

# Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Peter Plagge, Waterbury Congregational Church.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

### S. 37

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to access to legally protected health care activity and regulation of health care providers

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

## House Resolution Placed on Calendar

### H.R. 9

House resolution, entitled

House resolution reaffirming the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supporting enhanced United States–Taiwan and Vermont–Taiwan bilateral relations

Offered by: Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Chase of Chester, Graning of Jericho, Jerome of Brandon, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Priestley of Bradford, Sammis of Castleton, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City

Whereas, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a vibrant, mutually beneficial bilateral relationship based on our common values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and a free market economy, and the relationship is as strong as it has ever been, and

Whereas, with respect to United States–Taiwan trade, the United States is Taiwan’s second-largest trading partner; Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States; in 2022, the two-way trade in goods between the

United States and Taiwan totaled an estimated \$135.56 billion; and Taiwan was the sixth-largest purchaser of American agricultural goods totaling \$4.4 billion, and

Whereas, regarding Vermont–Taiwan trade, in 2022, Taiwan was the second-largest export destination for Vermont goods worth approximately \$465 million, and Vermont imported an estimated \$100 million in goods from Taiwan, and

Whereas, the Government of Taiwan has expressed a desire to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States, which would significantly increase Vermont’s exports to Taiwan, bilateral investment, and jobs in Vermont, and

Whereas, Vermont and Taiwan have enjoyed a long history of productive bilateral relations, including entering into a driver’s license reciprocity agreement in 2020 and facilitating people-to-people exchanges between the two jurisdictions, and

Whereas, the Government of Taiwan desires to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Vermont to increase educational exchanges and cooperation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body reaffirms the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supports enhanced United States–Taiwan and Vermont–Taiwan bilateral relations, and be it further

Resolved: That this legislative body supports the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Vermont for educational exchanges and cooperation, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, President Tsai Ing-wen of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Director-General Jonathan Sun of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Governor Philip B. Scott, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

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

### **Ceremonial Readings**

#### **H.C.R. 82**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2022 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers boys’ cross-country team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship

Offered by: Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, and Farlice-Rubio of Barnet

Offered by: Senator Kitchel

Whereas, the St. Johnsbury Academy boys' cross-country team arrived at Thetford Academy for the 2022 State championship meet aspiring to retain the Division I title that the Hilltoppers had won in 2021, and

Whereas, the 2022 St. Johnsbury Academy success was the culmination of a true team effort, with the Hilltoppers securing seven of the top 20 places on the 5K course—five in the top 15, including third place—which resulted in a narrow, but most satisfying, 44–48 victory over runner-up Champlain Valley Union High School, and

Whereas, the winning Hilltoppers were Nathan Lenzini, Charlie Krebs, Ryan Callaghan, Carson Eames, Nathaniel Bernier, Andrew Thornton-Sherman, Ari Leven, and Isaac Lenzini, and coaches Chip Langmaid and Kevin Cattrell were great mentors for the team, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2022 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers boys' cross-country team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to St. Johnsbury Academy.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 7, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

### **H.C.R. 83**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' championship indoor track and field team  
House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' championship indoor track and field team

Offered by: Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, and Farlice-Rubio of Barnet

Offered by: Senator Kitchel

Whereas, at the 2023 State indoor track and field championship, held at the University of Vermont in Burlington, the Division I Hilltoppers competed against the State's other outstanding high school track and field athletes, and

Whereas, St. Johnsbury Academy proved ready to meet this challenge, securing first place in the 55-meter hurdles, the 4x200 and 4x400 relays, and the long jump, along with other impressive results, and

Whereas, when all the Division I scores were tallied, the Hilltoppers had won a decisive 147–122.5 victory over the second-place Essex High School Hornets, and

Whereas, the triumphant Hilltoppers were Christian Adames, Jaden Beardsley, Ryan Callaghan, Gerardo Fernandez, Parker Bruhns, Jonathan Kalach, Riku Momozawa, Andrew Bugbee, Nathaniel Bernier, Carson Eames, Diego Perez, Andrew Thornton-Sherman, Wilder Thomas, and Gideon Pearson, and their proud coaches were Chip Langmaid, Dylan Bertolini, Stephen Badgley, Matthew O'Brien, and Jessica Thornton-Sherman, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2023 St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltoppers Division I boys' championship indoor track and field team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to St. Johnsbury Academy.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 7, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**H.C.R. 86**

House concurrent resolution designating April 18, 2023 as USS VERMONT Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Arrison of Weathersfield, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Brownell of Pownal, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chase of Colchester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Clifford of Rutland City, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Graham of Williamstown, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaBounty of Lyndon, Laroche of Franklin, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of Thetford, Mattos of Milton, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCoy

of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pajala of Londonderry, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon, Sammis of Castleton, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibilialia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Smith of Derby, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Troiano of Stannard, Walker of Swanton, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Williams of Granby, Wilson of Lyndon, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Chittenden, Gulick, Hardy, Ingalls, Kitchel, Norris, Watson, Weeks, White, Williams, and Wrenner

Whereas, the submarine USS VERMONT (SSN 792) was commissioned on April 18, 2020 and is the third U.S. Navy vessel to be named in honor of the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, the officers and enlisted personnel of the USS VERMONT have sustained superior performance, setting new standards for future U.S. Navy submarines entering the fleet, and

Whereas, today, April 18, 2023, the third anniversary of the commissioning of the USS VERMONT, provides an ideal occasion to honor the officers and crew of this submarine for their dedicated service to our State and country through their many hours of arduous duty protecting our nation and its freedoms, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 18, 2023 as USS VERMONT Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the USS VERMONT and the USS VERMONT Support Group.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 7, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

### **Bill Committed Pending Second Reading**

#### **S. 100**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing opportunities made for everyone

Appearing on the Action Calendar was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, **Rep. Stevens of Waterbury** moved that the bill be committed to the Committee on Environment and Energy, which was agreed to.

**Favorable Reports; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered****H. 489**

**Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte**, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

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

Reported in favor of its passage.

**Rep. Branagan of Georgia**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, reported in favor of its passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

**Message from the Senate No. 42**

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 bill of the following title:

**S. 39.** An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly.

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

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

**H. 35.** An act relating to the Victims Assistance Program.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 41.** An act relating to referral of domestic and sexual violence cases to community justice centers.

**H. 53.** An act relating to driver's license suspensions.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption 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. 24.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

**Message from the Governor**

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 18th day of April 2023, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 28 An act relating to diversion and expungement**

**H. 466 An act relating to technical corrections for the 2023 legislative session**

**Adjournment**

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