

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Patricia Hart of Burlington.

Message from the House No. 46

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. 744. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington.

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

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 113. An act relating to establishing a cause of action for medical monitoring expenses.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 239. An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplemental insurance policies.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Bill Referred

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

H. 744. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington.

And pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A was referred to the Committee on Rules.

Senate Resolution Placed on Calendar

S.R. 23.

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

By the Committee on Rules,

S.R. 23. 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, S.R. 17 and S.R. 20 permitted the Senate to continue Senate Sessions pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 9A and committee meetings pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 32A until April 15, 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 of Permanent Senate Rules 9A and 32A regarding Senate Sessions and committee meetings shall remain in effect through July 1, 2022.

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

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 731.**

Senator Clarkson, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2022 legislative session.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senator Clarkson moved that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 381, 20 V.S.A. § 1601, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 381. 20 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

Chapter 85. Needy Veterans in Need

§ 1601. AID TO ~~NEEDY~~ VETERANS IN NEED

(a) The monies annually available for the purposes of this chapter, or ~~so much thereof as may be~~ the amount of those monies that is necessary, shall be expended under the supervision of the Vermont Office of Veterans' Affairs at the direction of the Adjutant and Inspector General. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall disburse ~~such~~ the funds, ~~or such part thereof as may be~~ necessary, in aiding, caring for, and educating ~~needy~~ in need and ~~needy~~ in need persons who are legal dependents of veterans. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall award funds to applicants approved for assistance based on criteria approved by the Adjutant and Inspector General. Monetary assistance will be given only to applicants who would not be better served by other State, federal, or private assistance programs. The Adjutant and Inspector General shall determine conditions for eligibility and ~~will~~ shall ensure that the program is managed to the limit imposed by the available funding. The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall submit an annual report to the Adjutant and Inspector General on all fund activities at the end of each fiscal year. In addition, the Adjutant and Inspector General ~~will~~ shall review all fund expenditures at least once per fiscal year.

(b) The Office of Veterans' Affairs shall develop application and operating procedures for the fund, which must be approved by the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General. Any deviation from the application and operating procedures shall be approved by the Adjutant and Inspector General. The application and operating procedures shall be available for review by applicants, service providers, and others that may have an interest in the fund.

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§ 1605. VETERAN EDUCATION

The Office of Veterans' Affairs may use some, none, or all of the funds to educate ~~needy~~ veterans in need about programs and benefits that will provide more permanent solutions to their financial situation. Any use of funds for veteran education or program support shall be approved in advance by the Adjutant and Inspector General.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read third time?, Senator Clarkson moved that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 432a to read as follows:

Sec. 432a. 24 V.S.A. § 5 is amended to read:

§ 5. CHITTENDEN

The County of Chittenden is formed of the towns of Bolton, Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Hinesburg, Huntington, Jericho, Milton, Richmond, St. George, Shelburne, the City of South Burlington, Underhill, Westford, Williston, the City of Burlington, the City of Essex Junction, the City of Winooski, Buel's Gore, and so much of Lake Champlain as lies in this State west of the towns in the county adjoining the lake and not included within the limits of the County of Grand Isle. The City of Burlington is the shire town.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Third Reading Ordered

H. 718.

Senator Collamore, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to approval of the dissolution of Colchester Fire District No. 1.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

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

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, April 14, 2022.