

# Journal of the House

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**Thursday, January 5, 2012**

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

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rabbi Tobie Weisman of Yearning for Learning Center, Montpelier, VT..

## **Correspondence from Rep. Rachel Weston**

“January 4, 2012

Dear Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives,

Please accept this letter as my official resignation from the Vermont House of Representatives to represent the Chittenden 3-3 legislative district, to be effective on January 5th, 2012.

It has been an honor to serve the people of Burlington and the State of Vermont for the last five years. The people of the Chittenden 3-3 legislative district have been engaged in civic affairs and it has been an honor and pleasure to help them turn important policy ideas, such as equal marriage rights, toxic chemical reforms, and universal healthcare, into realized law.

The camaraderie among legislators in Vermont is in my opinion unique and enables the body to work effectively in representing all Vermonters and creating law that moves Vermont forward. The ideal Vermont legislature is a citizen legislature in which elected members can maintain both a role as a private citizen with a career and a legislator simultaneously. However, currently it is becoming increasingly difficult for ordinary citizens to be able to serve in the legislature, as the financial sacrifice necessary to do so, in many cases, doesn't allow for an individual member to be able to support a family or themselves. One should not have to be independently wealthy, retired, or willing to take an oath of poverty in order to serve as an elected member within our democratic system. A few small reforms toward legislative compensation could go a long way towards retaining our democracy by affording the opportunity for more working age Vermonters to serve their communities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Representative Rachel Weston  
Chittenden 3-3”

**Rules Suspended; House Bills Introduced**

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced. Pending first reading of the bills, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred or placed on the Calendar as follows:

**H. 483**

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring a stream alteration permit for removal of timber from watercourses;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

**H. 484**

By Rep. Olsen of Jamaica,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to amendment to the Windham solid waste district charter;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 485**

By Reps. Klein of East Montpelier, Cheney of Norwich and Edwards of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing universal recycling of solid waste;

To the committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**H. 486**

By Rep. Wizowaty of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to probate proceedings;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 487**

By Rep. Wizowaty of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

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An act relating to restricting the use of portable electronic devices by motor vehicle operators;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 488**

By Rep. Deen of Westminster,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a report by the agency of natural resources on hydrology credits used in stormwater permits for high elevation facilities;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

**H. 489**

By Rep. Wizowaty of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to records of the office of internal investigation;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 490**

By Rep. Malcolm of Pawlet,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the types of wastewater permits used for the current use program;

To the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.

**H. 491**

By Rep. Malcolm of Pawlet,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to raising the penalties for texting while driving;

To the committee on Judiciary.

**H. 492**

By Reps. Mook of Bennington, Edwards of Brattleboro, Botzow of Pownal, Burke of Brattleboro, Klein of East Montpelier, Lenex of Shelburne and Stuart of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to insurance coverage for hearing aids;  
To the committee on Health Care.

**H. 493**

By Reps. Pugh of South Burlington, Head of South Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington and Munger of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the city of South Burlington;

To the committee on Government Operations.

**H. 494**

By Rep. Klein of East Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health care professional transparency;

To the committee on Health Care.

**H. 495**

By Rep. Till of Jericho,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health care provider bargaining groups;

To the committee on Health Care.

**Committee Appointment**

The Speaker appointed Rep. Ram of Burlington to the committee on Ways and Means.

**Rules Suspended; Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered;  
Rules Suspended, Bill Read Third Time and Passed; Rules Suspended  
and Bill Ordered Messaged to the Senate Forthwith**

**H. 461**

On motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the reimbursement of statewide education property taxes that were abated due to flood damage

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Appearing on the Calendar for notice, was taken up for immediate consideration.

**Rep. Olsen of Jamaica** spoke for the committee on Ways and Means.

**Rep. Manwaring of Wilmington**, for the committee on Appropriations, reported in favor of its passage.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time and third reading ordered.

On motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed on all remaining stages of passage. The bill was read the third time and passed and, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton** the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

#### **Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**

##### **J.R.S. 35**

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

#### **Adjournment**

At one o'clock and thirty-six minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.