

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 11, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Karen Johnston, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 30

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a Sister State Program

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. 211

House concurrent resolution designating April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House

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

Whereas, Vermont is a global destination for dining, lodging, art, history, and outdoor recreation, and this creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and incentivizes Vermonters to stay, and

Whereas, tourism and hospitality are vital to the sustainability of rural and urban communities alike across all 14 of Vermont's counties, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Travel Association, in 2023, tourists spent \$3 billion in Vermont, a \$200 million increase over the prior year, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Labor has reported that, through September 2023, 11.5 percent of the State's workforce was employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, consisting of 30,287 persons in accommodations and food services and 5,356 individuals in arts and recreation, and

Whereas, the Vermont Department of Taxes has estimated that through most of 2023, tourism-related tax revenue equaled \$417,300,000, and

Whereas, the Vermont Ski Areas Association tallied 4,134,832 skier visits for the season ending in the spring of 2023, a marked expansion over the 3,762,047 visits for the prior season, and

Whereas, meaningful representation and inclusion are essential to ensure that Vermont is welcoming to everyone so that all people, regardless of background, can experience the joy of visiting the State, and

Whereas, industry leaders embody destination stewardship as they center community values in their work, and

Whereas, the strong and positive impact of tourism on Vermont's economy is cause for great celebration, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy 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 Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and to Ski Vermont.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 5, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 213

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary

Offered by: Representative Stevens of Waterbury

Whereas, every U.S. state and territory has an agency to finance the construction of affordable housing, and, on April 11, 1974, Governor Salmon signed the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Act, which became Act 260, and

Whereas, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency's (VHFA) mission is to "finance and promote affordable, safe and decent housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income Vermonters," and

Whereas, since 1974, VHFA has assisted 31,000 home buyers and supported the development of 9,600 affordable apartments, and

Whereas, VHFA is a strong partner to the lenders, municipalities, utilities, developers, real estate professionals, investors, and each branch of government, and

Whereas, several housing shocks—including the Great Recession, Tropical Storm Irene, COVID-19, an increasing number of natural disasters, inflation, and varying interest rates—put pressure on housing affordability, accessibility, and safety, and VHFA deftly navigated through these crises, and

Whereas, recently, VHFA rose to address the State’s evolving housing needs, launching several new programs, including expanding access to weatherization; paying off mortgage, utility, and tax arrearages; funding for-sale home construction; expanding employer-supported housing; and supporting first-generation homebuyers, and

Whereas, VHFA started the Vermont Housing Investment Fund in 2020, which has already added \$17 million in philanthropic, federal, and in-state funding to address critical housing funding gaps, and

Whereas, the Agency provides crucial data, tools, and resources for the State and local communities through its Vermont Housing Data website and regular publications, and

Whereas, VHFA operates through its values of integrity, innovation, belonging, and equity, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary, and be it further

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

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 5, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 543

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont’s adoption of the Social Work Licensure Compact

By adding a new Sec. 3 and a Sec. 4 after the existing Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; EMERGENCY HOUSING ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION

It is the intent of the General Assembly that in fiscal year 2024 documentation of a qualifying disability or health condition pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 89(b) shall require the certification of a health care provider as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481.

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 89(b) is amended to read:

(b) A household that is otherwise eligible for temporary emergency housing pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, but for the inability to qualify for or document receipt of SSI or SSDI, may use ~~the Department's Emergency Housing Disability Variance Request Form~~ a form developed by the Department as a means of documenting a qualifying disability or health condition that requires:

(1) the applicant's name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the applicant's social security number;

(2) a description of the applicant's disability or health condition;

(3) a description of the risk posed to the applicant's health, safety, or welfare if temporary emergency housing is not authorized pursuant to this section; and

(4) a certification of a health care provider, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9481, that includes the provider's credentials, credential number, address, and phone number.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Amendments to Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence With Proposal of Amendment**

S. 25

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to regulating cosmetic and menstrual products containing certain chemicals and chemical classes and textiles and athletic turf fields containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Higley of Lowell and Marcotte of Coventry** moved that the House proposal of amendment be amended as follows:

In Sec. 2, 9 V.S.A. § 2494b, in subsection (e), by striking out "five" and inserting in lieu thereof "ten"

Speaker presiding.

Pending the question, Shall the House amend its proposal of amendment as offered by Rep. Higley of Lowell and Rep. Marcotte of Coventry?, **Rep. Cole of Hartford** 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 House amend its proposal of amendment as offered by Rep. Higley of Lowell and Rep. Marcotte of Coventry?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 101. Nays, 28.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

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| Andrews of Westford | Dolan of Essex Junction | City |
| Anthony of Barre City | Dolan of Waitsfield | McCoy of Poultney |
| Arrison of Weathersfield | Donahue of Northfield | McFaun of Barre Town |
| Arsenault of Williston | Durfee of Shaftsbury | Mihaly of Calais |
| Austin of Colchester | Emmons of Springfield | Minier of South Burlington |
| Bartholomew of Hartland | Galfetti of Barre Town | Morris of Springfield |
| Bartley of Fairfax | Garofano of Essex | Morrissey of Bennington |
| Beck of St. Johnsbury | Goldman of Rockingham | Mrowicki of Putney |
| Birong of Vergennes | Goslant of Northfield | Nicoll of Ludlow |
| Black of Essex | Graham of Williamstown | Notte of Rutland City |
| Bluemle of Burlington | Graning of Jericho | Noyes of Wolcott |
| Bongartz of Manchester | Gregoire of Fairfield | Ode of Burlington |
| Boyden of Cambridge | Hango of Berkshire | Page of Newport City |
| Brady of Williston | Harrison of Chittenden | Pajala of Londonderry |
| Branagan of Georgia | Higley of Lowell | Pearl of Danville |
| Brown of Richmond | Holcombe of Norwich | Peterson of Clarendon |
| Brownell of Pownal | Hooper of Burlington | Quimby of Lyndon |
| Brumsted of Shelburne | Houghton of Essex Junction | Roberts of Halifax |
| Burditt of West Rutland | Howard of Rutland City | Satcowitz of Randolph |
| Burke of Brattleboro | James of Manchester | Scheu of Middlebury |
| Burrows of West Windsor | Jerome of Brandon | Shaw of Pittsford |
| Buss of Woodstock | Kornheiser of Brattleboro | Sibilia of Dover |
| Campbell of St. Johnsbury | Labor of Morgan | Smith of Derby |
| Canfield of Fair Haven | LaBounty of Lyndon | Squirrell of Underhill |
| Carpenter of Hyde Park | Lalley of Shelburne | Stevens of Waterbury |
| Carroll of Bennington | LaLonde of South | Taylor of Milton |
| Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs | Burlington | Taylor of Colchester |
| Coffey of Guilford | Lanpher of Vergennes | Toleno of Brattleboro |
| Conlon of Cornwall | Laroche of Franklin | Toof of St. Albans Town |
| Demar of Enosburgh | Long of Newfane | Troiano of Stannard |
| Demrow of Corinth | Maguire of Rutland City | Waters Evans of Charlotte |
| Dickinson of St. Albans Town | Marcotte of Coventry | White of Bethel |
| Dodge of Essex | Masland of Thetford | Williams of Barre City |
| | Mattos of Milton | Williams of Granby |
| | McCarthy of St. Albans | Wood of Waterbury |

Those who voted in the negative are:

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| Berbeco of Winooski | Hyman of South Burlington | Sammis of Castleton |
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| Bos-Lun of Westminster | Krasnow of South Burlington | Sims of Craftsbury |
| Casey of Montpelier | Burlington | Small of Winooski |
| Christie of Hartford | LaMont of Morristown | Stebbins of Burlington |
| Cina of Burlington | McGill of Bridport | Stone of Burlington |
| Cole of Hartford | Nugent of South Burlington | Surprenant of Barnard |
| Corcoran of Bennington | Pouech of Hinesburg | Templeman of Brownington |
| Cordes of Lincoln | Priestley of Bradford | Torre of Moretown |
| Elder of Starksboro | Rachelson of Burlington | Whitman of Bennington |
| Farlice-Rubio of Barnet | Rice of Dorset | |

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

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|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Andriano of Orwell | Hooper of Randolph | Oliver of Sheldon |
| Brennan of Colchester | Leavitt of Grand Isle | Parsons of Newbury |
| Chapin of East Montpelier | Lipsky of Stowe | Patt of Worcester |
| Chase of Chester | Logan of Burlington | Sheldon of Middlebury |
| Chase of Colchester | McCann of Montpelier | Walker of Swanton |
| Clifford of Rutland City | Morgan of Milton | |
| Headrick of Burlington | O'Brien of Tunbridge | |

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Whitman of Bennington** moved that the House proposal of amendment be further amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12, in section 2494b, in subsection (b), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Second: In Sec. 3, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12a, in section 2494n, in the first sentence of subsection (a) and in subdivision (a)(2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Third: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494s, in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Fourth: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494t, in subsection (a), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Fifth: In Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12b, in section 2494u, in subsection (a), in subdivision (2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Sixth: In Sec. 8, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 12c, in section 2494z, in subsection (a), in subdivision (2), by striking out “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof “subchapter”

Seventh: In Sec. 9, community engagement plan, in subsection (b), by striking out “members of communities” and inserting in lieu thereof “individuals with shared characteristics”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read a third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Whitman of Bennington** 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 pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 130. Nays, 0.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andrews of Westford | Durfee of Shaftsbury | Morris of Springfield |
| Anthony of Barre City | Elder of Starksboro | Morrissey of Bennington |
| Arrison of Weathersfield | Emmons of Springfield | Mrowicki of Putney |
| Arsenault of Williston | Farlice-Rubio of Barnet | Nicoll of Ludlow |
| Austin of Colchester | Galfetti of Barre Town | Notte of Rutland City |
| Bartholomew of Hartland | Garofano of Essex | Noyes of Wolcott |
| Bartley of Fairfax | Goldman of Rockingham | Nugent of South Burlington |
| Beck of St. Johnsbury | Goslant of Northfield | Ode of Burlington |
| Berbeco of Winooski | Graham of Williamstown | Page of Newport City |
| Birong of Vergennes | Graning of Jericho | Pajala of Londonderry |
| Black of Essex | Gregoire of Fairfield | Pearl of Danville |
| Bluemle of Burlington | Hango of Berkshire | Peterson of Clarendon |
| Bongartz of Manchester | Harrison of Chittenden | Pouech of Hinesburg |
| Bos-Lun of Westminster | Higley of Lowell | Priestley of Bradford |
| Boyden of Cambridge | Holcombe of Norwich | Quimby of Lyndon |
| Brady of Williston | Hooper of Burlington | Rachelson of Burlington |
| Branagan of Georgia | Houghton of Essex Junction | Rice of Dorset |
| Brown of Richmond * | Howard of Rutland City | Roberts of Halifax * |
| Brownell of Pownal | Hyman of South Burlington | Sammis of Castleton |
| Brumsted of Shelburne | James of Manchester | Satcowitz of Randolph |
| Burditt of West Rutland | Jerome of Brandon | Scheu of Middlebury |
| Burke of Brattleboro | Kornheiser of Brattleboro | Shaw of Pittsford |
| Burrows of West Windsor | Krasnow of South | Sheldon of Middlebury |
| Buss of Woodstock | Burlington | Sibilia of Dover |
| Campbell of St. Johnsbury | Labor of Morgan | Sims of Craftsbury |
| Canfield of Fair Haven | LaBounty of Lyndon | Small of Winooski |
| Carpenter of Hyde Park | Lalley of Shelburne | Smith of Derby |
| Carroll of Bennington | LaLonde of South | Squirrell of Underhill |
| Casey of Montpelier | Burlington | Stebbins of Burlington |
| Chesnut-Tangerman of | LaMont of Morristown | Stevens of Waterbury |
| Middletown Springs | Lanpher of Vergennes | Stone of Burlington |
| Christie of Hartford | Laroche of Franklin | Surprenant of Barnard |
| Cina of Burlington | Lipsky of Stowe | Taylor of Milton |
| Coffey of Guilford | Long of Newfane | Taylor of Colchester |
| Cole of Hartford | Maguire of Rutland City | Templeman of Brownington |

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| Corcoran of Bennington | Marcotte of Coventry | Toleno of Brattleboro |
| Cordes of Lincoln | Masland of Thetford | Toof of St. Albans Town |
| Demar of Enosburgh | Mattos of Milton | Torre of Moretown |
| Demrow of Corinth | McCarthy of St. Albans | Troiano of Stannard |
| Dickinson of St. Albans Town | City | Waters Evans of Charlotte |
| Dodge of Essex | McCoy of Poultney | White of Bethel |
| Dolan of Essex Junction | McFaun of Barre Town | Whitman of Bennington |
| Dolan of Waitsfield * | McGill of Bridport | Williams of Barre City |
| Donahue of Northfield | Mihaly of Calais | Williams of Granby |
| | Minier of South Burlington | Wood of Waterbury * |

Those who voted in the negative are: none

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

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Andriano of Orwell | Conlon of Cornwall | Morgan of Milton |
| Brennan of Colchester | Headrick of Burlington | O'Brien of Tunbridge |
| Chapin of East Montpelier | Hooper of Randolph | Oliver of Sheldon |
| Chase of Chester | Leavitt of Grand Isle | Parsons of Newbury |
| Chase of Colchester | Logan of Burlington | Patt of Worcester |
| Clifford of Rutland City | McCann of Montpelier | Walker of Swanton |

Rep. Brown of Richmond explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

S.25 takes an important additional step to protect Vermonters from PFAs and the associated health risks. By prohibiting these chemicals in personal care products, textiles, artificial turf, and cookware, we act to protect public health and the environment with more work still ahead of us.”

Rep. Dolan of Waitsfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I support this bill as an important next step for Vermont to reduce public exposure to harmful PFA chemicals, known disturbingly as ‘forever chemicals.’”

Rep. Roberts of Halifax explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Ever wonder why so many of our cats and dogs are getting cancer? Because the ‘forever chemicals’ are themselves bonded so strongly. PFA treatments don’t stick well to textiles, carpeting, and consumer goods. Research shows that chemicals like these end up in household dust, making pets and babies the canaries in today’s coal mines. But in working with building product manufacturers, I’ve found they don’t want to poison their

customers and they don't want to include ineffective chemical treatments in their product formulations. S.25 is a standardized, scientific regulation that manufacturers can procure against and clean up their own supply chains.”

Rep. Wood of Waterbury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I enthusiastically cast my vote in favor of S.25 to reduce hazardous chemicals from our environment and our bodies.”

Adjournment

At two o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.