

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 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. 25

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First 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. 17. Joint resolution authorizing remote participation in joint committees under restricted, COVID-19-related circumstances through the remainder in 2022.

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

Message from the House No. 26

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. 16. Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House.

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

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

H.C.R. 106. House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert William Kirkbride.

H.C.R. 107. House concurrent resolution designating March 10, 2022, as Social Worker Advocacy Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 108. House concurrent resolution designating the legislative week of March 8– 11, 2022 as Early Childhood Week at the General Assembly.

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

**Message from the Governor
Appointment Referred**

A message was received from the Governor, by Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointment, which was referred to its committee as indicated:

The nomination of

Waples, Nancy Jear of Hinesburg - Associate Justice of the Supreme Court - from March 2, 2022 to March 21, 2023.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

S. 234.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

An act relating to changes to Act 250.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. 148. An act relating to environmental justice in Vermont.

S. 219. An act relating to ensuring compliance with the U.S. and Vermont Constitutions in the use of public funds for tuition and in the dual enrollment program.

Joint Resolutions Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 16.

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

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House.

Whereas, the American Legion Department of Vermont sponsors the Green Mountain Boys State educational program, providing a group of boys entering

the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government, including conducting a mock legislative session at the State House, and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the temporary closure of the State House to the public, and the extent of permitted public access to the building on June 23, 2022 will be dependent on the prevailing public health situation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the Green Mountain Boys State educational program is authorized to use the chambers and committee rooms of the State House on Thursday, June 23, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 17.

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

Joint resolution authorizing remote participation in joint committees under restricted, COVID-19-related circumstances through the remainder in 2022.

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)(1) A Joint committees shall return to in-person legislating, except that a member of a joint committee may debate and vote remotely in that committee if the member ~~confirms with~~ notifies the committee's chair or ~~co-chairs a co-chair~~, as applicable, that the member ~~must be absent from committee due to symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19-related circumstances~~ meets one of the following conditions:

(A) the member has tested positive for COVID-19 and is within a required period of isolation;

(B) the member has been exposed to COVID-19 as a close contact and is within a required term of quarantine;

(C) the member has COVID-19 symptoms and is awaiting the results of a PCR test;

(D) the member has a household member who relies on the member for caregiving and the household member is required to be home due to one of the reasons set forth in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (1) or because such a household member’s daycare or school program has a short-term closure due to COVID-19; or

(E) the member provides to the joint committee chair or a co-chair, as applicable, written documentation from a health care provider indicating that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires the member to participate remotely due to the member’s health condition.

(2) The definitions, required time periods, and testing referenced in subdivision (1) of this subsection are those provided by Vermont Department of Health guidelines, including any revisions or updates

(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, March 8, December 31, 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.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate Rules, on motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o’clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.