

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, **Rep. Long of Newfane** called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Kathy and Steve Light, Musicians, Marshfield.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Asa Lloyd of Montpelier led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rules Suspended; House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of House bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee or placed on the Notice Calendar follows:

H. 379

By Rep. Cordes of Lincoln,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to criminal immunity for good faith provision of health care
To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 380

By Reps. Brennan of Colchester and Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to automatic opening knives
To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 381

By Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the aggregate value of stolen property in certain crimes
To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 382

By Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to municipal ordinances governing nuisance properties containing salvage and scrap

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 383

By Reps. Buss of Woodstock, Priestley of Bradford, Andriano of Orwell, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Minier of South Burlington, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Stebbins of Burlington, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to completing the one-stop portal for businesses

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 384

By Rep. Sibilica of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring approved independent schools to accept designation

To the Committee on Education.

H. 385

By Reps. Rachelson of Burlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Logan of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a statewide school district

To the Committee on Education.

H. 386

By Reps. Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Toleno of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Brattleboro

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 387

By Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 388

By Rep. Brennan of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to authorizing municipal districts to mail annual meeting ballots

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 389

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City, Bongartz of Manchester, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Goldman of Rockingham, McCann of Montpelier, Patt of Worcester, and Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the siting of an expanded polystyrene foam densifier in the State

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 390

By Reps. Williams of Granby, Austin of Colchester, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Brennan of Colchester, Buss of Woodstock, Harrison of Chittenden, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Peterson of Clarendon, Smith of Derby, Taylor of Colchester, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting the transport of catalytic converters

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 391

By Reps. Burrows of West Windsor, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Buss of Woodstock, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Goldman of Rockingham, Krasnow of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating an eviction diversion program

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 392

By Reps. Surprenant of Barnard, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Graham of Williamstown, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pearl of Danville, Rice of Dorset, and Templeman of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children benefits at farmers' markets

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 393

By Reps. Krasnow of South Burlington, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, McGill of Bridport, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, and Whitman of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to public health campaigns on dementia and brain health

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 394

By Reps. Parsons of Newbury, Bartley of Fairfax, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Demar of Enosburgh, Graham of Williamstown, Higley of Lowell, Labor of

Morgan, Page of Newport City, Peterson of Clarendon, and Williams of Granby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to clarifying the municipal zoning authority over group homes

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 395

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City, and Campbell of St. Johnsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to energy generated by large hydroelectric plants

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 396

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Holcombe of Norwich, and Sims of Craftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Public Utility Commission and the cost of grid upgrades

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 397

By Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Boyden of Cambridge, Burrows of West Windsor, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, Holcombe of Norwich, Krasnow of South Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Noyes of Wolcott, Roberts of Halifax, Templeman of Brownington, and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Medicaid estate recovery

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 398

By Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Andrews of Westford, Black of Essex, Cordes of Lincoln, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Krasnow of South Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Small of Winooski, and Whitman of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to insurance and confidentiality for adult dependents

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 399

By Reps. Peterson of Clarendon and Branagan of Georgia,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to increasing the penalties for sales of illegal drugs and sales of cannabis to persons under 21 years of age

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 400

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Priestley of Bradford, Stebbins of Burlington, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to parental rights and responsibilities

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 401

By Rep. Carroll of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to abusive litigation

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 402

By Rep. Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 403

By Reps. Taylor of Milton, Morgan of Milton, and Mattos of Milton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to inequities in child care grants

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 404

By Reps. Masland of Thetford, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, and Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring community service as a high school graduation requirement

To the Committee on Education.

H. 405

By Reps. Peterson of Clarendon, Branagan of Georgia, Demar of Enosburgh, Higley of Lowell, Williams of Granby, and Wilson of Lyndon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to school choice for all Vermont students

To the Committee on Education.

H. 406

By Rep. McFaun of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to telemedicine

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 407

By Reps. Rachelson of Burlington and Goslant of Northfield,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to penalties for animal cruelty offenses

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 408

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro and Dodge of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to compassionate release and parole eligibility

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 409

By Reps. Wood of Waterbury, Bluemle of Burlington, Anthony of Barre City, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Brumsted of Shelburne, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Elder of Starksboro, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Hyman of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Noyes of Wolcott, Priestley of Bradford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Toleno of Brattleboro, Troiano of Stannard, and Whitman of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to keeping Vermont students safe by restricting the use of restraints and seclusion in schools

To the Committee on Education.

H. 410

By Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 411

By the Committee on Health Care,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to extending COVID-19 health care regulatory flexibility

Pursuant to House Rule 48, was placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 412

By Reps. Surprenant of Barnard and Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to motor vehicle inspections

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 413

By Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to computer science education in public schools

To the Committee on Education.

H. 414

By Reps. Whitman of Bennington, Brumsted of Shelburne, and Goldman of Rockingham,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an unused drug repository for Vermont

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 415

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Anthony of Barre City, Burke of Brattleboro, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Small of Winooski, Troiano of Stannard, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage, eliminating exemptions from the minimum wage, and creating a grant program for certain employers

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 416

By Reps. Brady of Williston, Graning of Jericho, McCann of Montpelier, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Taylor of Milton, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to teacher workforce development

To the Committee on Education.

H. 417

By Reps. Nicoll of Ludlow and Pajala of Londonderry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to drink specials

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 418

By Reps. McFaun of Barre Town and Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of Barre

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 419

By Rep. Sibilias of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to broadband consumer protection and competition

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 420

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Berbeco of Winooski, Boyden of Cambridge, Buss of Woodstock, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cordes of Lincoln, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Morris of Springfield, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Sammis of Castleton, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a program to encourage the implementation of year-round agricultural practices

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 421

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, and Small of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to drinking water standards for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 422

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, and Small of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the development of a committee to study the impacts of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in leachate from landfills in the State

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 423

By Reps. Nicoll of Ludlow, Small of Winooski, Anthony of Barre City, Bartholomew of Hartland, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Casey of Montpelier, Chase of Colchester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Elder of Starksboro, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Morris of Springfield, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Roberts of Halifax, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sims of Craftsbury, Stebbins of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Toleno of Brattleboro, Troiano of Stannard, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a public health response to drug use

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 424

By Reps. Hooper of Burlington and Ode of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to town, city, and village elections for single-seat offices using ranked-choice voting

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 425

By Reps. Gregoire of Fairfield, Nicoll of Ludlow, and Small of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of kratom products

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 426

By Reps. Surprenant of Barnard and Templeman of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of new types of cannabis establishment licenses and the provision of cannabis excise tax revenue to the Cannabis Business Development Fund, communities that have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition, and substance misuse treatment

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 427

By Reps. Noyes of Wolcott and McGill of Bridport,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a pilot program to provide direct cash transfers to youth exiting foster care

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 428

By Rep. Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 429

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election laws

Pursuant to House Rule 48, was placed on the Notice Calendar.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 165

House bill, entitled

An act relating to school food programs and universal school meals

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 39

House concurrent resolution honoring former Waterbury Municipal Manager William Shepeluk in recognition of his extraordinary public service career

Offered by: Representatives Stevens of Waterbury and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, Bill Shepeluk graduated as a political science major from the University of Massachusetts and earned a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University, and

Whereas, as Brighton Town Manager from 1982 to 1988, Bill Shepeluk polished his already outstanding municipal administrative skills, and

Whereas, in 1988, the Town of Waterbury hired Bill Shepeluk to serve as its municipal manager, a role he retained for a remarkable 34 years and nine months, and

Whereas, although always shunning the limelight, his many supervisory accomplishments included improving the town's financial structure, major water-associated infrastructure improvements, and the complex merger of the town and village, and

Whereas, twice, the Waterbury Selectboard and Village Trustees presented Bill Shepeluk with the Keith A. Wallace Memorial Community Service Award, and he was the town's first honorary firefighter, and

Whereas, Bill Shepeluk served on the Board of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (the League), as the organization's president, and repeatedly as immediate past president, and he also sat on the Board of the League's Health Trust (now known as VERB), and, for approximately three decades, was its president, and

Whereas, the League honored him as Municipal Person of the Year, and the Vermont Town and City Manager's Association named him Municipal Manager of the Year, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors former Waterbury Municipal Manager William Shepeluk in recognition of his extraordinary public service career, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bill Shepeluk and to the Waterbury Town Clerk.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 24, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 41

House bill, entitled

An act relating to referral of domestic and sexual violence cases to community justice centers

H. 305

House bill, entitled

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

Bill Committed**H. 230**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to implementing mechanisms to reduce suicide

Having appeared on the Calendar one day for Notice and appearing on the Calendar for Action, was taken up and pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Health Care, on motion of **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction**, the bill was committed to the Committee on Judiciary.

Message from the Senate No. 22

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

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

J.R.S. 16. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and thirty-six minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.