3), the Commissioner shall examine the employer's records and any other documents and information necessary to determine if the employer is entitled to relief from charges pursuant to this subdivision (a)(3).
- (C) The Commissioner may extend the period for which an employer shall be relieved of charges for benefits paid to employees pursuant to subdivision (A)(i) of this subdivision (a)(3) by an amount that the

Commissioner determines to be appropriate in light of the terms of any applicable request from a local health official or the Commissioner of Health or any applicable emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President and any other relevant conditions or factors.

* * *

* * * Experience Rating Relief for Calendar Year 2021 * * *

Sec. 2. RELIEF FROM COVID-19-RELATED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT CHARGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

- (a) For calendar year 2021, an employer shall be relieved from charges against its unemployment insurance experience rating under 21 V.S.A. § 1325 for benefits paid because:
- (1)(A) the individual voluntarily separated from employment with the employer for one of the reasons set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 1344(a)(2)(A)(ii)–(vi);
- (B) the employer temporarily ceased operation, either partially or completely, at the individual's place of employment in response to a request from a public health authority with jurisdiction that the employer cease operations because of COVID-19, in response to an emergency order or directive issued by the Governor or the President related to COVID-19, or because the employer voluntarily ceased operations due to the actual exposure of workers at that place of employment to COVID-19;
- (C) the individual became unemployed as a direct result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor or the President in relation to COVID-19 or an order or directive issued by the Governor or President in relation to COVID-19, including through a change or reduction in the employer's operation at the individual's place of employment that was a direct result of such a state of emergency, order, or directive; or
- (D) the employer temporarily laid off the individual based on a recommendation or request by a medical professional or a public health authority with jurisdiction that the individual be isolated or quarantined as a result of COVID-19, regardless of whether the individual was diagnosed with COVID-19; and
- (2)(A) the employer rehired or offered to rehire the employee within a reasonable time, not to exceed 30 days after the reason for the individual's separation from employment set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection (a) no longer exists; or
- (B) the employer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that it had good cause for failing to rehire or offer to rehire the

employee within the time period set forth in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (a)(2).

- (b) On or before June 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Labor shall adopt procedures and an application form for employers to apply for relief from charges pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) The Commissioner shall not be required to initiate rulemaking pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 831(c) in relation to any procedures adopted under subsection (b) of this section.
 - (d) On or before April 15, 2021, the Commissioner shall:
- (1) submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report summarizing the procedures and application form to be adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; and
- (2) commence a public outreach campaign to notify employers and employees of the requirements and procedures to obtain relief from charges under this section.
 - * * * Extension of Unemployment Insurance-Related Sunset from 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91 * * *
- Sec. 3. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 38(3) is amended to read:
- (3) Secs. 32 and 33 shall take effect on March 31, 2021 the first day of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20 is terminated, provided that if the state of emergency is terminated within the final 30 days of a calendar quarter, Secs. 32 and 33 shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar quarter following the calendar quarter in which the state of emergency is terminated.
 - * * * Implementation of Continued Assistance Act Provisions * * *

Sec. 4. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR TRIGGERING AN EXTENDED BENEFIT PERIOD

For purposes of determining whether the State is in an extended benefit period during the period from November 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021, the Commissioner shall disregard the requirement in 21 V.S.A. § 1421 that no extended benefit period may begin before the 14th week following the end of a prior extended benefit period.

* * * Unemployment Insurance Dependent Benefits * * *

Sec. 5. 21 V.S.A. § 1338 is amended to read:

§ 1338. WEEKLY BENEFITS

(a) Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such a week a weekly benefit amount determined as provided in this section.

* * *

- (e)(1) For benefit years beginning on January 3, 1988 and subsequent thereto, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be determined by dividing the individual's two high quarter total subject wages required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by 45; provided that the weekly benefit amount so determined shall not exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount computed as provided in <u>subsection (f) of</u> this section.
- (2)(A) In addition to the weekly benefit amount determined pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, an individual shall be entitled to an additional weekly allowance of \$50.00 if the individual has one or more dependent children under 18 years of age.
- (B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply during the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 if, on April 15, 2022, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2022.

* * *

Sec. 6. 21 V.S.A. § 1338 is amended to read:

§ 1338. WEEKLY BENEFITS

(a) Each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such a week a weekly benefit amount determined as provided in this section.

* * *

(e)(1) For benefit years beginning on January 3, 1988 and subsequent thereto, an individual's weekly benefit amount shall be determined by dividing the individual's two high quarter total subject wages required under subdivision (d)(1) of this section by 45; provided that the weekly benefit amount so determined shall not exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount computed as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

- (2)(A) In addition to the weekly benefit amount determined pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, an individual shall be entitled to an additional weekly allowance of \$50.00 if the individual has one or more dependent children under 18 years of age.
- (B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply during the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 if, on April 15, 2022, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2022.

* * *

* * * Unemployment Insurance Contribution Relief * * *

Sec. 7. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE RATE SCHEDULE FOR BENEFIT YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021

- (a) Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. § 1326 to the contrary, the unemployment insurance contribution rate schedule for the benefit year beginning on July 1, 2021 shall remain at Schedule I.
- (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply if, on April 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.

Sec. 8. AVOIDANCE OF LONG-TERM RATE IMPACTS ON EMPLOYERS

During the period beginning on July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2031, the Commissioner of Labor shall reduce the amount of unemployment insurance contributions made by employers by a total of \$66,500,000.00. The reductions shall be distributed proportionately across each year of the period and among all employers liable for payment of contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of 21 V.S.A. chapter 17 to the contrary, the reductions shall be accomplished by the following means:

- (1) a proportionate reduction in the rates for each rate class on the appropriate rate schedule set forth in 21 V.S.A. § 1326(e);
- (2) any other proportionate reduction in the contributions made by each employer liable for payment of contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund that is permitted by federal law;

- (3) any other means of achieving a reduction in the contributions made by each employer liable for payment of contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund that is permitted by federal law; or
 - (4) any combination of subdivisions (1) though (3) of this section.

Sec. 9. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE; BASE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022 AND 2023

- (a)(1) Notwithstanding 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b), the base of contributions for calendar year 2022 shall be the same amount as for calendar year 2021.
- (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if, on October 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.
- (b) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (a) of this section or 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) to the contrary, the base of contributions for calendar year 2023 shall be determined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) as if the base of contributions for calendar year 2022 had been determined pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 1321(b) rather than the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 10. REVISED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND TARGET BALANCE; REPORT

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Labor shall conduct a review of the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund during the period since January 1, 2000 and the impact on the Trust Fund of the statutes related to unemployment insurance contributions and benefits and any changes made to those statutes during that time period.

(2) The review shall also:

(A) include an assessment and consideration of:

- (i) the amount necessary to ensure the continued solvency of the Trust Fund during a future economic recession based on the economic cycles experienced by the State since January 1, 2000; and
- (ii) how potential future statutory changes related to unemployment insurance contributions and benefits may impact the amount determined pursuant to subdivision (i) of this subdivision (a)(2)(A); and
- (B) develop a range of amounts needed to ensure the continued solvency of the Trust Fund during a future economic recession based on the potential future statutory changes considered during the review.

- (b)(1) In conducting the review, the Commissioner shall convene and consult with a working group composed of representatives of employers and employees, economists, and other individuals with relevant knowledge or experience as determined by the Commissioner.
- (2) The Commissioner shall provide the members of the working group with an opportunity to review and comment on the analysis and determinations made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
- (c)(1) On or before November 15, 2021, the Commissioner of Labor shall submit a written report documenting the results of the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the consultation with the working group pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.
- (2) The report shall include a detailed explanation of the potential statutory changes considered for purposes of the analysis and determinations made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the basis for the amount determined to be necessary to ensure the continued solvency of the Trust Fund during a future economic recession.
- (3) The report shall specifically identify the members of the working group, summarize their comments regarding the analysis and determinations made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and identify any revisions to the Commissioner's analysis and determinations that were made based on the comments received.
- (4) The Commissioner shall also provide each member of the working group with an opportunity to submit a written statement responding to the Commissioner's review, which shall be included as part of the report submitted pursuant to this subsection.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

- (a)(1) Sec. 5 (dependent benefit) shall take effect on the termination date for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 9023(e)(2), as amended.
- (2) Sec. 6 (repeal of dependent benefit) shall take effect five years after the effective date of Sec. 5.
- (3) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, Secs. 5 (dependent benefit) and 6 (repeal of dependent benefit) shall not take effect at all if on April 15, 2021, the balance of the Unemployment Insurance Trust

Fund is either below \$90,000,000.00 or projected to drop below that amount on or before December 31, 2021.

(b) This section and the remaining sections shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that if the date of passage is after March 31, 2021, then notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 3 (extension of sunset) shall apply retroactively to March 31, 2021.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, Sen. Sirotkin's motion to substitute was agreed to.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 20.

House Concurrent Resolution

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. McFaun and LaClair,

H.C.R. 29.

House concurrent resolution honoring Barre Town's Town Clerk and Treasurer, Donna Kelty.

By Reps. Yacovone and others,

H.C.R. 30.

House concurrent resolution honoring Angeline Faraci for her teaching and soccer coaching achievements.

By All Members of the House,

By All Members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 31.

House concurrent resolution in memory of U.S. Second Circuit Judge Peter W. Hall.

By Reps. Shaw and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and Terenzini,

H.C.R. 32.

House concurrent resolution honoring Ronald J. Cioffi for his outstanding leadership of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region.

By Reps. Burditt and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and Terenzini,

H.C.R. 33.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Mary Theresa Ojala of Rutland.

By Rep. Toof,

H.C.R. 34.

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 26, 2021 as SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) Day in Vermont.