

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Pursuant to the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President, the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President *pro tempore* then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

The roll of the Senate was thereupon called by the Secretary, John H. Bloomer, Jr., and it appeared that the following Senators were present.

Addison District	Senator Christopher A. Bray Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy
Bennington District	Senator Brian A. Campion Senator Richard W. Sears, Jr.
Caledonia District	Senator Joseph C. Benning Senator M. Jane Kitchel
Chittenden District	Senator Philip E. Baruth Senator Deborah J. Ingram Senator Virginia V. Lyons Senator Christopher A. Pearson Senator Michael D. Sirotkin
Essex-Orleans District	Senator John S. Rodgers Senator Robert A. Starr
Franklin District	Senator Randolph D. Brock
Grand Isle District	Senator Richard T. Mazza
Lamoille District	Senator Richard A. Westman
Orange District	Senator Mark A. MacDonald

Rutland District	Senator Brian P. Collamore Senator Cheryl Mazzariello Hooker Senator James L. McNeil
Washington District	Senator Ann E. Cummings Senator Andrew J. Perchlik Senator Anthony Pollina
Windham District	Senator Rebecca A. Balint Senator Jeanette K. White
Windsor District	Senator Alison Clarkson Senator Richard J. McCormack Senator Alice W. Nitka

Message from the House No. 73

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

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

S. 187. An act relating to transient occupancy for health care treatment and recovery.

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

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to the following House bill:

H. 578. An act relating to proof of financial responsibility.

And has severally concurred therein.

Message from the House No. 74

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed a House bill of the following title:

H. 969. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

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

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 64.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Ashe,

J.R.S. 64. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, September 17, 2020, or, Friday, September 18, 2020, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 969.

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

House bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

H. 880. An act relating to Abenaki place names on State park signs.

H. 962. An act relating to the duration of temporary relief from abuse orders.

H. 967. An act relating to the provision of child care at family child care homes during remote learning days.

Proposals of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 934.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to renter rebate reform.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 32 V.S.A. § 6061, definitions, after the following: “unless the context requires otherwise:” and before the asterisks by inserting the following to read as follows:

(1) “Property tax credit” means a credit of the prior tax year’s statewide or local share property tax liability or a homestead owner ~~or renter~~ credit, as authorized under section 6066 of this title, as the context requires.

Second: By striking out Sec. 5, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof five new sections to read as follows:

Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 6067 is amended to read:

§ 6067. CREDIT LIMITATIONS

Only one individual per household per taxable year shall be entitled to a ~~benefit~~ property tax credit under this chapter. An individual who received a homestead exemption or credit with respect to property taxes assessed by another state for the taxable year shall not be entitled to receive a credit under this chapter. No taxpayer shall receive a renter credit under subsection 6066(b) of this title in excess of ~~\$3,000.00~~ \$2,500.00. No taxpayer shall receive a property tax credit under subdivision 6066(a)(3) of this title greater than ~~\$2,400.00~~ or cumulative credit under subdivisions 6066(a)(1)–(2) and (4) of this title greater than ~~\$5,600.00~~.

Sec. 6. 32 V.S.A. § 6068 is amended to read:

§ 6068. APPLICATION AND TIME FOR FILING

(a) A tax credit claim or request for allocation of an income tax refund to homestead property tax payment shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension, and shall describe the school district in which the homestead property is located and shall particularly describe the homestead property for which the credit or allocation is sought, including the school parcel account number prescribed in subsection 5404(b) of this title. A ~~renter rebate~~ credit claim shall be filed with the Commissioner on or before the due date for filing the Vermont income tax return, without extension.

* * *

(c) No request for allocation of an income tax refund or for a ~~renter rebate~~ credit claim may be made after October 15.

Sec. 7. 32 V.S.A. chapter 154 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 154. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AND RENTER CREDIT

Sec. 8. 32 V.S.A. § 3206(b) is amended to read:

(b) As used in this section, “extraordinary relief” means a remedy that is within the power of the Commissioner to grant under this title, a remedy that compensates for the result of inaccurate classification of property as homestead or nonhomestead pursuant to section 5410 of this title through no fault of the taxpayer, or a remedy that makes changes to a taxpayer’s property tax credit or renter ~~rebate~~ credit claim necessary to remedy the problem identified by the Taxpayer Advocate.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021 and apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2021 (claim filing years 2022 and after).

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposals of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposals of amendment were collectively agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged

On motion of Senator Mazza, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

H. 880, H. 962, H. 967.

Message from the House No. 75

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 220. An act relating to professional regulation.

S. 234. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Mazza, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.