

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 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. 27

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. 501. An act relating to the regulation of food depackaging facilities.

H. 717. An act relating to providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

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

The House has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill of the following title:

H. 679. An act relating to fiscal year 2022 budget adjustments.

And has adopted the same on its part.

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

S. 181.

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 authorizing miscellaneous regulatory authority for municipal governments.

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. 155. An act relating to the creation of the Agency of Public Safety.

S. 258. An act relating to amending the Required Agricultural Practices in order to address climate resiliency.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 44.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Nitka,

J.R.S. 44. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges.

Whereas, declarations have been submitted by the following six Superior Judges that they be retained for another six-year term, Judge Thomas S. Durkin, Judge David Fenster, Judge Kerry A. McDonald-Cady, Judge Robert A. Mello, Judge John Pacht, and Judge Helen M. Toor, and

Whereas, the procedures of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention require at least one public hearing and the review of information provided by each candidate and the comments of members of the Vermont bar and the public, and

Whereas, the Committee is unable to fulfill its responsibilities under subsection 608(b) of Title 4 to evaluate the judicial performance of the candidates seeking to be retained in office by March 17, 2022, the date specified in subsection 608(e) of Title 4, and

Whereas, subsection 608(g) of Title 4 permits the General Assembly to defer action on the retention of judges to a subsequent Joint Assembly when the Committee is not able to make a timely recommendation, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to vote on the retention of six Superior Judges. In case the vote to retain said Judges shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed until the above is completed.

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

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. 286.

By the Committee on Government Operations,

An act relating to amending various public pension and other postemployment benefits.

Bills Referred

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

H. 501.

An act relating to the regulation of food depackaging facilities.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

H. 717.

An act relating to providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

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 Thursday, March 10, 2022.