

House Calendar

Friday, April 10, 2015

94th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until April 10, 2015

Favorable with Amendment

J.R.H. 8

Joint resolution relating to military suicides

Rep. Walz of Barre City, for the Committee on **General, Housing & Military Affairs**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas, according to a January 16, 2015, report in the publication *Military Times*, nearly two-thirds of the military personnel who committed suicide in 2013 had seen a doctor within three months before taking their own lives, but fewer than one-half had a mental health diagnosis, and fewer than one-third expressed any intention to hurt themselves, and

Whereas, according to an August 2014 dispatch from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 8,000 veterans commit suicide annually, and this averages to 22 per day, and

Whereas, the General Assembly acknowledges and appreciates the VA's efforts to increase its resources for mental health counseling and support, including working to improve access to these services for veterans who meet the national criteria and who live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, and

Whereas, the VA has a toll-free military crisis line (1-800-273-8255) and website (veteranscrisisline.net) that are accessible 24 hours per day, seven days per week to service members and families for suicide prevention purposes, and

Whereas, despite the VA's and the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) suicide prevention efforts, including Congress's recent adoption of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, the suicide rate for our men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces remains far too high, and

Whereas, military families have expressed concerns about the consistent staffing of crisis lines, access to therapy options and effective medications, as well as delays in obtaining mental health counseling appointments, and

Whereas, the DOD's anti-stigma campaign, "Real Warriors, Real Battles, Real Strength," features real service members who have reached out for

support or sought treatment for invisible wounds and are continuing to maintain successful military and civilian careers, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the need for greater public awareness of the military and veteran suicide rate, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly supports the continued efforts of the VA, DOD, the Vermont National Guard, Vermont Vet-to-Vet, and other public and private organizations to address mental health issues, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly supports the Vermont Veterans Legal Assistance Project in its work helping veterans review and appeal unfavorable discharges, possibly due to behavioral problems related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) or both, in order to qualify for, or gain access to, VA services, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly supports that federal policies be established under the authority of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act as follows:

(1) establish, support, and enhance peer support outreach programs for veterans; and

(2) train mental health counselors around military acronyms and situations specific to military life to help the veteran feel more comfortable when being treated for a mental health issue, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly requests that the Secretary of Veteran Affairs designate Vermont as one of the five pilot program locations identified in the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly strongly encourages the Armed Forces and VA to establish, support and enhance peer support outreach programs for the families of veterans, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly strongly encourages the U.S. Armed Forces to require a period of reintegration for returning veterans that maintains unit cohesion, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges the Vermont National Guard to increase educational efforts related to mental health care services in order to reduce both the existing stigma among military personnel and veterans to seek mental health assistance and to lower future suicide rates, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald,

U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, Commissioner of Mental Health Paul Dupre, Vermont Adjutant General Major General Steven A. Cray, and to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs.

(**Committee Vote: 8-0-0**)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 86

An act relating to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

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

In Sec. 2, 15B V.S.A. § 1801(c), by striking out the word “extradition” and inserting in lieu thereof the word rendition

(No House Amendments)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 115

An act relating to expungement of convictions based on conduct that is no longer criminal

Favorable with Amendment

S. 71

An act relating to governance of the Vermont State Colleges

Rep. Cupoli of Rutland City, for the Committee on **Education**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, in 16 V.S.A. chapter 72, by striking out § 2185 (determination of residency for tuition purposes) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 2185. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

(a) The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements.

(b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces of the United States on active duty who is transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of education shall, upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in Vermont, be considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic period.

Second: In Sec. 1, in 16 V.S.A. § 2171, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a) There is created as a part of the educational system of the State of Vermont a public corporation to be known as “Vermont State Colleges,” ~~which Colleges~~ or any other name that the Board of Trustees, established under section 2172 of this chapter, selects at a meeting duly warned for that purpose, provided that the word “Vermont” shall appear in the selected name. The Corporation shall plan, supervise, administer, and operate facilities for education at the postsecondary level supported in whole or in substantial part with State funds; however, while the Corporation shall maintain cooperative relations with the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, nothing in this chapter shall give the ~~corporation~~ Corporation any responsibility for the planning, supervision, administration, or operation of the University.

Third: By adding a new section to be Sec. 2 to read:

Sec. 2. EFFECT OF AMENDMENT

In Sec. 1 of this act, 16 V.S.A. § 2171(a) is amended by authorizing the Board of Trustees established under 16 V.S.A. § 2172 to select a different name for the Corporation presently known as “Vermont State Colleges.” Notwithstanding any name that the Board of Trustees selects for the Corporation pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2171(a):

(1) All legal instruments executed in the name of the Vermont State Colleges or in any subsequent name selected under 16 V.S.A. § 2171(a) shall be legally binding on the Corporation.

(2) All statutory references to “Vermont State Colleges” shall mean the Corporation created under 16 V.S.A. § 2171(a).

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 10-0-1)

(For text see Senate Journal 2/26/2015)

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

S. 98

An act relating to captive insurance companies

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment thereto:

By striking out the *First* proposal of amendment in its entirety.

(For text see House Journal 3/27/15)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

S. 13

An act relating to the Vermont Sex Offender Registry

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment thereto:

In Sec. 9, (Effective Dates), subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (3) in its entirety.

(For House Proposal of Amendment see House Journal 3/31/15)

Consent Calendar

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rule 16a

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before today's adjournment. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Secretary's office and/or the House Clerk's office, respectively. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar of 4/9/2015.

H.C.R. 99

House concurrent resolution congratulating Drew Duffy on winning the super-G title at the 2015 U.S. Alpine Championships

H.C.R. 100

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2015 Essex Union High School Division I championship boys' ice hockey team

H.C.R. 101

House concurrent resolution honoring volunteer curator Jim Davidson and the Rutland Historical Society

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House concurrent resolution expressing appreciation for the economic and health benefits that the yoga industry provides to Vermonters

H.C.R. 109

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Lund Family Center on its 125th anniversary

H.C.R. 110

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H.C.R. 111

House concurrent resolution commending the final Farmers Night Civil War Sesquicentennial anniversary presentation and the outstanding work of the Vermont Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

H.C.R. 112

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning teams in the 2015 Junior Iron Chef Vermont statewide youth culinary competition

S.C.R. 15

Senate concurrent resolution congratulating the General Federation of Women's Clubs on its 125th anniversary

Information Notice

April 15, 2015 - 8:30 am - 10:30 am - House Chamber – House Rule 75 and Ethics Presentation by NCSL. **The House Rules require that all House members attend this presentation.**