

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Windham Elementary School students' Ukulele Orchestra.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Cabot Spatz of Shrewsbury led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 504

By Reps. Goslant of Northfield and Donahue of Northfield,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Berlin

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 505

By Reps. Clifford of Rutland City, Howard of Rutland City, Maguire of Rutland City, and Notte of Rutland City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Rutland

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 506

By Reps. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the election boundary provisions of the charter of the City of Burlington

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 507

By Reps. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the polling place provisions of the charter of the City of Burlington

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 508

By Reps. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the ranked choice voting provisions of the charter of the City of Burlington

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 509

By Reps. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the voter qualification provisions of the charter of the City of Burlington

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

S. 4

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to reducing crimes of violence associated with juveniles and dangerous weapons

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 17

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to sheriff reforms

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 18

Senate bill, entitled

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

To the Committee on Human Services.

S. 32

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 42

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to divestment of State pension funds of investments in the fossil fuel industry

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 89

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a forensic facility

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 91

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 133

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

To the Committee on Education.

S. 137

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to energy efficiency modernization

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

S. 138

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to school safety

To the Committee on Education.

House Resolution Adopted**H.R. 8**

House resolution, entitled

House resolution recognizing April 2023 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supporting the important work it represents

Offered by: Representatives Morgan of Milton and Hango of Berkshire

Whereas, many Americans and Vermonters may not be aware that there are more than 1.6 million children of U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, family pressures are magnified for children who remain stateside when a parent is deployed abroad, and the children of the approximately 1,000 Vermont National Guard personnel who may be deployed over the course of a year experience this disruption firsthand, and

Whereas, military children's frequent relocation and corresponding lack of long-term community stability present them with an unwelcome distraction, and

Whereas, in 1986, the U.S. Department of Defense first designated April as the Month of the Military Child, and the theme for the 2023 observance is "Taking Care of Our Military Children," and this annual event is part of a year-round initiative that brightens and improves these children's lives, and

Whereas, related programs include the national Military Kids Connect, partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H Clubs, and

Sesame Street for Military Families, as well as many local activities that offices such as the Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services administer, and

Whereas, April 15, a highlight of the Month of the Military Child known as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, provides an opportunity to show support for military families by wearing purple, a color that symbolizes all branches of the military, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body recognizes April 2023 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont and supports the important work it represents, and be it further

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services.

Was read and adopted.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 23

House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of mental health treatment in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Andriano of Orwell, Berbeco of Winooski, Goldman of Rockingham, and Houghton of Essex Junction

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "[m]ental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being...[It] is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood," and the organization Mental Health America has compiled recent data documenting the broad societal impact of individuals' mental health, and

Whereas, according to the compiled data, nearly 50 million American adults experienced some form of mental illness, and more than 50 percent of these individuals did not receive any treatment, and in Vermont, the parallel numbers were 112,000 and 42.6 percent, and

Whereas, an estimated 29,000 adult Vermonters have seriously considered suicide, and

Whereas, among Vermont youth (12–17 years of age), approximately 7,000 have experienced a major depressive episode, and, of these persons, roughly 3,000 did not receive treatment, and

Whereas, for youth experiencing psychiatric distress, and who are temporarily placed in a hospital's emergency room, the immediate situation is extremely challenging, and

Whereas, if Vermont focuses on promotion, prevention, and intervention through community-based mental health services, this strategy will help improve the lives of Vermonters who are experiencing some form of mental illness, and

Whereas, on January 30, 2023, concerned Vermonters coalesced, under the auspices of Mental Health Advocacy Day, to rally for greater attention to Vermonters' need for better mental health support services, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of mental health awareness in Vermont.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 3, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 81

House concurrent resolution designating April 4, 2023 as Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Cina of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Cordes of Lincoln, Demar of Enosburgh, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, and Peterson of Clarendon

Whereas, Dr. Carl Fleisher of the Boston Child Study Center in Los Angeles has explained that "the prefrontal cortex—the brain's executive control center—doesn't fully develop until one's mid-20s," and

Whereas, this biological reality, combined with societal pressures and the COVID-19 pandemic, has impacted the mental health of today's teenagers, and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than one-third of American teens experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

Whereas, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, each year nine percent of high school students attempt suicide, and

Whereas, Sarah K. Lipson, an assistant professor at the Boston University School of Public Health, conducted a study of 350,000 college students and

documented that, between 2013 and 2021, the rates for anxiety and depression had increased 110 and 135 percent respectively, and

Whereas, the American Psychological Association concurs with these findings, reporting that “student mental health [on college campuses] is in crisis,” and

Whereas, today’s Vermont teens will be our State’s future employees, employers, educators, medical practitioners, first responders, farmers, and the leaders of our State, and teen mental health issues, if not addressed comprehensively, will decrease Vermont’s future economic vitality, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 4, 2023 as Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Day in Vermont.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 31, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 146

House bill, entitled

An act relating to amendments to the charter of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District

H. 271

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Springfield

H. 418

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of Barre

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 150

Rep. Morgan of Milton, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Village of Alburgh

Reported in favor of its passage when amended as follows:

In Sec. 3, transitional provision, by striking out “Annually, beginning” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “Beginning”

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

S. 54

Rep. Black of Essex, for the Committee on Health Care, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to individual and small group insurance markets

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence. The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 36

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 30. An act relating to creating a Sister State Program.

S. 56. An act relating to child care and early childhood education.

S. 100. An act relating to housing opportunities made for everyone.

S. 102. An act relating to expanding employment protections and collective bargaining rights.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 22. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and fifty-three minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.