

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Derrick Fallon of Jericho.

Appointment of Senate Members to Joint Rules Committee

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Rules Committee for terms of two years pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule No. 5:

Senator Baruth, *ex officio*
[Senator Mazza]
Senator Brock
Senator Clarkson
Senator Kitchel

Appointment of Senate Members to Joint Fiscal Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 501, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Fiscal Committee for terms of two years:

Senator Cummings, *ex officio*
Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
[Senator Baruth]
Senator Perchlik
Senator Sears
Senator Westman

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 862.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

H. 874.

An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education laws.

To the Committee on Education.

H. 876.

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the corrections laws.

To the Committee on Institutions.

H. 882.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

To the Committee on Institutions.

H. 884.

An act relating to the modernization of governance for the St. Albans Cemetery Association.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Appointment Confirmed

Under suspension of the rules (and particularly, Senate Rule 93), as moved by Senator Hardy, the following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, without a report given by the Committee to which it was referred and without debate:

Gomez, Christopher of Rutland - Commissioner Vermont Housing Finance Agency - March 1, 2024 to February 29, 2028.

Was confirmed by the Senate.

Appointment Confirmed

The following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed separately by the Senate, upon a full report given by the Committee to which it was referred:

The nomination of

Gallagher, Kate T. of Williston - Superior Court Judge - March 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 26, Nays 0.

Senator Sears having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Brock, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Ingalls, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Norris, Sears, Starr, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams, Wrenner.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Kitchel, Mazza, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Mihaly and Masland,

By Senator Vyhovsky,

H.C.R. 201.

House concurrent resolution honoring Cindy Scott's third-grade class at Twinfield Union School for establishing a special friendship with the young patients at St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital-UNBROKEN KIDS Rehabilitation Center in Lviv, Ukraine.

By Reps. Burke and others,

By Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 202.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Esta Broutsas Smith of Brattleboro on her centennial birthday.

By Reps. O'Brien and Mihaly,

By Senators Cummings, Perchlik and Watson,

H.C.R. 203.

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Representative and Unadilla Theater impresario William Blachly of Calais on his 100th birthday.

By Reps. Austin and others,

By Senator Mazza,

H.C.R. 204.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Jaden Coppins of Colchester on her individual title victory at the inaugural New England girls' wrestling championship.

By Reps. Nicoll and others,

H.C.R. 205.

House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Catamount Trail.

By Reps. Rachelson and others,

By Senators Baruth, Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky and Wrenner,

H.C.R. 206.

House concurrent resolution honoring the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden.

By Reps. Roberts and others,

H.C.R. 207.

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 5–11, 2024 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Vermont.

By Reps. Burke and others,

H.C.R. 208.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro on its 50th anniversary.

By Reps. Goslant and others,

H.C.R. 209.

House concurrent resolution honoring Northfield Elementary School physical education instructor Michael Gonneville for his teaching excellence and for the establishment of the school's Walking Wednesdays.

By Reps. Morrissey and others,

H.C.R. 210.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Grace Christian Lions Division IV championship boys' basketball team.

By Reps. Jerome and others,

H.C.R. 211.

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

By Reps. Austin and others,

By Senators Baruth, Chittenden, Gulick, Lyons, Mazza, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky and Wrenner,

H.C.R. 212.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Burlington-Colchester Division I championship SeaLakers girls' ice hockey team.

By Rep. Stevens,

H.C.R. 213.

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

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 51.