

Journal of the House

Friday, February 16, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Kelly Brush, Founder of the Kelly Brush Foundation, Charlotte.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 859

By Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to overtime compensation for employees of the General Assembly

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 860

By Reps. Krasnow of South Burlington, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Andriano of Orwell, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Nicoll of Ludlow, Rachelson of Burlington, Small of Winooski, Troiano of Stannard, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to granting collective bargaining rights to employees of the General Assembly

To the Committee on General and Housing.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**H. 847**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to peer support provider and recovery support specialist certification

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

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 149**

House concurrent resolution designating February 16, 2024 as Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House

Offered by: Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Jerome of Brandon, Anthony of Barre City, Bluemle of Burlington, Bongartz of Manchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brennan of Colchester, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Carroll of Bennington, Demrow of Corinth, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Graning of Jericho, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Holcombe of Norwich, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Marcotte of Coventry, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of Castleton, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilis of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Squirrell of Underhill, Toleno of Brattleboro, Torre of Moretown, White of Bethel, Williams of Barre City, and Williams of Granby

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, Bray, Brock, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Ram Hinsdale, White, and Wrenner

Whereas, Vermont is proud of its unparalleled and diverse natural landscape, and it is a global destination for many types of world-class outdoor recreation, and

Whereas, our State's outdoor recreational assets consist of over 8,000 miles of public access trails, including 150 miles of recreational rail trails; 360,000 acres of wildlife management areas, State forests, and State parks; and more than six million acres of hunting-accessible land, and there are over 40 alpine and cross-country ski areas, and

Whereas, in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 77, the General Assembly designated skiing and snowboarding as the State's official winter sports, and

Whereas, the importance of welcoming everyone, regardless of ethnicity or background, to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits is recognized, and outdoor recreational venues embrace the intrinsic community values of inclusion and representation, and

Whereas, outdoor recreation creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and offers workforce pathways that incentivize young Vermonters to remain in the State, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in fiscal year 2022, in businesses located in all 14 Vermont counties, outdoor recreation spending totaled \$1.9 billion, and the industry employed over 15,000 persons, comprising nearly five percent of the Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of outdoor recreation to the economy, to the quality of life, and to the mental and physical well-being of Vermonters and visitors, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 16, 2024 as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, the Executive Director of the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance, the Executive Director of the Vermont Mountain Bike Association, and the President of the Vermont Ski Areas Association.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 9, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence

S. 154

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont State Plane Coordinate System

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence.

Message from the Senate No. 20

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

Pursuant to the request of the House for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill entitled:

H. 839. An act related to fiscal year 2024 budget adjustments.

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Kitchel
Senator Perchlik
Senator Westman

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

H.C.R. 151. House concurrent resolution commemorating the fifth anniversary of the death of Jenna Tatro and honoring the work of Jenna's Promise.

H.C.R. 152. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 13, 2024 as National K9 Veterans Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 153. House concurrent resolution commemorating Molly Davies's transfer of 350 acres of land in the Town of Wheelock to the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.

H.C.R. 154. House concurrent resolution honoring Johnson Selectboard Chair Beth Foy for her public service as an outstanding municipal legislative leader.

H.C.R. 155. House concurrent resolution honoring Richard Angus Cawley for his devoted public service in the Town of Corinth.

H.C.R. 156. House concurrent resolution honoring Harry Roush for his four-plus decades of exceptional municipal public service in the Town of Washington.

H.C.R. 157. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington on the centennial of its current agricultural home.

H.C.R. 158. House concurrent resolution designating February 22, 2024 as Age Strong Vermont Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 159. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont State Employees' Association on its 80th anniversary.

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and fifty-nine minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 45.

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. 151

House concurrent resolution commemorating the fifth anniversary of the death of Jenna Tatro and honoring the work of Jenna's Promise

H.C.R. 152

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 13, 2024 as National K9 Veterans Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 153

House concurrent resolution commemorating Molly Davies's transfer of 350 acres of land in the Town of Wheelock to the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation

H.C.R. 154

House concurrent resolution honoring Johnson Selectboard Chair Beth Foy for her public service as an outstanding municipal legislative leader

H.C.R. 155

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard Angus Cawley for his devoted public service in the Town of Corinth

H.C.R. 156

House concurrent resolution honoring Harry Roush for his four-plus decades of exceptional municipal public service in the Town of Washington

H.C.R. 157

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boyd Family Farm in Wilmington on the centennial of its current agricultural home

H.C.R. 158

House concurrent resolution designating February 22, 2024 as Age Strong Vermont Day at the State House

H.C.R. 159

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont State Employees' Association on its 80th anniversary

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2024 Adjourned Session.]