

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Point of Personal Privilege Journalized

During announcements on a point of personal privilege, Senator Parent addressed the Chair, and on motion of Senator Balint, his remarks were ordered enter in the Journal, and are as follows:

“Madam President,

I rise on a point of personal privilege. I’d like to introduce all of you virtually to the newest member of the Parent Family. Sophie Dorothea Parent, a beautiful, healthy baby girl, joined our family on the morning of October 18, 2021. Her mother is doing well, her big brother is smitten by her, and she already has her dad wrapped around her finger.”

Bills Introduced

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

S. 192.

By Senators Clarkson, Hooker, Lyons, Pollina and Ram Hinsdale,
An act relating to creditable service for temporary State employment.
To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 193.

By Senator Lyons,
An act relating to strategies for reducing prescription drug costs for Vermonters.
To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 194.

By Senators Hooker, Lyons, Chittenden, Perchlik, Pollina and Ram Hinsdale,

An act relating to peer-operated respite centers.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 195.

By Senators Hooker, Lyons, Chittenden, Hardy, Perchlik, Pollina and Ram Hinsdale,

An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 196.

By Senators Hooker, Chittenden, Collamore, Cummings, Hardy, Lyons, Pollina, Ram Hinsdale, Starr and Terenzini,

An act relating to relocation assistance, tuition assistance, and loan repayment for dental professionals.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 197.

By Senator Lyons,

An act relating to the Coordinated Mental Health Crisis Response Working Group.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 198.

By Senators Lyons, Hooker and Ram Hinsdale,

An act relating to the Diaper Need Working Group.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 199.

By Senators Brock, Clarkson, Ingalls and Terenzini,

An act relating to establishing criminal penalties for unemployment insurance fraud.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**Rules Suspended; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Bill Passed;
Bill Messaged**

S. 172.

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

An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2022 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Collamore, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, (legislative findings, intent, and purpose), in subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) In 2021, the General Assembly enacted 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 60 to authorize the use of outdoor polling places and the mailing of ballots to all active registered voters in municipalities that use the Australian ballot system for local elections. However, the General Assembly finds that COVID-19 concerns persist regarding 2022 annual municipal meetings because many municipalities want to continue their custom of conducting annual meetings using floor votes.

Second: In Sec. 2, (annual meetings in the year 2022; alternative procedures), immediately following subsection (e), by inserting a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) The provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(e) shall apply to any municipality that votes to hold the 2022 annual municipal meeting by Australian ballot pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. A municipality shall not warn any question on whether the municipality shall adopt the Australian ballot method of voting on a permanent basis, for any or all articles, for any subsequent municipal elections.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its passage

Thereupon the bill was read the third time and passed:

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

Standing Committee Appointed

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the appointment of the following standing committee:

Committee on Reapportionment

Senator White
Senator Collamore
Senator Clarkson
Senator Starr
Senator Pearson
Senator Perchlik
Senator Brock

Appointment of Senate Members to Joint Pension Oversight Committee

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Pension Oversight Committee during this biennium:

Senator Kitchel
Senator Hooker
Senator Parent

Appointment of Senate Member to Vermont Access Board

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Vermont Access Board:

Senator McCormack

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 6, 2022.