

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Wyn Cooper, poet and novelist, Halifax.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 516

By Reps. Dolan of Essex Junction and Houghton of Essex Junction,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Essex Junction

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 517

By Reps. Torre of Moretown, Dolan of Waitsfield, Stevens of Waterbury,
and Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of the dissolution of Duxbury-Moretown Fire District No. 1

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 39

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar**J.R.H. 5**

Joint House resolution, entitled

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Girls State educational program to use the facilities of the State House on a mutually agreed upon day and for a designated time span during the week of June 18, 2023

Offered by: Representatives Brumsted of Shelburne and Bos-Lun of Westminster

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont sponsors the Green Mountain Girls State educational program, providing a group of girls entering the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government, including conducting a mock legislative session at the State House, and

Whereas, this special experience is a unique civic lesson of lasting value for the participants, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That subject to the determination of and limitations that the Sergeant at Arms may establish, the Green Mountain Girls State educational program is authorized to use the facilities of the State House on a mutually agreed upon day and for a designated time span during the week of June 18, 2023, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 24**

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 24. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 21, 2023, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Ceremonial Readings**H.C.R. 89**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning teams of the 2023 15th Jr Iron Chef VT competition

Offered by: Representatives Sibia of Dover, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bluemle of Burlington, Bongartz of Manchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Burke of Brattleboro, Buss of Woodstock, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Coffey of Guilford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Donahue of Northfield, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Morgan of Milton, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Parsons of Newbury, Priestley of Bradford, Rice of Dorset, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Taylor of Milton, Troiano of Stannard, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, on March 11, 2023, after a pandemic-imposed pause, the Jr Iron Chef VT competition, featuring nutritious and unique culinary creations suitable for school meal programs that 34 teams crafted from local agricultural products, returned to the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction for its 15th year, and

Whereas, though it is now held under the auspices of Vermont Afterschool, the event's original organizer, VT-FEED, retained a consulting role, and the panel of judges brought expertise in the areas of cooking, journalism, and youth programs to their assignment, and

Whereas, in both the morning and afternoon cook-off rounds, the three award categories were Crowd Pleaser (the team best incorporating color, texture, and taste), Lively Local (the team best highlighting Vermont foods), and Mise en Place (the team demonstrating exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism), and

Whereas, the morning middle school category winners were the Winooski School District Wild Onions (Crowd Pleaser–Vegetarian Dumplings), the Williston Central School Wildcats (Lively Local–Vermont Root Vegetable Shepherd's Pie), and the Lake Champlain Waldorf School Naan Believers (Mise en Place–Indian Butter Tofu), and

Whereas, their afternoon peers earning special recognition were the King Street Youth Center Flames (Crowd Pleaser–Thai Green Curry with Coconut, Makrut Lime, and Thai Basil), the Crossett Brook Middle School Cougars (Lively Local–Tiger Tail Burrito Bowl), and the Edmunds Middle School Team #2 (Mise en Place–Chana Masala), and

Whereas, the afternoon-only high school cook-off winners were the Champlain Valley Union High School Red Onions (Crowd Pleaser–Tofu Poke Bowl), the Lake Champlain Waldorf School Soup Doggz (Lively Local–Stir-Fried Vegetables with Noodles and Crispy Tofu), and the Champlain Valley Union High School Chefhawks (Mise en Place– Barbeque Bao Buns), now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the winning teams of the 2023 15th Jr Iron Chef VT competition, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each winning team and to Vermont Afterschool.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 14, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 90

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2020, 2021, and 2022 winners of the Spirit of the ADA Award

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

Offered by: Senators Ingalls and Starr

Whereas, the State of Vermont recognizes the general societal and workforce benefits of affording all Vermonters, including those with disabilities, equal economic opportunities regardless of age, color, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation, and

Whereas, the Governor’s Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities annually honors organizations that strive to achieve this goal with the Spirit of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Award, and

Whereas, the criteria for receipt of this honor are “(1) creating an accessibility recruitment and hiring process, (2) [incorporating] on-the-job accommodations, (3) [providing] accessible physical structures to ensure

success for all employees, [and] (4) [having] an overall employment strategy that includes hiring people with disabilities,” and

Whereas, the winners were, in 2020, Gardener’s Supply, Vermont Soap, Copeland Furniture, The Vermont Country Store, and The Alchemist Brewery; in 2021, SODEXO at Northern Vermont University, the Town of Waterbury Department of Parks & Recreation, Vermont Fiber Mill, Homegrown Scales, Ace Hardware in St. Albans, Hannaford Supermarket in St. Albans, Andy’s Dandys, Main Street Graphics, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation staff at Allis and Elmore State Parks, Killington Resort, the Springfield Medical Center, the City of Newport, and Price Chopper in Morrisville; and, in 2022, Accessible Web, 802 Toyota, Animal Doctor, Vermont Information Processing, Marble Valley Regional Transit (The Bus), and Equinox Golf Resort & Spa (the Benchmark Hospitality Group), and

Whereas, representatives of many of the recent organizational winners of the Spirit of the ADA Award are present in the State House today, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2020, 2021, and 2022 winners of the Spirit of the ADA Award, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of these Spirit of the ADA Award winners.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 14, 2023 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 143

Rep. Coffey of Guilford moved that the Committee on Transportation be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to consumer protections related to the towing and storage of vehicles

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, which was agreed to.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

S. 93

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved that the Committee on Ways and Means be relieved of Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the sales tax exemption for advanced wood boilers

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Environment and Energy, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 489

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 9

House resolution, entitled

House resolution reaffirming the friendship between Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) and supporting enhanced United States–Taiwan and Vermont–Taiwan bilateral relations

Was taken up and adopted.

Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee Appointments

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 614, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee:

Rep. Chase of Colchester

Rep. Sibilila of Dover

Rep. Priestley of Bradford

Adjournment

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