

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Kenzan of Calais.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.S. 16.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator McCormack,

J.R.S. 16. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges.

Whereas, declarations have been submitted by the following Justices and Judges that they be retained for another six-year term: the Honorable Chief Justice Paul Reiber, Justice Harold Eaton, Jr., Justice Karen Carroll, Justice William Cohen, Justice Nancy Waples, Judge Alison Arms, Judge Thomas Carlson, Judge Cortland Corsones, Judge Justin Jiron, Judge Michael Kainen, Judge Mary Morrissey, Judge A. Gregory Rainville and Judge Kirstin Schoonover, and

Whereas, the procedures of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention require numerous public hearings and the review of information provided by each Justice and Judge and the comments of members of the Vermont bar and the public, and

Whereas, the Committee anticipates that it will be unable to fulfill its responsibilities under 4 V.S.A. § 608(b) to evaluate the judicial performance of the Justices and Judges seeking to be retained in office by March 9, 2023, the date specified in 4 V.S.A. § 608(e), and for a vote in Joint Assembly to be held on March 16, 2023, the date specified in 2 V.S.A § 10(b), and

Whereas, 4 V.S.A. § 608(g) permits the General Assembly to defer action on the retention of Justices and Judges to a subsequent Joint Assembly when the Committee is not able to make a timely recommendation, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at one o'clock in the afternoon to vote on the retention of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and eight Superior Court Judges. In case the vote to retain said Justices and Judges shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed until the above is completed.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolution was placed on the Calendar for action next legislative day.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 97.

By Senators Williams, Collamore, Gulick, Lyons, Weeks and White,

An act relating to guardianship proceedings.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 98.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Cummings, Gulick, Hashim, Lyons, MacDonald and Watson,

An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority over prescription drug costs.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Committee Bills Introduced

Senate committee bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice the next legislative day:

S. 99.

By the Committee on Transportation,

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles.

S. 100.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

An act relating to housing opportunities made for everyone.

Bill Passed**H. 46.**

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

An act relating to approval of the dissolution of Colchester Fire District No. 3.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Ram Hinsdale the rules were suspended and Senate Committee bill entitled:

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

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of Senator Ram Hinsdale the bill was committed to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Adjournment

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