

Journal of the House

Friday, April 5, 2024

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Message from the Senate No. 42

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 96. An act relating to privatization contracts.

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

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

H. 543. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Social Work Licensure Compact.

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

Senate Bill Referred

S. 96

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to privatization contracts

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 188

House concurrent resolution congratulating Milton High School junior Olivia Thomas on her individual track and field achievements

Offered by: Representatives Morgan of Milton, Mattos of Milton, and Taylor of Milton

Whereas, the attention-grabbing team results at State track and field championships are based on the performances of individual athletes who have worked through the indoor or outdoor season to maximize their athletic skills for these decisive competitions, and

Whereas, Olivia Thomas, a junior at Milton High School, is a stellar example of a young athlete whose devotion to her selected individual events—the girls' long jump and the 100-meter dash—has resulted in top scores, and

Whereas, beginning in the spring of 2022 at the State outdoor track and field championships, Olivia Thomas led the Division II female competitors in each of her individual sports, completing the 100-meter dash in 12.90 seconds and traversing 15 feet, 7.50 inches in the long jump, and

Whereas, in 2023, Olivia Thomas proved that her skills transferred easily to indoor competition when she topped her competitors with a speed of 7.70 seconds in the 100-meter dash and traveled a respectable 14 feet, 8.75 inches in the long jump; and then, at that year's outdoor meet, she demonstrated her continued command in the 100-meter dash, surpassing her prior outdoor time with a time of 12.83 seconds and increasing her long jump distance to 16 feet, 7.75 inches, and

Whereas, at the 2024 indoor competition, at which the 100-meter dash was not conducted for the Division II girls, her long jump result measured a satisfying 16 feet, 5 inches, and there remain three more State championships before she graduates at which Olivia Thomas can continue to display her athletic excellence, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Milton High School junior Olivia Thomas on her individual track and field achievements, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Olivia Thomas.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 22, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 195

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 5, 2024 as Civilian Conservation Corps Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Bos-Lun of Westminster, Arrison of Weathersfield, Brennan of Colchester, Casey of Montpelier, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Emmons of Springfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, Morrissey of Bennington, Page of Newport City, Roberts of Halifax, Taylor of Milton, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, at the height of the Great Depression, the nation was experiencing an unprecedented economic crisis resulting in massive unemployment and a major decrease in public works activity, and millions of young men were idle, lacking constructive activity in which to engage and insufficient, if any, financial resources to support themselves, and

Whereas, on April 5, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6101 formally organizing the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and implementing the recently enacted Emergency Conservation Work Act, 48 Stat. 22 (1933), and

Whereas, from 1933 to 1942, approximately 3,463,000 men, mostly 18 to 25 years of age, resided at CCC camps and worked on public works projects with long-term societal benefits, and

Whereas, across the country, in national and state parks and on other public recreational lands, the CCC constructed over 3,000 fire towers, 46,854 bridges, 125,000 miles of roads, and 13,100 miles of foot trails, and

Whereas, three billion trees were planted, 40 million acres of farmland were improved, and 972 million fish were stocked in the nation's waters, and

Whereas, beyond these construction initiatives, 110,000 members of the CCC who were illiterate gained basic reading and writing skills, and

Whereas, Vermont was slated to host four CCC camps, but the passionate lobbying of legendary State Forester Perry H. Merrill raised that number to more than 30, and camps were organized in communities throughout Vermont, leaving an amazing legacy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 5, 2024 as Civilian Conservation Corps Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to National Civilian Conservation Day Coordinator Mary Podskoch.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 29, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 200**

House concurrent resolution commemorating Vermont's historic April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse

Offered by: Representatives Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Carroll of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of Chester, Chase of Colchester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Demar of Enosburgh, Demrow of Corinth, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, Jerome of Brandon, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Lalley of Shelburne, LaMont of Morristown, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McFaun of Barre Town, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, Ode of Burlington, Peterson of Clarendon, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Sammis of Castleton, Scheu of Middlebury, Sims of Craftsbury, Small of Winooski, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Torre of Moretown, Walker of Swanton, White of Bethel, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, Hardy, Harrison, Kitchel, McCormack, Vyhovsky, Watson, and Wrenner

Whereas, a syzygy is the alignment “of three celestial bodies in a gravitational system,” and this cosmic phenomenon often results in a total solar or lunar eclipse, and

Whereas, eclipses occur around the world with a degree of regularity, but the visibility of a total solar eclipse in Vermont is a rare event, the sky having last offered this astronomical extravaganza nearly a century ago in 1932, and

Whereas, on April 8, 2024, residents of and visitors to much of the northern half of the State will be offered the unusual chance to witness a total solar eclipse, with great viewing in a corridor extending from Burlington to St. Albans in the western portion of the State to Newport and St. Johnsbury in the Northeast Kingdom, and

Whereas, in Burlington, the solar eclipse will commence at 2:14 p.m. and reach its totality between 3:26 and 3:29 p.m., and

Whereas, if the skies are clear, the effect will be to reduce the city's light level to dusk conditions, and, if the sky is cloudy, the eclipse will create middle-of-the-night illumination conditions, and

Whereas, the Vermont Space Grant Consortium and the University of Vermont are partnering with other academic institutions to provide a safe and exciting eclipse experience for the State's college students, faculty, and staff, and the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium is educating Vermonters in advance of the eclipse, including on the importance of wearing special glasses if viewing the event directly, and

Whereas, eclipse gatherings are being held throughout the viewing zone, and Vermonters would be wise to take advantage of this special occasion as the next total eclipse visible in Vermont is projected to occur in 2079, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates Vermont's historic April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Space Grant Consortium and to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 29, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 659

House bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. White of Bethel**, action on the bill was postponed until April 10, 2024.

Favorable Reports; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 869**

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

An act relating to approval of the merger of Brandon Fire District No. 1 and Brandon Fire District No. 2

Reported in favor of its passage.

Rep. Branagan of Georgia, for the Committee on Ways and Means, reported in favor of its passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 43

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

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 201. House concurrent resolution honoring Cindy Scott's third-grade class at Twinfield Union School for establishing a special friendship with the young patients at St. Nicholas Pediatric Hospital-UNBROKEN KIDS Rehabilitation Center in Lviv, Ukraine.

H.C.R. 202. House concurrent resolution congratulating Esta Broutsas Smith of Brattleboro on her centennial birthday.

H.C.R. 203. House concurrent resolution congratulating former Representative and Unadilla Theater impresario William Blachly of Calais on his 100th birthday.

H.C.R. 204. House concurrent resolution congratulating Jaden Coppins of Colchester on her individual title victory at the inaugural New England girls' wrestling championship.

H.C.R. 205. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Catamount Trail.

H.C.R. 206. House concurrent resolution honoring the professional achievements of child and victim advocate Sally Borden.

H.C.R. 207. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 5–11, 2024 as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Vermont.

H.C.R. 208. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro on its 50th anniversary.

H.C.R. 209. House concurrent resolution honoring Northfield Elementary School physical education instructor Michael Gonneville for his teaching excellence and for the establishment of the school’s Walking Wednesdays.

H.C.R. 210. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Grace Christian Lions Division IV championship boys’ basketball team.

H.C.R. 211. House concurrent resolution designating April 11, 2024 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 212. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Burlington-Colchester Division I championship SeaLakers girls’ ice hockey team.

H.C.R. 213. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on its 50th anniversary.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and seven minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 51.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 201

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

H.C.R. 202

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

H.C.R. 203

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

H.C.R. 204

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

H.C.R. 205

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

H.C.R. 206

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

H.C.R. 207

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

H.C.R. 208

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

H.C.R. 209

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

H.C.R. 210

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

H.C.R. 211

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

H.C.R. 212

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

H.C.R. 213

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

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2024 Adjourned Session.]