

Journal of the House

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Due to a power failure in the State House, the House was delayed in convening.

At ten o'clock and fifty-eight minutes in the forenoon, Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Gabrielle Bock of Northfield led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Senate No. 26

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 passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 5. An act relating to affordably meeting the mandated greenhouse gas reductions for the thermal sector through efficiency, weatherization measures, electrification, and decarbonization.

S. 9. An act relating to the authority of the State Auditor to examine the books and records of State contractors.

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

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

J.R.S. 18. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 464

By Reps. Burrows of West Windsor, Brumsted of Shelburne, and Sims of Craftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance financial assistance for Indigenous persons

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 465

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to regional emergency management committees' meeting quorum requirement

Was read the first time, and pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 466

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2023 legislative session

Was read the first time, and pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 467

By Reps. Taylor of Colchester, Torre of Moretown, Burrows of West Windsor, Hango of Berkshire, Hyman of South Burlington, Jerome of Brandon, Lipsky of Stowe, Priestley of Bradford, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Templeman of Brownington, and Williams of Granby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to outdoor recreation

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

H. 468

By Rep. Austin of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to language access

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 469

By Rep. Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to allowing remote witnesses and explainers for a Ulysses clause in an advance directive

To the Committee on Human Services.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

H. 55

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous unemployment insurance amendments

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.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 206

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes affecting the duties of the Department of Vermont Health Access

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Joint Resolution Referred to Committee

J.R.H. 2

Joint resolution urging Congress to admit Washington, DC, into the union as a state of the United States of America

Offered by: Representatives Satcowitz of Randolph, Anthony of Barre City, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carroll of Bennington, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Colchester, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Priestley of Bradford, Sibia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Stebbins of Burlington,

Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City

Whereas, the U.S. Constitution, as ratified following the Constitutional Convention of 1787, granted the right to vote for congressional representation to qualified voters in all the states, including those living in the sections of Maryland and Virginia that the “District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801” (the Act) designated as the nation’s capital, and

Whereas, the Act removed this territory from the states of Maryland and Virginia, disenfranchising the District of Columbia’s (the District) citizens from exercising the fundamental right to vote for public officials, and, for over a century, these American citizens could not participate in any local or federal election, and

Whereas, in 1961, the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave the District’s electorate the right to vote in presidential elections, and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted 2 U.S.C. § 25a, authorizing the District’s voters to elect a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and

Whereas, the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act of 1973, Pub. L. 93–198, established local mayoral and city council elections in the District, but Congress has repeatedly interfered in the local government’s decision-making process, especially on budgetary matters, and

Whereas, the residents of the District, also known as Washington, DC, pay federal income tax, but are denied the full congressional representation—a voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives and two United States Senators—that exists in each of the 50 states, and

Whereas, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware have respectively introduced in the 118th Congress H.R.51 and S.51 to grant statehood to the District of Columbia, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly of the State of Vermont supports admitting Washington, DC, into the union as a state of the United States of America, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph Biden, to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to U.S. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Was read by title, and treated as a bill, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs pursuant to House Rule 52.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 3

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House facilities on June 29, 2023

Offered by: Representative Marcotte of Coventry

Whereas, the American Legion Department of Vermont sponsors the Green Mountain Boys State educational program, providing a group of boys entering the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government, including conducting a mock legislative session at the State House, and

Whereas, this special experience is a unique civic lesson of lasting value for the participants, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That subject to the determination of and limitations that the Sergeant at Arms may establish, the Green Mountain Boys State educational program is authorized to use the chambers and committee rooms of the State House on Thursday, June 29, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Third Reading; Resolution Adopted

H.R. 6

House resolution, entitled

House resolution updating House Rules

Was taken up, read the third time, and adopted.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 461

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall spoke for the Committee on Education.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws

Having appeared on the Notice Calendar and appearing on the Action Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules Appointments

Pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 3, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules:

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington

Rep. Burditt of West Rutland

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington

Rep. Roberts of Halifax

Adjournment

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