

# Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 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. 31

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. 115.** An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances.

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

The House has considered the Governor's veto on House bill of the following title:

**H. 361.** An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Brattleboro.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

## 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. 234.** An act relating to changes to Act 250.

**S. 287.** An act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight.

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**Senate Resolution Placed on Calendar****S.R. 19.**

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

By Senator Lyons,

**S.R. 19.** Senate resolution commemorating St. Patrick's Day, celebrating the contributions of Vermonters of Irish heritage, and expressing the hope that the calm and cooperation that the 1998 Good Friday Agreement has engendered in Ireland will endure.

*Whereas*, Irish immigrants contributed significantly to the formation of the cultural and societal foundation of our nation, and

*Whereas*, 17 percent of Vermonters are of Irish heritage, the fourth highest percentage nationally, and Irish Vermonters have risen to leadership roles in many fields of endeavor, and

*Whereas*, Irish Americans remain proudly supportive of their ancestral homeland, and desire that Ireland be economically prosperous and at peace, and

*Whereas*, the lyrics and music of the songs of Ireland convey the tragedy and joy and the sorrows and glories of the Emerald Isle, and

*Whereas*, the American Irish State Legislators Caucus was recently established to foster and strengthen the longstanding cordial bilateral relationship between the United States and Ireland, for the continuing mutual benefit of both nations, and

*Whereas*, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement ushered in a new era of peace on the island of Ireland, and the calm and cooperation the agreement has engendered is of the utmost importance for future peaceful coexistence on the Emerald Isle, and

*Whereas*, annually, on St. Patrick's Day, Americans, regardless of their ancestral heritage, become Irish for the day and jointly celebrate their love of Ireland, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly commemorates St. Patrick's Day, celebrates the contributions of Vermonters of Irish heritage, and expresses the hope that the calm and cooperation that the 1998 Good Friday Agreement has engendered in Ireland will endure, ***and be it further***

**Resolved:** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the National Co-Chairs of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus, and to Senator Mark Daly, the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann (Chair of the Senate of Ireland).

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

### **Senate Resolution Placed on Calendar**

#### **S.R. 20.**

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

By the Committee on Rules,

**S.R. 20.** Senate resolution extending concurrently conducted electronic sessions and committee meetings.

*Whereas*, Permanent Senate Rule 9A permits the Rules Committee to authorize sessions of the Senate during a declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically; and

*Whereas*, Permanent Senate Rule 32A permits the Rules Committee to authorize committee meetings during a declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically; and

*Whereas*, the Governor of the State of Vermont issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 which expired at midnight on June 15, 2021; and

*Whereas*, the adoption of S.R.9, S.R. 12 and S.R. 17 permitted the Senate to continue Senate Sessions pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 9A and committee meetings pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 32A until March 18, 2022; and

*Whereas*, the Senate desires continuing flexibility as it transitions to totally in person Senate Sessions and committee meetings; and

*Whereas*, extending the authority of the Rules Committee under Permanent Senate Rules 9 and 32A provides flexibility as the Senate continues the transition to totally in person Senate Sessions and committee meetings; *now therefore be it*

#### **Resolved by the Senate:**

Notwithstanding the language in Permanent Senate Rules 9A and 32A regarding their applicability during Declarations of Emergency, the provisions

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of Permanent Senate Rules 9A and 32A regarding Senate Sessions and committee meetings shall remain in effect through April 15, 2022.

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

**Bill Referred**

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

**H. 115.**

An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**Adjournment**

Pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate Rules, on motion of Senator Clarkson, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Thursday, March 17, 2022.