

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF VERMONT

BIENNIAL SESSION, 2021

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JOHN H. BLOOMER, JR.
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

VANESSA J. DAVISON
OPERATIONS MANAGER
JOURNAL CLERK

Table of Contents

Biennial Session

	Page
Journal of the Senate (volume 1).....	1
Journal of the Senate (volume 2).....	901
Journal of the Joint Assemblies (volume 2).....	1437
Appendix A – List of Senators, Officers and Staff of the Senate, and Committees of of the Senate (volume 2).....	1475
Appendix B – Table of Bills (volume 2).....	1484
General Index (volume 2).....	1543

Special Session

	Page
Special Session (volume 2).....	1
Special Session Appendix B – Table of Bills (volume 2).....	16
Special Session General Index (volume 2).....	19

Journal of the Senate

Of the STATE OF VERMONT BIENNIAL SESSION, 2021

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Vermont, the Senate convened at the State House at Montpelier, on the first Wednesday, after the first Monday, the 6th day of January in the year of two thousand twenty-one.

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, eastern standard time, the Senate was called to order by the President, Lieutenant Governor David E. Zuckerman.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Roll Call

The roll of the Senate was thereupon called by the Secretary, John H. Bloomer, Jr., and it appeared that the following Senators were present.

Addison District	Senator Christopher A. Bray Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy
Bennington District	Senator Brian A. Campion
Caledonia District	Senator Joseph C. Benning Senator M. Jane Kitchel
Chittenden District	Senator Philip E. Baruth Senator Christopher A. Pearson Senator Kesha K. Ram
Essex-Orleans District	Senator Russell H. Ingalls Senator Robert A. Starr
Franklin District	Senator Randolph D. Brock Senator Corey. J. Parent
Grand Isle District	Senator Richard T. Mazza
Rutland District	Senator Brian P. Collamore Senator Joshua C. Terenzini

Washington District	Senator Andrew J. Perchlik
Windham District	Senator Rebecca A. Balint
Windsor District	Senator Alison Clarkson Senator Alice W. Nitka

Oath Administered

The Senators-elect were duly sworn by the Secretary and severally subscribed the oath of office.

Election of Officers

The President announced that the next order of business was the election of officers, and that nominations for Secretary were in order:

Senator Clarkson of Windsor District nominated

JOHN H. BLOOMER, JR.

of the Town of Wallingford.

Senator Collamore of Rutland District seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Senator Campion, the nominations were closed and the one ballot was cast for

JOHN H. BLOOMER JR.

of the Town of Wallingford, as Secretary of the Senate for the two years next ensuing.

Thereupon, he presented himself at the bar of the Senate and received the oath of office from the President.

Election of President *Pro Tempore*

The President then announced that the next order of business was the election of a President *pro tempore*.

Senator Mazza of Grand Isle District nominated

REBECCA A. BALINT

of Windsor District.

Senator Collamore of Rutland District seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Senator Benning, the nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for

REBECCA A. BALINT

of Windsor District as President *pro tempore* of the Senate for the two years next ensuing.

Thereupon, she presented herself at the bar of the Senate and received the oath of office from the President.

Election of Third Member of Committee on Committees

The Senate then proceeded to the election of a Senator to serve with the President and President *pro tempore* as a member of the Committee on Committees, which appoints the standing committees of the Senate.

Senator Kitchel of Caledonia District nominated

RICHARD T. MAZZA

of Grand Isle District.

Senator Benning of Caledonia District seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Senator Balint, the nominations were closed and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for

RICHARD T. MAZZA

of Grand Isle District to serve with the President and President *pro tempore* as a member of the Committee on Committees.

Thereupon, he presented himself at the bar of the Senate and received the oath of office from the President.

Appointments

The President announced the appointment by the Secretary of

STEVEN D. MARSHALL

of Swanton, as Assistant Secretary of the Senate.

The President announced the appointment by the Secretary of

VANESSA J. DAVISON

of Hardwick, as Operations Manager/Journal Clerk, and

HELEN E. ESTROFF

of Montpelier, as Calendar Clerk, and

PENNY M. CARPENTER

of Waterbury, as Office Assistant.

Senate Resolutions Adopted

Senate resolutions of the following titles were severally offered, read and adopted, and are as follows:

By Senator Balint,

S.R. 1. Senate resolution relating to the rules of the Senate.

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Senate be governed by the Permanent Rules of the Senate for the 2021 biennial session, as adopted in 1989, with amendments adopted in 1997, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2013, 2016 and 2019 until others are adopted.

By Senator Balint,

S.R. 2. Senate resolution relating to amending the permanent rules of the Senate to include rules during Declared Emergencies.

Resolved by the Senate

First, Senate Rule 9A is added to read as follows:

Rule 9A Rule Regarding Remote Meeting and Voting of the Senate during Declared Emergencies

In the event the Governor issues a Declaration of Emergency, during the Declaration of Emergency:

(a) The Rules Committee may authorize that a session or sessions of the Senate during such declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically at which one or more Senators may participate, debate, deliberate and vote in a meeting of the Senate from a remote location. If necessary, the Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformance with this Rule.

(b) Each Senator voting remotely shall do so using both audio and video capability in a format approved by the Rules Committee.

(c) The format authorized by the Rules Committee for a session of the Senate shall enable public access in a manner consistent with Vermont's Constitution.

(d) A Senator participating remotely shall be considered present and in attendance at the meeting of the Senate, including for purposes of determining if a quorum is present. Both present and remotely connected Senators compliant with the terms of this Rule shall be counted towards a quorum of the whole.

(e) When a Senator participating remotely desires to address the Senate, the Senator shall notify the Presiding Officer through the electronic means used by the Senator to participate remotely. When recognized, the Presiding Officer shall announce the Senator and the Senator may speak through the same electronic means as if physically present on the Senate floor.

(f) To the extent practicable, a Senator participating remotely under this rule shall participate from the Senator's senatorial district.

(g) The authority of the Rules Committee under this Rule 9A terminates upon the expiration of the Declared Emergency.

Second, Senate Rule 32A is added to read as follows:

Rule 32A Rule Regarding Remote Meeting and Voting of Senate Committees during Declared Emergencies

In the event the Governor issues a Declaration of Emergency, during the Declaration of Emergency:

(a) The Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit Senate committees (including itself) to meet and vote electronically as the Rules Committee determines appropriate. If necessary, the Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformance with this Rule.

(b) In exercising its authority under section (a), the Rules Committee, to the extent applicable and practicable, shall include the provisions of Rule 9A in its authorizations.

(c) The authority of the Rules Committee under this Rule 32A terminates upon the expiration of the Declared Emergency.

By Senator Balint,

S.R. 3. Senate resolution providing a senator-elect may take and subscribe their oath by electronic means.

Whereas, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters and limit the spread of infection in our community;

Whereas, the Governor of the State of Vermont issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19; *now therefore be it:*

Resolved by the Senate:

For the 2021 Biennial Session, a senator may take and subscribe their required oath by an electronic format using both audio and video capabilities.

By Senator Clarkson,

S.R. 4. Senate resolution relating to appointment of a committee to inform the Governor of the organization of the Senate.

Resolved by the Senate:

That a committee of four Senators be appointed by the President to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, and to inform him that the Senate has organized and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the session.

By Senator Clarkson,

S.R. 5. Senate resolution relating to informing the House of the organization of the Senate.

Resolved by the Senate:

That the Secretary be directed to inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate has assembled and organized by the election of **John H. Bloomer, Jr.**, of Wallingford, as Secretary, and **Rebecca A. Balint**, a Senator from Windham District, as President *pro tempore*, and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the session.

Joint Senate Resolutions Adopted on the Part of the Senate

Joint Senate resolutions of the following titles were severally offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and are as follows:

By Senator Mazza,

J.R.S. 1. Joint resolution relating to joint rules.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the joint rules of the Senate and the House as adopted in 2019 be adopted as the joint rules of this biennial session until others are adopted.

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 2. Joint resolution relating to the adoption of an emergency temporary Joint Rule 22A.

Whereas, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters and limit the spread of infection in our community;

Whereas, the Governor of the State of Vermont issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19;

Whereas, to confront and address the threat of COVID-19, joint committees of the Legislature must continue to meet;

Whereas, the rules, tradition and custom require that for a joint committee to formally meet a committee quorum must be physically present in a single location and only those physically present at the meeting location are permitted to vote;

Whereas, to appropriately address the needs of the State of Vermont, while limiting the threat of infection, joint committees may need to meet and vote electronically; *now therefore be it:*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That an emergency temporary joint rule, to be designated Rule 22A, be adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives to read as follows:

Rule 22A Emergency Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) The Joint Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit any joint committees of the Vermont Legislature (including itself and Conference Committees) to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate. If necessary, the Joint Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformity with this Rule.

(b) The authority of the Joint Rules Committee under this Rule 22A terminates upon the expiration of the Executive's Declared Emergency.

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 3. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the report of the committee appointed to canvass votes for state officers.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at ten o'clock in the forenoon to receive the report of the Joint Canvassing Committee appointed to canvass votes for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts and Attorney General, and if it shall be declared by said Committee that there had been no election by the voters of any of said state officers, then to proceed forthwith to elect such officers as have not been elected by the voters, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically at which members of the General Assembly may participate, debate, and vote from a remote location, *and be it further*

Resolved: That should a ballot be necessary, voting by ballot shall be conducted, as practicable, consistent with Vermont's "Early or Absentee Voter" statute at 17 V.S.A. § 2531, et. seq.

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 4. Joint resolution providing the canvassing committee of the General Assembly meeting shall be concurrently conducted electronically.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

The canvassing committee of the General Assembly meeting shall be concurrently conducted electronically at which members may participate from a remote location.

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 5. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear a message from the Governor.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at two o'clock in the afternoon to receive a message from the Governor, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically.

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 6. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 26, 2021, or Saturday, February 27, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

Committee Appointed

Pursuant to the provisions of S.R. 4, the President appointed a Committee of four to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, to inform him that the Senate is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the session:

Senator Clarkson
Senator Campion
Senator Brock
Senator Pearson

Report of Committee

Senator Clarkson, of Windsor District, for the Committee appointed to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, to inform him that the Senate is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the session, appeared at the bar of the Senate and reported that it had performed the duties assigned to it.

Recess

The President declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Oath Administered to Senate Members Remotely

During the recess the Secretary administered the oath of office to the following Senators-Elect who were remote.

Bennington District	Senator Richard W. Sears, Jr.
Chittenden District	Senator Thomas I. Chittenden Senator Virginia V. Lyons Senator Michael D. Sirotkin
Lamoille District	Senator Richard A. Westman
Orange District	Senator Mark A. MacDonald
Rutland District	Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker
Washington District	Senator Ann E. Cummings Senator Anthony Pollina
Windham District	Senator Jeanette K. White
Windsor District	Senator Richard J. McCormack

Called to Order

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Canvassing Committee Elected

The President nominated as a committee on the part of the Senate to canvass votes for state officers,

Senator Hardy, of Addison District
Senator Champion, of Bennington District
Senator Benning, of Caledonia District
Senator Ram, of Chittenden District
Senator Ingalls, of Essex-Orleans District
Senator Parent, of Franklin District
Senator Mazza, of Grand Isle District
Senator Westman, of Lamoille District
Senator MacDonald, of Orange District
Senator Terenzini, of Rutland District
Senator Perchlik, of Washington District
Senator White, of Windham District
Senator Clarkson, of Windsor District

Thereupon, Senator Balint moved that the nominees be elected by the Senate, which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the President declared the nominees elected, and the Committee so elected received the oath of office from the Secretary.

The President designated Senator White, of Windham District, as Chair of the Joint Canvassing Committee to canvass votes for state officers.

Standing Committee Appointed

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the appointment of the following standing committee, as follows:

Rules

Senator Balint, Chair
Mazza, Vice-Chair
Clarkson
Hooker
Brock

Message from the House No. 1

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

A quorum of the House has assembled and organized by the election of

Jill Krowinski

the Representative from Burlington (Chittenden 6-3), as Speaker, and

BetsyAnn Wrask

of Waterbury, as Clerk, who in turn has appointed Melissa Kucserik of Montpelier as First Assistant Clerk, and Alona Tate of Montpelier as Second Assistant Clerk, and is ready on its part to proceed with the business of the session.

Message from the House No. 2

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

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

J.R.S. 1. Joint resolution relating to joint rules.

J.R.S. 2. Joint resolution relating to the adoption of an emergency temporary Joint Rule 22A.

J.R.S. 3. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to receive the report of the committee appointed to canvass votes for state officers.

J.R.S. 4. Joint resolution providing the canvassing committee of the General Assembly meeting shall be concurrently conducted electronically.

J.R.S. 5. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear a message from the Governor.

J.R.S. 6. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the House No. 3

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has appointed as members of the Joint Canvassing Committee on the part of the House to canvass votes for state officers:

Canvassing Committee Elected

Addison District	Sheu of Middlebury Birong of Vergennes Smith of New Haven
Bennington District	Corcoran of Bennington Durfee of Shaftsbury Whitman of Bennington
Caledonia District	Martel of Waterford Campbell of St. Johnsbury Troiano of Stannard
Chittenden District	Small of Winooski Houghton of Essex Chase of Colchester
Franklin District	Murphy of Fairfax Hango of Berkshire Martin of Franklin

Lamoille District	Noyes of Wolcott Scheuermann of Stowe Patt of Worcester
Orange District	Copeland Hanzas of Bradford Satcowitz of Randolph Hooper of Randolph
Essex-Orleans District	Batchelor of Derby Sims of Craftsbury Marcotte of Coventry
Rutland District	Howard of Rutland City Notte of Rutland City Shaw of Pittsford
Washington District	Dolan of Waitsfield Kitzmiller of Montpelier Donahue of Northfield
Windham District	Burke of Brattleboro Mrowicki of Putney Coffey of Guilford
Windsor District	Morris of Springfield Christie of Hartford O'Brien of Tunbridge
Grand Isle District	Austin of Colchester Brennan of Colchester Morgan, L of Milton

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 7.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Clarkson,

J.R.S. 7. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 8, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

Incoming President Takes Oath of Office

Senator Clarkson moved that the Sergeant at Arms escort the Honorable Molly R. Gray, Lieutenant Governor-elect, to the bar of the Senate.

Which was agreed to.

The Sergeant at Arms performed their duties and escorted Her Excellency, Molly R. Gray, Lieutenant Governor-elect, to the bar of the Senate who took and subscribed the oath of office required by the Constitution from the Honorable Peter W. Hall of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Remarks of Incoming Lieutenant Governor Molly R. Gray Journalized

Thereupon, the incoming President addressed the Senate, assuring her full cooperation and accommodation on a nonpartisan and objective basis, and, on motion of Senator Balint, her remarks were ordered entered in the Journal, and are as follows:

Remarks delivered by Lieutenant Governor Molly R. Gray to the Vermont State Senate, after taking the oath of office on January 7, 2021:

“Members of the Vermont Senate, distinguished guests and fellow Vermonters, good morning.

“I want to begin by thanking the people of Vermont for their faith and trust in me and for the privilege to serve our State. To serve Vermont and Vermonters is the greatest honor of my life.

“I also want to thank dear friends and colleagues for their support, and above all my parents, Bob and Kim Gray, and family who could not be here in person today, for their unwavering love and encouragement.

“I would like to begin with a recognition of those who are not here. Since the start of this pandemic, we have lost 152 Vermonters. Vermonters who had love to share with their families and much to contribute to our communities. I hope that you will join me in a moment of silence to recognize these Vermonters.

“Thank you.

“Beneath the shadow of grief caused by this pandemic, hangs another shadow brought by yesterday’s attack — incited by President Trump — on the U.S. Capitol and Members of Congress who were upholding their constitutional obligations to certify national election results.

“I stand before you today in shared sadness and disbelief. I commend our Governor for his leadership last evening in calling for the resignation of President Trump or that he be removed from office by his Cabinet, or Congress.

“Let the record forever reflect that this was an attack on our democracy, constitution, and most dearly held principles by a sitting president.

“Our thoughts are with those brave men and women in the U.S. Capitol who did work yesterday at great personal risk to protect the foundations of our democracy, with Members of Congress and members of the press, and especially with Vermont’s Congressional Delegation and their dedicated staff.

“If ever there were a time to have Vermont’s values present in Washington, it is today.

“Our thoughts, however, must also be here — in this space, and time, and moment — where we are called to act with resolve for the well-being of our friends and neighbors, for the resilience of our communities, and for the strength of our democracy.

“Our history shows that as Vermonters we are brave in the face of fear, we defy the odds, we are not afraid of the unknown, and we welcome the opportunity and responsibility to lead and set a new course.

“Perhaps it’s the harshness of our winters, the unpredictability of our seasons, the stubbornness and resilience of those who came before us, or a deep pride in the place we are so fortunate to call home, that binds us and enables us, to turn our greatest challenges into our greatest opportunities.

“This moment lacks neither.

“As we well know, faith in government — and in public officials — has been badly damaged by the proliferation of misinformation and division.

“Our challenge, or opportunity here today, is to commit to the principles and values that give Vermonters a deep pride and full faith in the promise — and the essentialness — of good government.

“That is why I asked someone who I greatly admire — someone who embodies personal integrity and public service — to administer the oath: Judge Peter Hall. Having had the honor of serving in Judge Hall’s chambers as a law clerk, I have witnessed how he lives the ideals that make a democracy work: humility and compassion, a fierce commitment to fairness, an unyielding dedication to equal protection and the rule of law, and an unshakeable belief in, and commitment to, good government.

“My commitment to you is to emulate the principles and values I have witnessed Judge Hall uphold throughout his career, in presiding over this Chamber: fairness, compassion, predictability and, most certainly, timeliness.

“From our communities to this Chamber, let us set a tone of civility, cooperation and productivity, and do our part to restore and strengthen faith in good government.

“Second, this hard year has also laid bare some difficult truths about our country, and about Vermont.

“The brutal killing of George Floyd, and the resulting justifiable social unrest across this nation and on town greens across Vermont, exposed a reckoning with the work deeply needed to unravel centuries of compounding inequality.

“As we start this biennium and recognize the challenges and opportunities before us, let us recall that joining in recognition and support of Black Lives Matter marks neither the beginning nor the end of inequality, but rather an awakening to the continuous experience of members of our communities.

“This Chamber has a history of fighting for civil rights, and this year it welcomes new senators and leadership whose experiences and voices only strengthen our ability to meet this moment.

“History will reflect how we come together and what measures we take to protect and promote equal protection under the law and demand respect for human dignity.

“I look forward to working with each of you, and all Vermonters, in this undertaking.

“But there is still more work to be done — more challenges and opportunities — top among them, recovering stronger from this pandemic.

“Vermont’s pandemic response has made me so proud to be a Vermonter. We continue to stick together, stay home, and look out for our neighbors.

“Unfortunately, this pandemic is far from over and, as we well know, it has laid everything bare:

“From inequities in access to basic internet so critical for online learning and remote work, to the absolute essentialness of affordable, quality child care, to the economic well-being of our families and businesses.

“Not only will we be judged by how effectively we continue to meet the humanitarian and emergency needs of Vermonters, but also how we envision and prepare for a stronger, more equitable and economically viable Vermont.

“There are countless examples of creative, out-of-the box thinking that are already transforming how we do business.

“Using federal relief funds, for example, local restaurants have prepared meals for families in need, while supporting our farmers and strengthening local food systems.

“When schools closed, childcare providers worked with communities to open facilities to expand access and support families and essential workers across Vermont.

“Restaurants and libraries closed their doors, but left open access to WiFi, making the internet accessible to local students and workers who needed to get online.

“In envisioning Vermont’s future, I am inspired by these stories and so many Vermonters I’ve met: young farmers and food producers, business leaders, founders of community co-working spaces and innovative start-ups, home-grown renewable energy pioneers, and Vermonters who serve our state as teachers, tradespeople, first responders and healthcare workers.

“They know, as we do, that nothing about our future will be business as usual. They recognize that as one of the oldest states in the country, our future depends on strategic investments in our economic infrastructure.

“So much of the work that needs to be done is already well underway in this Chamber:

“First, the economic well-being of our families.

“We must continue to envision and enact a future where no Vermonter has to choose between paying the bills and caring for family. A future where every worker has the security of paid family and medical leave, every parent can access the high-quality childcare necessary to do their best work, every elder is supported as they look to age in dignity and good health, and every Vermonter can choose the course of their life as we protect the right to reproductive health.

“Second, the growth of our workforce and viability of our communities.

“We must continue to envision and enact a future where small businesses and new industries are growing, and a diverse workforce pipeline — from our high schools to our technical schools, community and state colleges — brings the next generation into good and necessary jobs in Vermont. We must bring our local businesses back from the brink, and lay the cornerstones for a stronger economy by supporting recruitment and retention, new jobs across technology, clean energy, and recreation, all the while bringing Vermont’s world-class goods and services to new markets near and far.

“Third, a 21st century Vermont is one that is connected by rural broadband.

“We will not recover stronger, we will not draw people to Vermont, we will not end our demographic crisis, if we do not act now to close Vermont’s broadband gap. The market alone, has not, and will not, ensure access for every Vermonter.

“The internet is the electricity of our time. Each day without it is a day without telehealth, remote work, online learning, and economic opportunity.

“I look forward to working with you, our rural communities, and federal partners, to get this essential service to all of our communities.

“Finally, we must not forget our working lands and environment.

“As we know, climate change is a threat to everything that makes Vermont so special and climate action represents the greatest economic opportunity of our time. Our opportunity is to act with the same urgency on climate change as we have in responding to this pandemic and allow science to lead our decisions. We know that an energy-independent future will save families

money, create high-paying jobs, and ensure that future generations can know the landscape we love so much.

“I am inspired by the faith that Vermonters have placed in us, and their trust that we recognize the opportunities before us: to restore faith in good government, to fight for human dignity, to do all we can to recover stronger from this pandemic, but most of all to put people before politics in our work.

“As President Kennedy once said at a time as nearly challenging as this, “[u]nited, there is little we cannot do . . . [d]ivided there is little we can do.”

“We know that brighter days are ahead and that we will only reach the horizon together.

“I will be with you, day in and day out, in this work and I look forward to working with you, united for a better future.

“Thank you and let’s get to work.”

Appointment

The President announced the appointment of

HAZEL C. BREWSTER

of Morrisville, as Chief of Staff to the incoming President.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o’clock and thirty minutes in the morning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Rules Suspended; Joint House Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.H. 1.

On motion of Senator Brock, the rules were suspended and Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read and adopted in concurrence and is as follows:

Joint resolution condemning the storming of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 as an attack on democracy.

Whereas, on January 6, 2021, President Donald J. Trump addressed thousands of supporters, urging them to go to the U.S. Capitol in support of his false claim that he won the 2020 presidential election, and

Whereas, the President's supporters marched to the Capitol and violently stormed the building, attacking police officers, ransacking offices, terrorizing the members of Congress, and forcing the stoppage of the certification of President-elect Biden's electoral victory, and four people died as a result of the violence, and

Whereas, the actions of this mob were not just criminal and lawless, they constituted a direct attack upon our democracy, and

Whereas, this attack was instigated by President Donald Trump, who is attempting to overturn the results of a fair and free election that he lost in order to keep himself in power, and

Whereas, Governor Phil Scott forcefully stated that "The fabric of our democracy and the principles of our republic are under attack by the President" and called for President Trump to resign or be removed from office, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly condemns the storming of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 as an attack on democracy, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly calls for President Donald J. Trump to resign or to be removed from office by his Cabinet or by the Congress, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Michael Pence, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Standing Committees Appointed

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the appointment of the standing committees, as follows:

Agriculture

A.M.

Senator Starr, Chair
 Pearson, Vice-Chair
 Pollina
 Collamore
 Parent

Room 26

Appropriations

P.M. Senator Kitchel, Chair Room 5
Nitka, Vice-Chair
Sears
Starr
Westman
Baruth
Balint

Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

A.M. Senator Sirotkin, Chair Room 27
Clarkson, Vice-Chair
Balint
Brock
Ram

Education

P.M. Senator Campion, Chair Room 28
Hooker, Vice-Chair
Perchlik
Lyons
Chittenden
Terenzini

Finance

P.M. Senator Cummings, Chair Room 6
MacDonald, Vice-Chair
Pearson
Brock
Sirotkin
Bray
Hardy

Government Operations

P.M. Senator White, Chair Room 4
Pollina, Vice-Chair
Collamore
Clarkson
Ram

Health and Welfare

A.M. Senator Lyons, Chair Room 17
Hardy, Vice-Chair
Cummings
Hooker
Terenzini

Institutions

P.M. Senator Benning, Chair Room 7
McCormack, Vice-Chair
Mazza
Parent
Ingalls

Judiciary

A.M. Senator Sears, Chair Room 1
Baruth, Vice-Chair
White
Nitka
Benning

Natural Resources and Energy

A.M. Senator Bray, Chair Room 8
Westman, Vice-Chair
MacDonald
Campion
McCormack

Transportation

A.M. Senator Mazza, Chair Room 3
Perchlik, Vice-Chair
Kitchel
Chittenden
Ingalls

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 7.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 8.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 15, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 1.

By Senators Kitchel, Benning and Starr,

An act relating to extending the baseload renewable power portfolio requirement.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 2.

By Senators White and Sears,

An act relating to spousal support and maintenance reform.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 3.

By Senators Sears, Clarkson, Lyons and White,
An act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 4.

By Senator Baruth,
An act relating to a 48-hour waiting period for firearms transfers.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 5.

By Senator Sears,
An act relating to extreme risk protection orders.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 6.

By Senator Sears,
An act relating to repealing the Commissioner of Labor's authority to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with a disability.
To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 7.

By Senators Sears, Baruth, Benning and White,
An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 8.

By Senators Sears, Baruth and Hooker,
An act relating to sexual exploitation of children.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 9.

By Senators Sirotkin, Brock, Clarkson and Hooker,
An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 10.

By Senators Sirotkin, Brock, Clarkson and Hooker,

An act relating to extending certain unemployment insurance provisions related to COVID-19.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 11.

By Senators Sears and Brock,

An act relating to prohibiting robocalls.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 12.

By Senators Benning, Collamore, Brock, Ingalls, Mazza, Parent and Terenzini,

An act relating to exempting U.S. military retirement pay from Vermont income tax.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 13.

By Senator Baruth,

An act relating to the implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 14.

By Senator Sirotkin,

An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 15.

By Senators Hooker and Sirotkin,

An act relating to correcting defective ballots.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 16.

By Senators Sears and Ram,

An act relating to the creation of the School Discipline Advisory Council.

To the Committee on Education.

Message from the House No. 4

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.H. 1. Joint resolution condemning the storming of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 as an attack on democracy.

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

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 7. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 5

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed a House bill of the following title:

H. 48. An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

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

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 17.

By Senators McCormack, Benning, Bray, Brock, Clarkson, Collamore, Hooker, Pollina, Terenzini and White,

An act relating to the requirement to pass a civics course for high school graduation.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 18.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to limiting earned good time sentence reductions for offenders convicted of certain crimes.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 19.

By Senators Lyons, Balint, Bray, Clarkson, McCormack, Westman and White,

An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 20.

By Senators Lyons, Campion, Balint, Baruth, Bray, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram and Sears,

An act relating to restrictions on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 21.

By Senators Lyons and Hooker,

An act relating to prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 22.

By Senators Lyons and McCormack,

An act relating to health care practitioners administering stem cell products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 23.

By Senator Lyons,

An act relating to requiring that at least one member of the Green Mountain Care Board be a health care professional.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 24.

By Senators Lyons, Clarkson, Hooker, McCormack and Pollina,

An act relating to banning flavored tobacco products and e-liquids.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 25.

By Senators Benning, Pearson, Sears and White,

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 26.

By Senators Hardy, Balint, Bray, Clarkson, Hooker, McCormack, Perchlik, Pollina and Ram,

An act relating to the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont and the Department of Libraries.

To the Committee on Education.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 48.

An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 6

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 8. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 9.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Kitchel,

J.R.S. 9. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at two o'clock in the afternoon to receive the budget message of the Governor, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Joint Assembly shall be concurrently conducted electronically.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 27.

By Senators Ram, Cummings, Hardy, Lyons, Perchlik, Pollina and Sirotkin,
An act relating to facilitating cultural liaisons.
To the Committee on Education.

S. 28.

By Senators Lyons and McCormack,
An act relating to banning baby bumper pads.
To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 29.

By Senators Hardy, Perchlik and Ram,
An act relating to the creation of the VSC tuition-free scholarship program for Vermont residents.
To the Committee on Education.

S. 30.

By Senators Baruth, Balint, Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Ram, Sirotkin and White,
An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 31.

By Senators Clarkson and Hardy,
An act relating to crimes and criminal procedures related to firearms.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 32.

By Senators Lyons, Hardy, Clarkson, Hooker, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram, Sirotkin and Westman,
An act relating to school wellness and feminine hygiene products.

To the Committee on Education.

**Rules Suspended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed
in Concurrence; Bill Messaged**

H. 48.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator White, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its pass in concurrence forthwith.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Standing Committees Appointed

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the appointment of the following standing committees, as follows:

Ethics

Senator Benning, Chair
Campion, Vice-Chair
Brock
Cummings
Pollina

Sexual Harassment Panel

Senator Hardy, Chair
Benning, Vice-Chair
Clarkson
Perchlik
Parent
Ram

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 Balint, *ex officio*
Senator Mazza
Senator Clarkson
Senator Brock

Appointment of Senate Members to the Emergency Board

Pursuant to the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 131, the President announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Emergency Board for a term of two years:

Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Cummings, *ex officio*

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 ending February 1, 2023:

Senator Cummings, *ex officio*
Senator Sears
Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Balint
Senator Westman

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Legislative Management Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 41(b)(2), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Legislative Management Committee during this biennium:

Senator Balint, *ex officio*
Senator Kitchel
Senator Mazza
Senator Benning

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 12b, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee during this biennium:

Senator Mazza, *ex officio*
Senator Kitchel, *ex officio*
Senator Cummings, *ex officio*

Appointment of Senate Members to the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention

Pursuant to the provisions of 4 V.S.A. § 607, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention during this biennium:

Senator Nitka
Senator Hardy
Senator Benning
Senator McCormack

Appointment of Senate Member to Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 V.S.A. § 1700, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel for a term of two years ending on January 15, 2023:

Senator MacDonald

Appointment of Senate Member to Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 280e(b)(2), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board for a term of two years:

Senator Chittenden

Appointment of Senate Members to Sunset Advisory Commission

Pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 268(b)(1)(B), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Sunset Advisory Commission for the current biennium:

Senator White, Co-Chair
Senator Collamore

Appointment of Senate Members to Cannabis Control Board Nominating Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of 7 V.S.A. § 842 Sec. 2(b)(3), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Cannabis Control Board Nominating Committee during this biennium:

Senator White
Senator Pearson

Appointment of Senate Member to Select Committee on the Future of Vermont State College System

Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 120 Sec. A.10(b)(1)(B) (Acts of 2020)(Adj. Sess.), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Select Committee on the Future of Vermont State College System until January 31, 2022:

Senator Baruth

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 7

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 1. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Bellows Falls Union High School Terriers Division I championship field hockey team.

H.C.R. 2. House concurrent resolution honoring Alice Wolf Gilborn of Dorset for her outstanding literary achievements.

H.C.R. 3. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Bellows Falls Union High School Terriers girls' cross-country team on winning its third consecutive Division III championship.

H.C.R. 4. House concurrent resolution honoring Kate O'Connor of Brattleboro for her superb leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors.

H.C.R. 5. House concurrent resolution honoring Ursula Dalem for her exemplary proprietorship of the Dalem Chalet in Brattleboro.

H.C.R. 6. House concurrent resolution designating January 2021 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

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

Message from the Governor

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

Madam President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the fourteenth day of January, 2021, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §2002(b), I am herewith enclosing the following Executive Orders:

01-21 Creation of the Agency of Public Safety

02-21 Reorganization of the Natural Resources Board

Executive Order Referred

The President laid before the Senate 01-21 Executive Order(s) relating to changes in the organization of the executive branch of the government of Vermont pursuant to the provision of 3 V.S.A. §2002, which was read by the Secretary and is as follows:

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 01-21

[Creation of the Agency of Public Safety]

WHEREAS, the Governor, pursuant to Vermont Constitution Chapter II, Section 3, and 3 V.S.A. Section 2001 and Section 2002, may make such changes in the organization of the Executive Branch or in the assignment of functions among its units as he considers necessary for efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Vermont, Chapter II, Section 6 provides that no bill, resolution or other thing which shall have been passed by one house of the General Assembly shall have the effect of or be declared to be a law without the concurrence of the other, ensuring no action by a single house, committee or agent of the General Assembly may be binding on the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, any organizational changes made by the Governor, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Section 2001 and Section 2002, shall be subject to disapproval by both houses of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to reorganize the agencies, departments and divisions of government by better coordinating certain activities and improve the coordination and effectiveness of services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety administers programs and provides services that share common functions, training, IT systems and equipment, public safety and policy interests and emergency response objectives with the Criminal Justice Council, E-911 Board, and the enforcement divisions of other state agencies and departments; and

WHEREAS, an Agency of Public Safety would be best positioned to elevate criminal justice to a Cabinet level by providing administrative and operational support for the state police training facilities and the Criminal Justice Council which would retain its independence and existing statutory duties and responsibilities for assisting local departments to achieve desired levels of certification and standardization now required for state aid, as well as investigating statewide incidents of police officer uses of force and police misconduct allegations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has been a leader in the State in the areas of Fair and Impartial policing and associated policy development, data collection and operational implementation, law enforcement training, technology and innovation; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, the Department of Public Safety proposed an outline for modernizing policing and public safety in Vermont, which is based, in part, on more than 50 years of studies, reports and legislative drafts; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, together with law enforcement and community leaders, DPS drafted a comprehensive 10-point strategy to accelerate progress in the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing our data collection and reporting technology; expanding alternative crisis response methodologies such as field mental health workers; providing enhanced statewide model policies in key areas, including use of force; modernizing hiring practices, training and supervisor selection; and developing community oversight models; and

WHEREAS, the goals of law enforcement modernization and reform and optimal government efficacy require a stronger and more direct alignment of State government law enforcement services, officer and executive training, recruitment and policy development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, dispatch services provided through the 911 Board and uniform law enforcement training and centralized reporting and investigations of conduct by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council can be more efficiently and cost-effectively supported and administered as part of an Agency of Public Safety, where additional opportunities for modernizing, reforming and standardizing service to Vermonters will be created; and

WHEREAS, the State could improve and more efficiently deliver law enforcement and emergency response services to the public through the reorganization of the Department of Public Safety into a single Agency of Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this Executive Order is to provide a framework for the creation of an Agency of Public Safety within which the Executive and Legislative Branches can work together to establish mutually agreeable policy, structure and timeframes.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Vermont by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, Chapter II, Section 3, 3 V.S.A. § 209, 3 V.S.A. Chapter 41, 23 V.S.A. § 1 and 32 V.S.A. § 704a, do hereby create an Agency of Public Safety which shall be successor to the Department of Public Safety as follows:

1. The Agency of Public Safety is hereby created to directly align State government emergency management, fire safety, and law enforcement services, including emergency services, communications, technology and procurements, officer and executive training, recruitment and policy development and implementation.

-
2. All duties, obligations, responsibilities and authority, including all contracts, grant agreements, service level agreements and MOUs of the Department of Public Safety are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
 3. All financial assets and liabilities, including all appropriations associated with the positions transferred pursuant to paragraph 4 below, of the Department of Public Safety are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
 4. All authorized positions, functions, equipment, supplies and inventory of the Department of Public Safety are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
 5. The positions of Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety are abolished and all the duties, responsibilities, and authority, including board, committee and council memberships, of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner are hereby transferred to the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety and the Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety, respectively.
 6. The Secretary shall be responsible to the Governor and shall plan, coordinate and direct the functions vested in the Agency. The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Governor an annual budget for the Agency.
 7. Effective April 15, 2021, the Agency of Public Safety shall be headed by the Secretary appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
 8. Effective April 15, 2021, the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety may appoint a Deputy Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, who shall be exempt from the classified service.
 9. Effective April 15, 2021, the Agency of Public Safety shall consist of a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement and a Division of Support Services, as follows:
 - A. The Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management shall be headed by a Commissioner of Fire Safety and Emergency Management appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor. The Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management shall be organized into four (4) Divisions, each reporting to the Commissioner of Fire Safety and Emergency Management:

- 1) Homeland Security and Emergency Management;
 - 2) Inspection Division;
 - 3) Fire Safety Division
 - a) Investigation Unit
 - b) Prevention & Safety Unit; and
 - 1) Technical Response Unit
 - a) HazMat Team
 - b) USAR/Swiftwater Team.
- B. The Department of Law Enforcement shall be headed by a Commissioner of Law Enforcement appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor. Under this structure, the certified law enforcement officers serving in existing state government enforcement divisions shall serve under a single Agency and Department to ensure consistency of recruitment and hiring practices, training, policy application and adherence, internal investigation and discipline. The Department of Law Enforcement shall initially be organized into two (2) Divisions which shall report to the Commissioner of Law Enforcement, as follows:
- 1) Motor Vehicle Enforcement; and
 - 2) Vermont State Police.
- C. The Division of Support Services shall report directly to the Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety. The Division of Support Services shall be organized into the following operational units:
- 1) Administrative Division;
 - 2) Communications Division – E-911, PSAPs, Radio Technology Unit;
 - 3) Fleet Services Division;
 - 4) Forensic Lab Division;
 - 5) Training Division, which shall include the Fire Safety Training Council the Criminal Justice Council and the State fire and police training facilities; and
 - 6) VT Crime Information Center, including the Sex Offender Registry.

The Commissioner of the Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management and the Commissioner of Law Enforcement shall be exempt from the classified service.

10. As of April 15, 2021, the provisions of Title 20, and all other provisions of law referencing the Department of Public Safety or the Commissioner of Public Safety and the rules, policies and procedures of the Department of Public Safety shall be deemed to refer to and shall be applicable to the Agency of Public Safety and the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety.

Criminal Justice Council

11. As of July 1, 2021, all duties, obligations, responsibilities and authority of the Criminal Justice Council under Title 20 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 151, including all contracts, grant agreements, service level agreements and MOUs of the Criminal Justice Council are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
12. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything to the contrary in this Executive Order, the Criminal Justice Council shall be the agency charged with carrying out the purposes of 20 V.S.A. § 2351(b) and all other duties, responsibilities and authority under Title 20 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 151.
13. As of July 1, 2021, all financial assets and liabilities of the Criminal Justice Council, including all appropriations associated with the positions transferred pursuant to paragraph 14 below, shall transfer to the Agency of Public Safety.
14. As of July 1, 2021, all authorized positions and equipment, supplies and inventory of the Criminal Justice Council are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
15. As of July 1, 2021, the Criminal Justice Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Public Safety and may request the assistance of any Executive Branch Agency.
16. As of July 1, 2021, the Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety in consultation with the Criminal Justice Council, and subject to the approval of the Governor. The Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council may appoint officers, employees, agents and consultants as he or she may deem necessary and prescribe their duties in consultation with the Criminal Justice Council, with the approval of the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety.

17. As of July 1, 2021, in addition to the other duties imposed by law, the Executive Director shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Council; provided, however, the Executive Director shall perform such administrative duties as may be assigned by the Secretary as required for the effective administration of the Council.
18. As of July 1, 2021, the rules of the Criminal Justice Council effective as of July 1, 2021 shall become a subtitle under the rules of the Agency of Public Safety, like the rules of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council.
19. Prior to April 15, 2021, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety shall consult with leadership of the General Assembly as well as the House and Senate Operations and Judiciary Committees on implementation of this Executive Order.
20. On or before November 15, 2021, the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety shall report to the Governor, the leadership of the General Assembly and the House and Senate Operations and Judiciary Committees on the status of the organizational transition and recommend any legislative changes needed to continue an orderly and efficient organizational transition in accordance with this Executive Order.

Vermont Enhanced 911 Board

21. On such date as may be agreed by the General Assembly, but no later than July 1, 2022, all duties, obligations, responsibilities and authority of the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board (“911 Board”) under Title 30 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 87 and applicable rules, including all contracts, grant agreements, service level agreements and MOUs of the 911 Board shall be transferred to the Agency of Public Safety, Division of Operations.
22. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything to the contrary in this Executive Order, the 911 Board shall be the agency charged with carrying out the duties, obligations, responsibilities and authority of Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 30 Chapter 87.
23. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, all financial assets and liabilities of the 911 Board, including all appropriations associated with the positions transferred pursuant to paragraph 24 below, are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.
24. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, all authorized positions, functions, equipment supplies and

inventory of the 911 Board are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety.

25. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, the 911 Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Public Safety and may request the assistance of any Executive Branch Agency.
26. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, the Executive Director of the 911 Board shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety in consultation with the 911 Board, and subject to the approval of the Governor. The Executive Director of the 911 Board may appoint officers, employees, agents and consultants as he or she may deem necessary and prescribe their duties in consultation with the 911 Board, with the approval of the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety.
27. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, in addition to the other duties imposed by law, the Executive Director shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the 911-Board; provided, however, the Executive Director shall perform such administrative duties as may be assigned by the Secretary as required for the effective administration of the 911 Board.
28. Upon the transfer of the 911 Board in accordance with Section 21 above, the rules of the 911 Board effective as of that date shall become a subtitle under the rules of the Agency of Public Safety.

Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers

29. In accordance with 23 V.S.A. § 1, no later than July 1, 2022, all duties, obligations, responsibilities and authority of the certified law enforcement officers in the Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) Enforcement Division under Title 19 and Title 23 Vermont Statutes Annotated, Chapter 15 and applicable rules, are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety, Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.
30. Upon the transfer of the DMV Enforcement Division in accordance with Section 29 above, all financial assets and liabilities of the DMV Enforcement Division, including all appropriations associated with the positions transferred pursuant to paragraph 31 below, are hereby transferred to the Agency of Public Safety, Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.
31. Upon the transfer of the DMV Enforcement Division in accordance with Section 29 above, all authorized positions, functions, equipment,

- supplies and inventory of the DMV Enforcement Division, including all sworn officers, are transferred to the Agency of Public Safety Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.
32. Upon the transfer of the DMV Enforcement Division in accordance with Section 29 above, the chief executive officer (Director) of the Department of Law Enforcement, Division of Motor Vehicle Enforcement shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety, subject to the approval of the Governor. The chief executive officer shall be an exempt state employee and shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.
 33. Upon the transfer of the DMV Enforcement Division in accordance with Section 29 above, the rules of the Agency of Transportation and DMV relating to the responsibilities and duties of enforcement officers effective as of that date shall be the rules of the Agency of Public Safety.
 34. The Secretary of Public Safety, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, shall determine the physical locations of the Departments and Divisions of the Agency of Public Safety.
 35. The Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety shall further study the effectiveness, efficiency and delivery of State public safety law enforcement services and shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 15, 2022 on the feasibility and advisability of transferring the operations of the Department of Fish and Wildlife certified law enforcement officers, Department of Liquor and Lottery certified law enforcement officers, the Capitol Police and the Department of Labor relating to V.O.S.H.A., Project WorkSAFE and Passenger Tramway Safety to the Agency of Public Safety.
 36. On or before November 15, 2022, the Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety shall report to the Governor, the leadership of the General Assembly and the House and Senate Operations and Judiciary Committees on the status of the organizational transition and recommend any legislative changes needed to continue an orderly and efficient organizational transition in accordance with this Executive Order.
 37. The Secretary of the Agency of Public Safety shall be a member of the Governor's Cabinet which shall consist of the Secretaries of the agencies as are created by law, as well as such Commissioners of the

departments created by law as the Governor, in his judgment, shall appoint to be a member of the Cabinet.

This Executive Order shall be submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2002 and shall take effect on April 15, 2021, unless disapproved by both houses of the General Assembly.

WITNESS my name hereunto subscribed
and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont
hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 14th
day of January, 2021.

/s/Philip B. Scott

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-21

Thereupon, pursuant to the rules of the Senate, Executive Order No. 01-21 was referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

The President laid before the Senate 02-21 Executive Order relating to changes in the organization of the executive branch of the government of Vermont pursuant to the provision of 3 V.S.A. §2002, which was read by the Secretary and is as follows:

STATE OF VERMONT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02-21

[Reorganization of the Natural Resources Board]

WHEREAS, the Governor, pursuant to the Vermont Constitution Chapter II, Section 3 and 3 V.S.A. Section 2001 and Section 2002, may make such changes in the organization of the Executive Branch or in the assignment of functions among its units as he considers necessary for efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Vermont, Chapter II, Section 6 provides that no bill, resolution or other thing which shall have been passed by one house of the General Assembly shall have the effect of or be declared to be a law without the concurrence of the other, ensuring no action by a single house, committee or agent of the General Assembly may be binding on the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, any organizational changes made by the Governor, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Section 2001 and Section 2002, shall be subject to disapproval by both houses of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to reorganize the agencies, departments and divisions of government by better coordinating certain activities and improving the coordination and effectiveness of services to the public; and

WHEREAS, Act 250 has operated under the same administrative structure for over fifty years, consisting of District Environmental Commissions (“District Commissions”), administrative tribunals comprised of three volunteer members of the public, operating independently in 9 regions of the State; and

WHEREAS, from 1970 through 2004, the former Environmental Board oversaw the operations of the District Commissions and established policy precedents across the Act 250 enterprise through the issuance of decisions in appeals of Act 250 permits; and

WHEREAS, when the Natural Resources Board replaced the Environmental Board in 2004, the Natural Resources Board did not retain its ability to compel consistent application of policy and law across the nine District Commissions through the issuance of decisions in Act 250 appeals; and

WHEREAS, while Act 250 has served Vermont well, the scope and complexity of environmental, planning, and regulatory issues District Commission must consider has expanded significantly since 1970; and

WHEREAS, with complex emerging issues such as climate change, the interplay between Act 250 and other state and municipal regulatory programs, demographic challenges, and the growing economic divide between the rural and urban parts of our state, and with a current governance structure that lacks a unifying policy authority across the nine districts, restructuring Act 250 presents an opportunity to maximize natural resource protections, enable well planned growth, increase predictability and reduce redundancy with other state regulatory programs; and

WHEREAS, a professional Natural Resources Board that decides major cases will have the capacity to consider and manage complex issues now and into the future, and, through their Orders, will establish precedent and policy resulting in the consistent application of Act 250 criteria statewide; and

WHEREAS, in each proceeding of the restructured Natural Resources Board, two members from the District Commission from the District where the proposed project is located will sit with the Natural Resources Board so regional considerations will continue to inform Act 250 decisions.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, Chapter II, Section 3 and Section 20, 3 V.S.A. chapter 41 and 32 V.S.A. § 704a, I, Philip B. Scott, do hereby reorganize the Natural Resources Board and its District Commissions as follows:

1. As of July 1, 2021, a restructured Natural Resources Board made up of three full-time professional members is hereby created to professionalize and modernize the current governance structure, to unify policy authority across the nine District Commissions, to maximize natural resource protections, to enable well-planned growth, to increase predictability and uniformity and reduce redundancy and inconsistency with other state regulatory programs.
2. As of July 1, 2021, the Natural Resources Board created in 10 V.S.A. § 6021 consisting of five members appointed by the Governor (the “Original Board”) is hereby abolished and all the duties, responsibilities and authority of the Original Board are hereby transferred to a reconstituted Natural Resources Board made up of three full time professional members as established in Section 3 below.
3. As of July 1, 2021, the Natural Resources Board shall consist of three full-time professional voting members which shall have all the duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Original Board and such duties, responsibilities and authority as set forth in this Order.

The members shall include a Chair and two additional members who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In making these appointments, the Governor and the Senate shall give consideration to experience, expertise or skills relating to the environment or land use, as well as geographic, gender, ethnic and racial diversity. Following initial appointments, the three members shall serve six-year staggered terms.

Initial appointments shall be made prior to July 1, 2021. For initial appointments, the Chair shall be appointed to a six-year term, one member shall be appointed to a four-year term and the third member shall be appointed to a two-year term. Each of the three members shall be a full-time employees, exempt from the classified service, serving at the pleasure of the Governor.

When a particular application comes before the Board, two members from the District Commission from the District where an application being reviewed was located shall become voting members of the Board solely with respect to that matter. The two District Commission members shall be selected by the applicable Chair of the District Commission.

4. As of July 1, 2021, the authority of each of the District Commissions in 10 V.S.A. § 1084(b), to determine whether a complete application shall be processed as a major application with a required public hearing or a minor application, shall be transferred to the Natural Resources Board, acting without District Commissioners.
5. As of July 1, 2021, the authority of each of the District Commissions to determine whether to issue an administrative amendment shall be transferred to the Natural Resources Board, acting without District Commissioners.
6. As of July 1, 2021, all authority of each of the District Commissions in Title 10 relating to any application determined to be a major application or a minor application where a hearing is requested, shall be transferred to the Natural Resources Board.
7. As of July 1, 2021, the provisions of Title 10 and the rules, policies and procedures of the Natural Resources Board relating to applications determined to be major applications or minor applications where a hearing is requested shall be deemed to refer to and shall be applicable to the Natural Resources Board.
8. An applicant who has received a Jurisdictional Opinion from a District Coordinator may, within 30 days from the issuance of the opinion, request reconsideration of the Jurisdictional Opinion by the Natural Resources Board, acting without the District Commissioners.
9. All complete applications filed with a District Commission prior to July 1, 2021 shall remain under the jurisdiction of the applicable District Commission until resolution of the application.

This Executive Order shall be submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2002. This Executive Order shall take effect on April 15, 2021, unless disapproved by both houses of the General Assembly.

WITNESS my name hereunto subscribed
and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont
hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 14th
day of January, 2021.

/s/Philip B. Scott

PHILIP B. SCOTT
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-21

Thereupon, pursuant to the rules of the Senate, Executive Order No. 02-21 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 33.

By Senators Sirotkin, Balint, Brock and Clarkson,

An act relating to project-based tax increment financing districts.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 34.

By Senators Sirotkin, Balint, Clarkson and Hooker,

An act relating to funding affordable housing.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

**Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Bill Passed;
Bill Messaged**

S. 9.

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. INTENT; WORKERS' COMPENSATION; EXTENSION OF
COVID-19-RELATED PROVISIONS

It is the intent of the General Assembly to continue uninterrupted from January 15, 2021 until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20:

(1) the Commissioner of Labor's authority pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 150, Sec. 1 to temporarily extend deadlines and amend or waive specific requirements of Vermont's workers' compensation laws during a state of emergency related to COVID-19; and

(2) the provisions of 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 150, Sec. 2 establishing in certain circumstances a rebuttable presumption that a worker who is diagnosed with COVID-19 is entitled to benefits under Vermont's workers' compensation laws.

Sec. 2. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 150, Sec. 2(a)(1) is amended to read:

(a)(1) In the case of a front-line worker, disability or death resulting from COVID-19 shall be presumed to be compensable pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 9, provided that the front-line worker receives a positive laboratory test for COVID-19 or a diagnosis of COVID-19 from a licensed healthcare provider between March 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021 the 30th day following the termination of the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20.

Sec. 3. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 150, Sec. 2(b) is amended to read:

(b) For an employee who is not a front-line worker as defined in subdivision (a)(2)(B) of this section, disability or death resulting from COVID-19 shall be presumed to be compensable pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 9 if the employee receives a positive laboratory test for COVID-19 or a diagnosis of COVID-19 from a licensed healthcare provider between April 1, 2020 and January 15, 2021 the 30th day following the termination of the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20 and, not more than 14 days prior to the date on which the employee is tested or examined, either:

* * *

Sec. 4. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 150, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL

In the absence of legislative action to the contrary, Secs. 1 and 2 of this act are repealed on January 15, 2021 the 30th day following the termination of the state of emergency declared in response to COVID-19 pursuant to Executive Order 01-20.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage; except that notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Secs. 1, 2, and 3 shall take effect retroactively on January 15, 2021.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was placed on all remaining stages of its passage forthwith.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended, and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

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. Goldman and others,

H.C.R. 1.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Bellows Falls Union High School Terriers Division I championship field hockey team.

By Rep. Sullivan,

H.C.R. 2.

House concurrent resolution honoring Alice Wolf Gilborn of Dorset for her outstanding literary achievements.

By Reps. Goldman and others,

H.C.R. 3.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020 Bellows Falls Union High School Terriers girls' cross-country team on winning its third consecutive Division III championship.

By Reps. Burke and others,

By Senators Balint and White,

H.C.R. 4.

House concurrent resolution honoring Kate O'Connor of Brattleboro for her superb leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors.

By Reps. Burke and others,

By Senators Balint and White,

H.C.R. 5.

House concurrent resolution honoring Ursula Dalem for her exemplary proprietorship of the Dalem Chalet in Brattleboro.

By Reps. Sibilila and others,

H.C.R. 6.

House concurrent resolution designating January 2021 as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 8.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Shannon MacVean-Brown of Burlington.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 10.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 22, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 35.

By Senators Hardy, Perchlik and Ram,
An act relating to prohibiting discrimination.
To the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee Bill Introduced

Senate committee bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice tomorrow:

S. 36.

By the Committee on Appropriations,
An act relating to modifications to the use of certain Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriations.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 8

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 9. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

And has adopted the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The Governor has informed the House that on January 19, 2021, he approved and signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 48. An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for 2021 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 37.

By Senators Pollina, Pearson and Perchlik,

An act relating to the reconstitution of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees and the development of a restructuring plan and tuition program for the Vermont State Colleges.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 38.

By Senator Hardy,

An act relating to eliminating from the excess spending calculation a school employer's annual increases in costs associated with health care premium contributions.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 39.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to the Judicial Branch fee report and electronic filing fees.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 9

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Melissa Kucserik, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 40.

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 41.

By Senators Lyons and Cummings,

An act relating to eliminating prohibitions and penalties on the purchase, use, and possession of tobacco products.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 42.

By Senators Campion and Sears,

An act relating to establishing the Emergency Service Provider Wellness Commission.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 36.**

Senate committee bill entitled:

An act relating to modifications to the use of certain Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriations.

Having appeared on the Calendar for notice for one day, was taken up.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and, pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, Senators Kitchel, Balint, Baruth, Cummings, Nitka, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr and Westman moved that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 3a to read as follows:

Sec. 3a. HOUSING; RENTAL ASSISTANCE; APPROPRIATION

Of the \$200,000,000.00 available to the State for emergency rental assistance pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, Sec. 501, the amount of \$10,000,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide rental assistance to Vermonters in need, consistent with the requirements of the Act.

Second: By striking out Sec. 4, Accelerated Broadband Connectivity Program; extension, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

Sec. 13. COVID-RESPONSE ACCELERATED BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

* * *

(n) Any unexpended funds under the Program as of December 20, 2020 shall be returned to the State Coronavirus Relief Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Commissioner of Public Service is authorized to continue disbursing funds under the Program for any broadband project contracted for prior to December 20, 2020 and not completed on or before December 30, 2020. The Commissioner shall retain any remaining balance of funds appropriated under this section and shall not disburse them for any other purpose without specific authorization from the General Assembly.

* * *

Third: By adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 4a to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. COVID-RESPONSE TEMPORARY BROADBAND SUBSIDY PROGRAM; EXTENSION

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the COVID-Response Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program established under 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 13(d) be extended for an additional two months covering the period beginning on January 1, 2021 and ending on February 28, 2021.

(b) To accomplish the purpose of this section and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Public Service is authorized to use \$275,000.00 of the unobligated balance remaining from the appropriations for broadband programs under Act 137 and 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 154 to extend the COVID-Response Temporary Broadband Subsidy Program to cover the period from January 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 9, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that, notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214:

(1) Sec. 1(e)(1) (extraordinary relief to long-term care facilities) shall take effect retroactively on November 1, 2020;

(2) Secs. 1(e)(2) (adult day programs) and 6 (judicial filing fees) shall take effect retroactively on December 1, 2020;

(3) Sec. 1(e)(3) (transfer authority) shall take effect retroactively on July 1, 2020; and

(4) Secs. 4 (broadband access) and 7 (hazard pay reports) shall take effect retroactively on December 15, 2020.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendations of amendment were severally agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In

J.R.S. 9.

House proposal of amendment to Joint resolution entitled:

Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the joint resolution as follows:

In the first Resolved clause, following “That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on” by striking out “Thursday, January 21, 2021, at two o’clock” and inserting in lieu thereof Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at one o’clock

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

Message from the House No. 10

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

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

S. 9. An act relating to extending certain workers’ compensation amendments related to COVID-19.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o’clock and thirty minutes in the morning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 11

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted House concurrent resolution of the following title:

H.C.R. 7. House concurrent resolution designating January 27, 2021 as Homelessness Awareness Day in Vermont.

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

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 43.

By Senators Pollina and Perchlik,

An act relating to the contractual rights of members of the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 44.

By Senators Pollina, Perchlik and White,

An act relating to a Vermont Green New Deal.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bill Passed: Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged

S. 36.

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

An act relating to modifications to the use of certain Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriations.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Third Reading Ordered

S. 14.

Senator Sirotkin, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density.

Reported that the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

**Rules Suspended; House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In;
Delivered to Governor**

S. 9.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the as follows:

In Sec. 5, effective date, by striking out the following: "1, 2, and 3" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2, 3, and 4

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith.

House Concurrent Resolution

The following joint concurrent resolution 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, was adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Stevens and Pugh,

H.C.R. 7.

House concurrent resolution designating January 27, 2021 as Homelessness Awareness Day in Vermont.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 10.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Peter Plagge of Waterbury.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 11.**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Balint,

J.R.S. 11. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 29, 2021, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 45.

By Senators Sears, Baruth, Benning, Nitka and White,

An act relating to earned discharge from probation.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Passed; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged**S. 14.**

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Balint, the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 46.

By Senators Sirotkin and Lyons,

An act relating to limiting the co-payment amount for chiropractic services in certain health insurance plans.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 47.

By Senators Perchlik, Baruth, Cummings, Pollina and Ram,

An act relating to motor vehicle manufacturers and motor vehicle warranty or service facilities.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 48.

By Senators Lyons, Cummings and Kitchel,

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Message from the House No. 12

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 11. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 28, 2021.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

S. 24.

On motion of Senator Sirotkin, the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs was relieved of further consideration of Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to banning flavored tobacco products and e-liquids,
and the bill was committed to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 49.

By Senator Pearson,

An act relating to the Green Mountain Care Board reporting when the growth of certain health care costs exceeds the rate of inflation.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 50.

By Senators Perchlik, Pearson and Pollina,

An act relating to ranked choice voting.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 51.

By Senators Pearson, Perchlik and Pollina,

An act relating to the persons authorized to make contributions to candidates and political parties and to political committee names.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Balint, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 13

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Madam President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 8. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Proctor High School Phantoms girls' soccer team on winning a second consecutive Division IV championship.

H.C.R. 9. House concurrent resolution recognizing the unwavering dedication of Vermont's health care workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.C.R. 10. House concurrent resolution recognizing the important health care contribution of nurse anesthetists in Vermont.

H.C.R. 11. House concurrent resolution honoring the Thomas Dairy for 99 years of agricultural and entrepreneurial excellence.

H.C.R. 12. House concurrent resolution recognizing the important work of MENTOR Vermont and designating January 21, 2021 as Mentoring Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 13. House concurrent resolution honoring former Brattleboro Police Chief Michael Fitzgerald.

H.C.R. 14. House concurrent resolution in memory of historic preservation architect Martin S. Tierney of Burlington.

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

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 52.

By Senators Sirotkin, Baruth, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Pollina, Ram and Sears,

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by 2025.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 53.

By Senators Pearson, Lyons, Sirotkin and Hardy,

An act relating to exempting feminine hygiene products from the Vermont Sales and Use Tax.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 54.

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to the imposition of sales tax on candy to fund child care assistance.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 55.

By Senator Pearson,

An act relating to paid vacation leave.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

S. 56.

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to the sales tax exemption for residential use of fuels.

To the Committee on Finance.

Election of Senate Members to Judicial Nominating Board

The President announced that the next order of business was the election of three members of the Senate to serve on the Judicial Nominating Board pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 601.

Senator Balint, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, placed in nomination the names of the following Senators to serve on the Board:

CHERYL MAZZARIELLO HOOKER

of Rutland District, as the majority party member of the Board.

BRIAN P. COLLAMORE

of Rutland District, as the minority party member of the Board.

JEANETTE K. WHITE

of Windham District, as the third member of the Board.

Senator Mazza of Grand Isle District seconded these nominations.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Senator Balint, the nominations were closed, and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for

CHERYL MAZZARIELLO HOOKER

of Rutland District, as the majority party member of the Board, for a term of two years or until her successor is elected and has qualified.

BRIAN P. COLLAMORE

of Rutland District, as the minority party member of the Board, for a term of two years or until his successor is elected and has qualified.

JEANETTE K. WHITE

of Windham District, as the third member of the Board, for a term of two years or until her successor is elected and has qualified.

Appointment of Senate Members of the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules

Pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. §817, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules for terms of two years ending February 1, 2023:

Senator Bray
 Senator Benning
 Senator MacDonald
 Senator Lyons

Appointment of Senate Member to Surface Water Diversion and Transfer Study Group

Pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 173 § 1(b)(3) and (5) (Acts of 2020)(Adj. Sess.), the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senator to serve on the Surface Water Diversion and Transfer Study Group during this biennium:

Senator Bray

Appointment of Senate Members to the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 651, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Legislative Advisory Committee on the State House for terms of two years:

Senator Benning

Senator Mazza

Senator Hardy

Appointment of Senate Members to Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules

Pursuant to the provisions of 12 V.S.A. § 3, the President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, announced the appointment of the following Senators to serve on the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules for terms of two (2) years ending February 1, 2023:

Senator Sears

Senator Clarkson

Senator Benning

Senator Ram

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. Burditt and others,

By Senators Collamore, Hooker and Terenzini,

H.C.R. 8.