

Journal of the House

Friday, January 27, 2023

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Joan Javier-Duval, Unitarian Church, Montpelier.

Communication from Rep. Donnally of Hyde Park

“Dear Speaker Krowinski and Clerk of the House Wrask,

I write to offer my resignation from the Vermont House of Representatives, effective at the close of day, Friday, January 27th, 2023. This decision has been one of the most difficult that I have ever made. Serving in this capacity has truly been the honor of a lifetime. And, at the end of the day, I simply cannot balance my desire to do right by this role and my community with the desire to do right by my mental health and the health of my marriage and family.

Ironically, serving in this body ultimately solidified the skills that I would need to make this excruciating decision. In thinking about my decision to resign, I kept returning to a piece of writing that I did last year, on the final day of the 2022 session. I recognize that sharing this in my resignation letter may not be traditional. But honestly, very little about me or my time of service has been traditional. So, in the spirit of bumping up against tradition, I offer this piece of writing to you now. I offer it with gratitude for all that this space and the members of this body have collectively gifted to me and our state:

The House floor is many things. When the seats are full and members are rising to speak or inquire, the energy in the space is palpable. Holding the emotional and energetic intensity of this space in my body is often uncomfortable.

As life tends to have it, the moments that are the most difficult to hold are also the moments I am most honored to be a part of this legislative body. I am regularly awed by the collective willingness to hold this shared space; to move together through dense, messy, and uncertain work; to steer into and wrestle with palpable discomfort, make hard choices, and emerge intact.

But, for all the humanity that a busy house floor holds, my favorite moments here are the quiet ones. Crossing the threshold of the silent House floor, I am struck with a reverence reserved for sacred spaces.

The legislature adjourned last night. After the final roll call and the speeches, after members scattered to their cars and local bars, I returned alone to the quiet House floor. I sat in meditation on all this space has held.

At the end of session, there is grief for all that's been lost and hope for all that we wish to gain. This space can hold all of it and then some. Last night, it held me with grace and love as I breathed my way into whatever comes next. I am forever grateful for this space, for everyone who has imbued it with the utterly human capacity to hold all the truths at once and move forward nonetheless.

With love, gratitude, and solidarity,
Kate Donnelly”

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

H. 122

By Rep. Black of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting surveillance devices on private property without consent of the property owner

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 123

By Rep. Stevens of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the State Lottery

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 124

By Reps. Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Hango of Berkshire, Priestley of Bradford, Andriano of Orwell, Anthony of Barre City, Austin of Colchester, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Burrows of West Windsor, Buss of Woodstock, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs,

Demrow of Corinth, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Gregoire of Fairfield, Jerome of Brandon, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of Lyndon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nicoll of Ludlow, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pajala of Londonderry, Roberts of Halifax, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Torre of Moretown, White of Bethel, and Williams of Granby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to promoting rural economic development capacity

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 10

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect a Sergeant at Arms, and three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. In case election of all such officers 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 in such election, until all such officers are elected.

Was read and, in the Speaker's discretion under House Rule 52, placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 11

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 11. Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2023.

Whereas, in 1997 the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was decided by plurality vote, which required one ballot only, and

Whereas, in 1999 the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was decided by majority vote, which required a total of eight ballots, and

Whereas, in 2001 and subsequent bienniums the elections of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College were decided by plurality vote, each of which required one ballot only, and

Whereas, if an election for multiple vacancies is to be decided by a plurality vote, then a great savings of time can be effectuated, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That, notwithstanding the current provisions of Joint Rule 10, and for this election only, the election of three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College at a Joint Assembly to be held on February 16, 2023, shall be governed by the following procedure:

(1) All candidates for the office of Trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be three.

(2) The three candidates receiving the most votes shall be declared elected to fill the three vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the Trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for one or more of the three vacant positions, then voting shall continue on successive ballots until the vacancies have been filled, again by election declared of those candidates receiving the most votes.

Was read and, in the Speaker's discretion under House Rule 52, placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 1

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Green Mountain Girls Field Hockey Club on winning the 2022 National Hockey Festival U-14 Championship

Offered by: Representatives Arsenault of Williston, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Casey of Montpelier, Graning of Jericho, Hyman of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Minier of South Burlington, and Squirrell of Underhill,

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 20, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 11

House concurrent resolution designating January 23–27, 2023 as the first annual Holocaust Education Week in Vermont

Offered by: All members of the House and all members of the Senate,

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 20, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Message from the Senate No. 11

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Kucserik, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted Senate concurrent resolution of the following title:

S.C.R. 4. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Barry Bernstein of Calais for his innovative leadership as president of the Washington Electric Cooperative Inc.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 12. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Colchester 10-to-12 Little League Softball All-Stars on winning the 2022 Vermont Little League Softball Championship.

H.C.R. 13. House concurrent resolution in memory of Rebecca N. Ballard of Georgia.

H.C.R. 14. House concurrent resolution in memory of Anna E. MacWilliams Neville.

H.C.R. 15. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative and District 4 Act 250 Environmental Commissioner James McNamara of Burlington.

H.C.R. 16. House concurrent resolution celebrating the importance of mentoring programs for young persons in Vermont.

H.C.R. 17. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 Montpelier High School Division II championship boys' soccer team.

H.C.R. 18. House concurrent resolution congratulating Alexander Collins of Norwich on winning the 2022 Vermont Open chess championship.

H.C.R. 19. House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert D. Murray of South Strafford.

H.C.R. 20. House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2023 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 21. House concurrent resolution honoring the organizations and individuals working to resolve Vermont's rural broadband access crisis.

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and fifty-nine minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 9.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 12

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Colchester 10-to-12 Little League Softball All-Stars on winning the 2022 Vermont Little League Softball Championship

H.C.R. 13

House concurrent resolution in memory of Rebecca N. Ballard of Georgia

H.C.R. 14

House concurrent resolution in memory of Anna E. MacWilliams Neville

H.C.R. 15

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative and District 4 Act 250 Environmental Commissioner James McNamara of Burlington

H.C.R. 16

House concurrent resolution celebrating the importance of mentoring programs for young persons in Vermont

H.C.R. 17

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 Montpelier High School Division II championship boys' soccer team

H.C.R. 18

House concurrent resolution congratulating Alexander Collins of Norwich on winning the 2022 Vermont Open chess championship

H.C.R. 19

House concurrent resolution in memory of Robert D. Murray of South Strafford

H.C.R. 20

House concurrent resolution recognizing February 2023 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 21

House concurrent resolution honoring the organizations and individuals working to resolve Vermont's rural broadband access crisis

S.C.R. 4

Senate concurrent resolution honoring Barry Bernstein of Calais for his innovative leadership as president of the Washington Electric Cooperative Inc.

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House and Senate Calendar Addendums on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2023 Biennial Session.]