

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022

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. 9

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 considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 37. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the House No. 10

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 joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.H. 13. Joint resolution extending the application of temporary Joint Rule 22A.

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

Message from the House No. 11

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 a House bill of the following title:

H. 654. An act relating to extending COVID-19 health care regulatory flexibility.

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

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 88. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' cross-country championship team.

H.C.R. 89. House concurrent resolution congratulating St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltopper Evan Thornton-Sherman on winning the 2021 individual boys' Division I cross-country running championship.

H.C.R. 90. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship varsity football team.

H.C.R. 91. House concurrent resolution congratulating Iris Hsiang on winning the 2021 Rights & Democracy Human Rights Award for Vermont.

H.C.R. 92. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship boys' varsity soccer team.

H.C.R. 93. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III girls' cross-country championship team.

H.C.R. 94. House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert D. Bates.

H.C.R. 95. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Essex High School Hornets State championship girls' varsity volleyball team.

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

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

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

S. 283. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education laws.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Campion the bill was committed to the Committee on Education.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.H. 13.

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read and adopted in concurrence and is as follows:

Joint resolution extending the application of temporary Joint Rule 22A.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That Temporary Joint Rule 22A is amended to read as follows:

Rule 22A. Temporary Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) A member of a joint committee may debate and vote remotely in that committee if the member confirms with the committee's chair or co-chairs, as applicable, that the member must be absent from committee due to symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19-related circumstances.

(b) The Joint Rules Committee is authorized to meet remotely as necessary to address COVID-19-related matters that may impact the operation of the General Assembly and joint committees.

(c) The remote authority set forth in this rule shall remain in effect through Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this rule, if the Governor thereafter reissues capacity restrictions at gatherings and events or requires masks and physical distancing in response to COVID-19, the Joint Rules Committee is authorized to meet remotely and to permit any joint committees of the Legislature to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate.

Committee Bill Introduced

Senate committee bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice the next legislative day:

S. 285.

By the Committee on Health and Welfare,

An act relating to expanding the Blueprint for Health and access to home- and community-based services.

Bill Referred

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

H. 654.

An act relating to extending COVID-19 health care regulatory flexibility.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In**S. 78.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to binding interest arbitration for employees of the Vermont Judiciary.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 3, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022 and shall apply to contract negotiations that commence after that date.

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

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed**S. 285.**

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Lyons, the rules were suspended and Senate Committee bill entitled:

An act relating to expanding the Blueprint for Health and access to home- and community-based services.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Lyons, the bill was committed to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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. Beck and others,

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

H.C.R. 88.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' cross-country championship team.

By Reps. Beck and others,

By Senators Kitchel and Benning,

H.C.R. 89.

House concurrent resolution congratulating St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltopper Evan Thornton-Sherman on winning the 2021 individual boys' Division I cross-country running championship.

By Reps. Dolan and others,

H.C.R. 90.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship varsity football team.

By Reps. Vyhovsky and others,

H.C.R. 91.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Iris Hsiang on winning the 2021 Rights & Democracy Human Rights Award for Vermont.

By Reps. Black and others,

H.C.R. 92.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets 2021 Division I championship boys' varsity soccer team.

By Reps. Masland and Briglin,

H.C.R. 93.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Thetford Academy Panthers Division III girls' cross-country championship team.

By Reps. Vyhovsky and others,

H.C.R. 94.

House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert D. Bates.

By Reps. Black and others,

H.C.R. 95.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2021 Essex High School Hornets State championship girls' varsity volleyball team.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 37.