

# Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Kenzan of East Calais.

## Message from the House No. 3

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. BetsyAnn Wrask, its Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has adopted joint resolutions of the following titles:

**J.R.H. 7.** Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2024.

**J.R.H. 8.** Joint resolution providing for an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of Sergeant at Arms.

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

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

**J.R.S. 34.** Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

## Consideration Postponed

House bill entitled:

### H. 158.

An act relating to the beverage container redemption system.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending consideration of the Governor's veto, Senator Baruth moved that consideration of the bill be postponed until Tuesday, January 23, 2024, which was agreed to.

**Standing Committee Realigned**

The President, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, reported the realignment of the following standing committee:

**TRANSPORTATION**

Senator Mazza  
Perchlik  
Chittenden  
Kitchel  
Ingalls

**Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar****J.R.H. 7.**

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2024

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That through the remainder of calendar year 2024, each member of a joint committee is authorized to vote remotely in that committee:

(1) if the member has tested positive for COVID-19 and is within a period of isolation as provided by Vermont Department of Health guidelines; and

(2) for not more than three days, for any other reason, *and be it further*

Resolved: Such a member shall notify the committee chair or co-chairs, as applicable, and the committee clerk that the member is exercising this remote voting authority, and shall count toward a committee quorum, *and be it further*

Resolved: The committee clerk shall record any vote cast by the member as a remote vote, and shall track the number of days the member exercises the member's non-COVID-19 remote voting authority.

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

**Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar****J.R.H. 8.**

Joint resolution originating in the House of the following title was read the first time and is as follows:

Joint resolution providing for an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of Sergeant at Arms

Whereas, Sergeant at Arms Janet Miller has announced her retirement and has provided a retirement date of Friday, March 1, 2024, which will cause a vacancy in the office on that date, *and*

Whereas, 2 V.S.A. § 11 provides that the General Assembly shall fill a vacancy in office existing or occurring while it is in session, where the incumbent is by law elected by the General Assembly, and such an officer so elected shall hold the respective office during the unexpired term, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Friday, March 1, 2024, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, to elect a Sergeant at Arms for the remainder of the unexpired term. In case the election of Sergeant at Arms 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 in such election, until the officer is elected.

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

### **Bills Introduced**

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

#### **S. 239.**

By Senators Clarkson and Hardy,

An act relating to prohibiting possession of semiautomatic assault weapons.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

#### **S. 240.**

By Senators Hardy, Lyons, Bray, Campion, Clarkson, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, MacDonald, McCormack, Vyhovsky, Watson, White and Wrenner,

An act relating to expanding access to Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur.

To the Committee on Finance.

**S. 241.**

By Senator Clarkson,

An act relating to revising the delivery and governance of the Vermont workforce system.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

**S. 242.**

By Senators Harrison, Brock, Clarkson, Cummings, Ram Hinsdale and Wrenner,

An act relating to the maintenance of properties for the health and safety of the public.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 243.**

By Senators Harrison, Brock, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hashim, McCormack, Ram Hinsdale and Watson,

An act relating to the formation of stormwater utility districts.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 244.**

By Senators Harrison and Wrenner,

An act relating to the definition of a mobile home park.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

**S. 245.**

By Senators Harrison, Clarkson and Hashim,

An act relating to issuing grants for permanent supportive housing.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, January 11, 2024.