

Journal of the House

Thursday, January 25, 2024

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 160

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to State education property taxes and flood-related damage

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

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 9

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House facilities on June 27, 2024

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 27, 2024, 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.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 141

House concurrent resolution honoring Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service

Offered by: House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Offered by: Senate Committee on Government Operations

Whereas, Will Senning grew up in Duxbury, attended Harwood Union High School, earned his undergraduate degree at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, graduated from Vermont Law School, and practiced law at a Waterbury firm, and

Whereas, in 2011, Will Senning joined the staff of the Elections Division in the Office of the Secretary of State; in 2013, former Secretary of State Jim Condos, impressed with Will Senning's knowledge of Vermont election law and his display of administrative acumen, appointed Will Senning as the Director of Elections and Campaign Finance; and in 2023, Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas was delighted to extend his tenure in this role, and

Whereas, under Will Senning's respected nonpartisan leadership, Vermont successfully implemented an earlier summer primary date, greatly expanded the digitalization of the electoral administrative process, and inaugurated timely election night reporting on the web that the public, the news media, town clerks, and political candidates can confidently rely upon, and during the pandemic, he was instrumental in implementing a major expansion of the vote-by-mail balloting system on primary and general election days, and

Whereas, the cordial and effective professional relationship that Will Senning maintained with the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations created a great partnership for the enactment and oversight of elections related laws, and

Whereas, Will Senning is a national leader in ensuring the integrity and sanctity of a state's elections and has been proactive in monitoring against cyber interference attempts, and

Whereas, this effort attracted the attention of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which hired him as the new New England regional security advisor focused on election security in the Department's

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, leaving, at the Elections Division, a legacy of accomplishment and excellence, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Director of Elections and Campaign Finance Will Senning for his superb public service and wishes him all the best in his new position, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Will Senning.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 19, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 815

Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved that the Committee on Human Services be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to health equity training in correctional facilities and to community-based mental health and substance use disorder services for detained or incarcerated individuals and individuals reentering the community

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Corrections and Institutions, which was agreed to.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 603

Rep. Surprenant of Barnard, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the poultry slaughter exception to inspection

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 3312 is amended to read:

§ 3312. INSPECTION; EXCEPTIONS

* * *

(b) 1,000 bird exemption. Inspection shall not be required for the slaughter or preparation of raw poultry products of the producer's own raising on the producer's own premises, whether or not they are intended for use as human food if:

(1) fewer than 1,000 birds are slaughtered annually;

(2) no raw poultry products are offered for sale or transportation in interstate commerce; and

(3) the raw poultry products are only sold, ~~as whole birds only~~, from the farm, at a farmers' market, or to a food restaurant licensed by the Commissioner of Health, or are for personal use.

(c) 5,000 bird exemption.

(1) Inspection shall not be required for the slaughter or preparation of raw poultry products of the producer's own raising on the producer's own premises, whether or not they are intended for use as human food, if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

(A) ~~No~~ Not more than 5,000 birds are slaughtered annually.

(B) No raw poultry products are offered for sale or transportation in interstate commerce.

(C) The raw poultry products are only sold, ~~as whole birds~~, from the farm, at a farmers' market, directly to household consumers, or to a food restaurant licensed by the Commissioner of Health, or are for personal use.

(D) The producer's facility is not used to slaughter or process poultry by any other person or business.

(E) The producer does not purchase birds for resale that have been processed under the exemption under this section.

(F) The poultry are healthy when slaughtered.

(G) The poultry are slaughtered and otherwise processed and handled under sanitary standards, practices, and procedures that result in the preparation of raw poultry products that are sound, clean, and fit for human food when distributed by the producer.

(2) As used in this subsection, "sanitary standards, practices, and procedures" means:

* * *

(J) a person working in contact with the raw poultry products, food-contact surfaces, and product-packaging material shall maintain hygienic practices; and

(K) clothing worn by persons who handle raw poultry products shall be of material that is cleanable or disposable, and garments shall be cleaned or changed as often as necessary to prevent adulteration of raw poultry products or the creation of insanitary conditions.

(d) 20,000 bird exemption. Inspection shall not be required for the slaughter or preparation of raw poultry products of the producer's own raising on the producer's own premises, whether or not they are intended for use as human food, if:

- (1) ~~no~~ not more than 20,000 birds are slaughtered annually;
- (2) no birds are offered for sale or transportation in interstate commerce;
- (3) the raw poultry products are only sold, ~~as whole birds~~, from the farm, at a farmers' market, directly to household consumers, or to a food restaurant licensed by the Commissioner of Health, or are for personal use;
- (4) the producer's facility is not used to slaughter or process poultry by any other person or business;
- (5) the producer does not purchase birds for resale that have been processed under the exemption under this section;
- (6) the poultry are healthy when slaughtered; and
- (7) the poultry are slaughtered and otherwise processed and handled according to the sanitary performance standards of 9 C.F.R. §§ 416.1–416.17.

(e) Required label. All raw poultry products sold from the farm, at a farmers' market, or to a food restaurant pursuant to the exemption in subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section shall be labeled with the following information:

- (1) Name of farm and name of producer.
- (2) Address of farm, including zip code.
- (3) Name of the product.

(4) "Exempt per 6 V.S.A. § 3312(b): NOT INSPECTED." This statement shall be prominently displayed with such conspicuousness (as compared with other words or statements, designs, or devices in the labeling) as to render it likely to be read and understood under customary conditions of purchase and use.

~~(4)~~(5) Safe handling and cooking instructions as follows:

"SAFE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS:

Keep refrigerated or frozen. Thaw in refrigerator or microwave.

Keep raw poultry separate from other foods.

Wash working surfaces, including cutting boards, utensils, and hands after touching raw poultry.

Cook thoroughly to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit maintained for at least 15 seconds.

Keep hot foods hot. Refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.”

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 839

Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes spoke for the Committee on Appropriations.

House bill, entitled

An act related to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended the bill ought to pass.

Having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, and read the second time.

Thereafter, **Rep. Lanpher of Vergennes** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 39, which amends 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 39 to read as follows:

Sec. 39. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1100 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1100 MISCELLANEOUS FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME
APPROPRIATIONS

(a) Agency of Administration. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(4) \$30,000,000 General Fund to be used as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) matching funds for costs incurred due to the July 2023 flooding event.

(5) \$10,000,000 General Fund for grants to municipalities in counties that were impacted by the July 2023 flooding event and are eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance funds under federal disaster declaration DR-4720-VT.

* * *

(c) Department of Human Resources. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$725,000 \$600,000 General Fund to fund seven six new permanent full-time positions in the Operations division in fiscal year 2024. These position costs shall be funded through the Department of Human Resources – Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025;

(2) \$75,000 \$200,000 General Fund to fund one two new permanent full-time ~~position~~ positions in the VTHR Operations division in fiscal year 2024. This position cost shall be funded through the ~~Department of Human Resources~~ Financial Management – Internal Service Fund beginning in fiscal year 2025; and

* * *

(d) ~~\$200,000 General Fund to the Department of Libraries.~~ In In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund to support the FiberConnect project relating to Internet access in public libraries; and

(2) \$11,500 General Fund for contract costs incurred in support of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 1.

* * *

(i) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$110,000 General Fund for electric vehicle charger inspections. Funds shall be used for the purchase of two testing units and related equipment to support the development and implementation of the Commercial Electric Vehicle Fueling Systems regulatory program;

(2) \$1,070,000 General Fund for replacement of the existing Food Safety Inspection Database; and

(3) \$500,000 General Fund for a grant to Salvation Farms to expand access to locally grown food for all Vermonters; and

(4) \$6,000,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for water quality grants to partners and farmers, in accordance with the Clean Water Board’s fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024 budget recommendations and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. G.700(a)(6)(A).

* * *

(j) Department of Mental Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$166,000 General Fund for a grant to the Howard Center to support the Cultural Liaison Program; and

(2) \$105,000 General Fund to the Department of Mental Health in fiscal year 2024 for expediting competency and sanity evaluations.

(k) Green Mountain Care Board. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$620,000 General Fund for costs associated with the implementation of the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) database; and

(2) \$120,500 General Fund for the implementation of a new financial database solution; and

(3) \$50,000 General Fund for the development of the statutorily required Health Resources Allocation Plan Tool.

(l) Agency of Human Services Central Office. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(3) \$10,000,000 General Fund to continue to address the emergent and exigent circumstances impacting health care providers following the COVID-19 pandemic. All or a portion of these funds may also be used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide state match. If funds are used as matching funds to the Agency of Human Services Global Commitment Program to provide state match, the commensurate amount of Global Commitment Fund spending authority may be requested during the Global Commitment Transfer process pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. E.301.1;

(4) \$255,000 General Fund for a subgrant to the United Way of Lamoille County to expand resource coordination for employee stability through its Working Bridges Program;

(5) \$671,000 General Fund to the State Refugee Office for grants to support transitional housing for refugees; and

(4)(6) \$10,534,603 General Fund and \$13,693,231 Federal Revenue Fund #22005 for use as Global Commitment matching funds for one-time caseload pressures due to the suspension of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

* * *

(n) Department of Health. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(7) \$5,000,000 General Fund for the purpose of supporting the Community Violence Prevention Program established by legislation enacted in 2023. An amount not to exceed five percent of this appropriation may be used for the administrative costs of the program, including the funding of an existing limited service position at the Department of Health. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose. All or part of this appropriation may be transferred to the Department of Health for this Program if necessary;

* * *

(o) Department for Children and Families. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

* * *

(3) ~~\$40,000 General Fund the purchase of a driving school vehicle for the Youth Development Program to support foster and former foster youth access to driver's education~~ for the Youth Development Program to fund costs associated with supporting youth in foster care, or formerly in foster care, to learn to drive and to obtain their drivers' licenses and independent transportation;

* * *

(6) ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$4,000,000 General Fund for a grant to the Vermont Food Bank to support increased capacity of services to meet persistent food insecurity;

* * *

(9) \$130,000 General Fund for a grant to the Snelling Center to restart the Early Childhood Education Leadership Program; ~~and~~

(10) \$300,000 General Fund for a grant to Prevent Child Abuse Vermont to provide education regarding the prevention of unsafe infant sleep and to expand programming and support services regarding child abuse often related to parental substance misuse;

(11) \$13,204,802 General Fund for emergency housing needs through the end of fiscal year 2024; and

(12) \$4,000,000 General Fund for standing up shelters in five communities.

* * *

(r) Agency of Education. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$200,000 General Fund in fiscal year 2024 to the Agency of Education for the work of the School Construction Task Force; and

(2) \$1,924,495 Education Fund to hold Local Education Agencies harmless for the Special Education Census Block Grant miscalculation.

* * *

(v) Public Service Department. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$500,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to upgrade and expand the ePSD case management system;

(2) \$400,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to complete the Telecom Plan Update scheduled for June 2024; and

(3) \$300,000 Regulation/Energy Efficiency Fund #21698 to craft policy proposals to reform and streamline electric sector policy; and

(4) \$20,000,000 General Fund for the appropriation established in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100(a)(28), as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 45, to replenish the \$20,000,000 of General Fund spending authority transferred by the Emergency Board on July 31, 2023, per 32 V.S.A. §§ 133(b) and 706(2), as directed by order of the Emergency Board under Item 5(a) – Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program.

* * *

(x) Judiciary. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$300,000 General Fund for the Essex County Courthouse renovation planning; and

(2)(A) \$4,680,000 General Fund ~~to the Judiciary~~ for the Judiciary network replacement project.

(B) Judiciary shall update the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee on the status of this project on or before December 1, 2023.

* * *

(aa) Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living. In fiscal year 2024, funds are appropriated for the following:

(1) \$1,000,000 General Fund to grant to meal providers that provide meals to seniors with low income; and

(2) \$450,000 General Fund to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to continue the SASH pilot for another year.

* * *

Second: In Sec. 40, which amends 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1101, by striking out Sec. B.1101(g)(3) as proposed by the bill and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.1101(g)(3) to read as follows:

(3) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of ~~\$6,900,000~~ \$7,152,203 General Fund is appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to fund Agriculture Development Grants for the Organic Dairy Farm Assistance Program. Farms eligible for assistance and operating when they timely filed a complete application in calendar year 2023 shall be eligible for an award under the Program.

Third: In Sec. 48, which amends 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 185, Sec. B.1100 as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.115, by striking out Sec. B.1100(b)(4) as proposed by the bill and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. B.1100(b)(4) to read as follows:

(4) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Public Safety In order to extract the greatest value from the limited State and federal dollars currently available for public safety communications modernization, it is the intent of the General Assembly that all such funding is expended in an efficient and complementary manner. To that end, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall seek to draw and deploy the \$9,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending to support Vermont's transition to a modernized, regional communications network in a manner that coordinates with and advances, to the greatest extent possible, the goals of a statewide public safety communications system developed by the Public Safety Communications Task Force. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall consult with promptly inform the Public Safety Communications Task Force as the federal parameters for

expending the funds become available and as the Commissioner develops a and, if necessary, revises the plan to expend such funds. The Commissioner shall solicit recommendations from the Task Force regarding the plan, including any revisions to the plan, the implementation schedule, and specific expenditures. In addition, the Commissioner shall update the Joint Fiscal Committee on planned expenditures.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 58 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 58 to read as follows:

Sec. 58. AGENCY OF ADMINISTRATION; ENTERPRISE RESOURCE
PLANNING

(a) In fiscal year 2024, the Agency of Administration shall report to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee within three business days after any change in status of any contract relating to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) – Modernization Business Transformation project changes.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 85 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec 85 to read as follows:

Sec. 85. [Deleted.]

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 86 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec 86 to read as follows:

Sec. 86. [Deleted.]

Seventh: In Sec. 93, temporary emergency housing, in subsection (a), preceding “the General Assistance Emergency Housing Program,” by striking out the words “individuals participating in” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “households eligible for”

Eighth: In Sec. 93, temporary emergency housing, in subsection (a), following “including,” by striking out the words “individuals participating” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “households eligible”

Ninth: In Sec. 93, temporary emergency housing, in subdivision (e)(2), in the first sentence, by striking out the word “individuals” preceding “temporarily” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “households”

Tenth: In Sec. 93, temporary emergency housing, in subdivision (e)(2), at the end of the first sentence, by inserting before the period “; provided, however, that in no event shall such an agreement or the negotiations for such an agreement cause a household to become unhoused”

Eleventh: In Sec. 93, temporary emergency housing, in subsection (e), by designating the second sentence of subdivision (2) to be subdivision (3) and, at the end of the newly designated subdivision (3), by inserting before the period the words “per household” following “per day”

Which was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 112. Nays, 24.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Dolan of Waitsfield	Morris of Springfield
Andriano of Orwell	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morrissey of Bennington
Anthony of Barre City	Elder of Starksboro	Mrowicki of Putney
Arrison of Weathersfield	Emmons of Springfield	Mulvaney-Stanak of
Arsenault of Williston	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Galfetti of Barre Town	Noyes of Wolcott *
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Nugent of South Burlington
Berbeco of Winooski	Goldman of Rockingham	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Ode of Burlington
Black of Essex	Headrick of Burlington	Pajala of Londonderry
Bluemle of Burlington	Holcombe of Norwich	Patt of Worcester
Bongartz of Manchester	Hooper of Randolph	Pearl of Danville
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Hooper of Burlington	Pouech of Hinesburg
Boyden of Cambridge	Houghton of Essex Junction	Priestley of Bradford
Brady of Williston	Howard of Rutland City	Rachelson of Burlington
Brown of Richmond	James of Manchester	Rice of Dorset *
Brownell of Pownal	Jerome of Brandon	Roberts of Halifax
Brumsted of Shelburne	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sammis of Castleton
Burke of Brattleboro	Krasnow of South	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burrows of West Windsor	Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury *
Buss of Woodstock	LaBounty of Lyndon	Sheldon of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Lalley of Shelburne	Sibilia of Dover
Carpenter of Hyde Park	LaLonde of South	Sims of Craftsbury
Carroll of Bennington	Burlington	Small of Winooski
Casey of Montpelier *	LaMont of Morristown	Squirrell of Underhill
Chapin of East Montpelier	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stebbins of Burlington
Chase of Chester	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Stevens of Waterbury
Chase of Colchester	Lipsky of Stowe	Stone of Burlington
Chesnut-Tangerman of	Logan of Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard
Middletown Springs *	Long of Newfane *	Taylor of Colchester
Cina of Burlington	Maguire of Rutland City	Templeman of Brownington
Coffey of Guilford	Masland of Thetford	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cole of Hartford	McCann of Montpelier	Torre of Moretown
Conlon of Cornwall	McCarthy of St. Albans	Troiano of Stannard
Corcoran of Bennington	City	Waters Evans of Charlotte

Cordes of Lincoln	McFaun of Barre Town	White of Bethel
Demrow of Corinth	McGill of Bridport	Whitman of Bennington
Dodge of Essex	Mihaly of Calais	Williams of Barre City *
Dolan of Essex Junction	Minier of South Burlington	Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Beck of St. Johnsbury	Harrison of Chittenden	Page of Newport City
Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Peterson of Clarendon
Brennan of Colchester	Labor of Morgan	Shaw of Pittsford
Canfield of Fair Haven	Laroche of Franklin	Smith of Derby
Demar of Enosburgh	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Milton
Donahue of Northfield	McCoy of Poultney	Toof of St. Albans Town
Goslant of Northfield	Morgan of Milton	Walker of Swanton
Hango of Berkshire	Oliver of Sheldon	Williams of Granby *

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Graham of Williamstown	Nicoll of Ludlow
Burditt of West Rutland	Gregoire of Fairfield	Notte of Rutland City
Christie of Hartford	Hyman of South Burlington	Parsons of Newbury
Clifford of Rutland City	Mattos of Milton	Wilson of Lyndon
Dickinson of St. Albans Town		

Rep. Casey of Montpelier explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This Budget Adjustment is a life raft for flood impacted communities. Disasters don’t recognize town borders and recovery shouldn’t be placed solely on the backs of our municipalities.”

Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

The current housing crisis is a humanitarian crisis. We don’t have the luxury of either keeping Vermonters housed or spurning new construction. This BAA digs deep to do both, and both are critical. I am happy to vote for this BAA.”

Rep. Long of Newfane explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes for a Budget Adjustment Act that meets the immediate needs of Vermonters, houses those who lack shelter, helps communities devastated by floods, and makes smart investments for the future.”

Rep. Noyes of Wolcott explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted in favor of H.839 as it supports older Vermonters and individuals with disabilities who are struggling with access to housing.”

Rep. Rice of Dorset explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This Budget Adjustment Act upholds our Vermont values and takes care of our communities. That is what my constituents expect us to do here. I was proud to vote yes.”

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

We are here as legislators to serve all Vermonters, including, and perhaps especially, those that need our help – with food, with housing, with flood relief, and with so many other things. It’s not always easy, but it is our job. I am proud to support this Budget Adjustment bill because we are finding ways to accomplish much for the people that are counting on us.”

Rep. Williams of Barre City explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes for this Budget Adjustment. It extends a needed hand to those communities so impacted by the July flooding event. A \$1 billion natural disaster, by many metrics the most expensive in Vermont State history, deserves a concerted, immediate response from our government and this Assembly.”

Rep. Williams of Granby explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I just spent almost two hours listening to superintendents all across the State tell us that their towns and schools are in dire straits when trying to put forward budgets that their towns can support. Every single time we vote to spend more money for any reason, we are putting pressures on all our residents. We need to learn how to live within our means. And – there is nothing wrong with neighbors helping neighbors. That is what Vermont’s foundation is built on.”

Joint Resolutions Adopted in Concurrence

Joint Senate resolutions of the following titles, having been placed on the Calendar for Action, were severally taken up and adopted in concurrence:

J.R.S. 38. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

J.R.S. 39. Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2024.

Adjournment

At five o'clock and thirteen minutes in the evening, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.