Journal of the House

Monday, June 17, 2024

VETO SESSION

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

The Speaker led the House in a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bill Introduced

H. 890

By Reps. Houghton of Essex Junction, McFaun of Barre Town, and Black of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to delaying implementation of certain health insurance claims editing requirements

Having been approved for introduction by the Committee on Rules pursuant to House Rule 40(b), was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care.

Building Energy Code Working Group Appointment

Pursuant to 2024, Act No. 151 (S.253), Sec. 2, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Building Energy Code Working Group:

Rep. Campbell of St. Johnsbury

Message from the Senate No. 77

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 joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 57. Joint resolution relating to compensation of Members of the General Assembly during the remainder of the 2024 Adjourned Session.

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

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 687

On motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 107. Nays, 38.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford Andriano of Orwell Anthony of Barre City Arrison of Weathersfield Arsenault of Williston Austin of Colchester Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Boyden of Cambridge Brady of Williston Brown of Richmond Brownell of Pownal Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro **Burrows of West Windsor Buss of Woodstock** 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

Demrow of Corinth Dodge of Essex Dolan of Waitsfield Duke of Burlington Durfee of Shaftsbury Elder of Starksboro Emmons of Springfield Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Graning of Jericho Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Randolph Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington LaMont of Morristown

McGill of Bridport Mihaly of Calais Minier of South Burlington Morris of Springfield Mrowicki of Putney Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Pajala of Londonderry Patt of Worcester Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Sims of Craftsbury Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury Surprenant of Barnard Taylor of Colchester Templeman of Brownington Toleno of Brattleboro

Lanpher of Vergennes Leavitt of Grand Isle Logan of Burlington Long of Newfane Maguire of Rutland City Masland of Thetford McCann of Montpelier McCarthy of St. Albans City

Torre of Moretown Troiano of Stannard Waters Evans of Charlotte White of Bethel Whitman of Bennington Williams of Barre City Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax
Beck of St. Johnsbury
Branagan of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town
Donahue of Northfield
Galfetti of Barre Town
Goslant of Northfield
Graham of Williamstown

Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Higley of Lowell
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Marcotte of Coventry
Mattos of Milton
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town
Morgan of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington

Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Pearl of Danville
Peterson of Clarendon
Quimby of Lyndon
Sammis of Castleton
Shaw of Pittsford
Sibilia of Dover
Taylor of Milton
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton
Williams of Granby *

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland Dolan of Essex Junction Noyes of Wolcott Smith of Derby

Stone of Burlington

Rep. Williams of Granby explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

In case you are not aware, I am from Essex County. This bill is a perfect example of how you legislators don't care about us. You <u>should</u> be ashamed of yourselves for excluding/minimizing any part of the State. Don't come up to me today and ask how I am. The answer is – I am sick and afraid and defeated and angry and sad. There you have it. Don't ask because you have <u>no</u> idea or care about what you are doing to my county and the rest of the other 70% of Vermont."

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 72

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to a harm-reduction criminal justice response to drug use

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 104. Nays, 41.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford Andriano of Orwell Anthony of Barre City Arsenault of Williston Austin of Colchester Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Boyden of Cambridge Brady of Williston Brown of Richmond Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro Burrows of West Windsor Buss of Woodstock 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 Conlon of Cornwall Cordes of Lincoln Demrow of Corinth Dodge of Essex Dolan of Waitsfield

Duke of Burlington Durfee of Shaftsbury Elder of Starksboro **Emmons of Springfield** Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Graning of Jericho Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Randolph Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington LaMont of Morristown Lanpher of Vergennes Leavitt of Grand Isle Lipsky of Stowe Logan of Burlington Long of Newfane Masland of Thetford McCann of Montpelier McCarthy of St. Albans City McGill of Bridport

Mihaly of Calais Minier of South Burlington Mrowicki of Putney Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Pajala of Londonderry Patt of Worcester Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax * Sammis of Castleton * Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Sibilia of Dover Sims of Craftsbury Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury Surprenant of Barnard Taylor of Colchester Templeman of Brownington Toleno of Brattleboro Torre of Moretown Troiano of Stannard Waters Evans of Charlotte White of Bethel Whitman of Bennington Williams of Barre City Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arrison of Weathersfield Bartley of Fairfax Galfetti of Barre Town Goslant of Northfield Morgan of Milton *
Morris of Springfield

Beck of St. Johnsbury
Branagan of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester
Brownell of Pownal
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Clifford of Rutland City
Corcoran of Bennington
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town

Graham of Williamstown
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Higley of Lowell
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Maguire of Rutland City *
Marcotte of Coventry
Mattos of Milton
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town

Morrissey of Bennington Oliver of Sheldon Page of Newport City Parsons of Newbury Pearl of Danville Peterson of Clarendon Quimby of Lyndon Shaw of Pittsford Taylor of Milton Toof of St. Albans Town Walker of Swanton Williams of Granby

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland
Dolan of Essex Junction

Donahue of Northfield

Noyes of Wolcott Smith of Derby Stone of Burlington

Rep. Cina of Burlington explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes in honor of all of our family, friends, and neighbors who have died from overdoses. I vote yes in the spirit of hope and with love for those struggling now. Don't give up. Every day you stay alive is another day that recovery is possible."

Rep. Maguire of Rutland City explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

To invest into an unknown harm reduction model is an injustice to the underfunded proven practices that save lives and bring our loved one's home to us."

Rep. Morgan of Milton explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

Constituents in my district have vehemently opposed this bill. In fact, the State's Attorney in five of my six towns has stated his displeasure with this bill and its implications. I vote no."

Rep. Roberts of Halifax explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I was reluctant to support a 'safe injection site' in Burlington. Then I visited OnPoint in New York City and I saw regular people who have a very difficult disease being met with love, in a safe environment, an 'overdose prevention site' with group supports like pancake breakfasts, laundry and

medical care. I vote yes to meeting people where they are – not in a dangerous alley, but in a safe environment, with love."

Rep. Sammis of Castleton explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

My vote today was made in honor of those lost along the way, and for their families and communities that wear the scars and pain of loss. You are in our thoughts, and today we take action."

Message from the Senate No. 78

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 considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 55. An act relating to miscellaneous unemployment insurance amendments.

And has concurred therein.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 887

On motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 103. Nays, 42.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Dodge of Essex	Mihaly of Calais
Andriano of Orwell	Dolan of Waitsfield	Minier of South Burlington
Anthony of Barre City	Duke of Burlington	Morris of Springfield
Arrison of Weathersfield	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mrowicki of Putney

Arsenault of Williston Austin of Colchester Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Boyden of Cambridge Brady of Williston * Brown of Richmond Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro Burrows of West Windsor Buss of Woodstock 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 Conlon of Cornwall Corcoran of Bennington Cordes of Lincoln Demrow of Corinth

Elder of Starksboro Emmons of Springfield Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Graning of Jericho Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington LaMont of Morristown Lanpher of Vergennes Leavitt of Grand Isle Logan of Burlington Long of Newfane Masland of Thetford McCann of Montpelier McCarthy of St. Albans

Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Pajala of Londonderry Patt of Worcester Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington * Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Sibilia of Dover Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury Surprenant of Barnard Taylor of Colchester Templeman of Brownington Toleno of Brattleboro Torre of Moretown Troiano of Stannard Waters Evans of Charlotte White of Bethel Whitman of Bennington Williams of Barre City Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax *
Beck of St. Johnsbury
Branagan of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester
Brownell of Pownal
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Clifford of Rutland City
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town
Donahue of Northfield
Galfetti of Barre Town
Goslant of Northfield
Graham of Williamstown

Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Higley of Lowell
Hooper of Randolph
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Mattos of Milton
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town
Morgan of Milton *
Morrissey of Bennington

McGill of Bridport

Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Pearl of Danville
Peterson of Clarendon
Quimby of Lyndon
Sammis of Castleton
Shaw of Pittsford
Sims of Craftsbury
Taylor of Milton *
Toof of St. Albans Town *
Walker of Swanton
Williams of Granby

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland Noyes of Wolcott Stone of Burlington

Dolan of Essex Junction Smith of Derby

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I heard my constituents not just one time but both times when our school budgets were voted down. We <u>need</u> structural reform, not just more excuses with both sides at the table, not just the majority."

Rep. Brady of Williston explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted to override the veto of H 887. This bill funds locally decided school budgets and I hardly consider school budgets beasts that we are feeding. Rather, schools are an essential service to kids and families. They may be expensive, but they are also the most important investment we make as a society. We have hard work ahead to bend the cost curve, but we must do it in a coherent way with a view of the whole forest and not just our individual trees. Students must be at the center of our work. We must transform our system in Vermont into a right-sized, strong public education system that supports all students and uses our precious statewide resources sustainably and efficiently. Our system is over 200 years in the making and while many of us might want to move faster, coherent change that truly supports students and schools with a common vision and much needed financial predictability will take time and extraordinarily political will by all of us. I voted yes to commit to that work."

Rep. Morgan of Milton explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

Sadly, this bill will saddle the taxpayer with double digit education property tax increases. With all of the towns that I represent having extreme difficulty passing budgets due to these looming increases it has at best been chaotic for them. Contrary to what is publicly being said, the Governor and his administration did have a plan that could have made this bill much, much more palatable to the taxpayer, which includes all of us in this room! My constituents, as a whole, have reached out begging for relief in this arena. Why we would not want a solution, now, for change is beyond my comprehension. Doing this bill as it sits simply, proverbially, kicks the can down the road without proper relief to the citizens of Vermont."

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted yes. We are between a rock and a hard place. Vermont's current law requires the Legislature to set a tax rate to raise enough money to fund the budgets that passed the will of our local voters. Currently this is a \$2.8 billion price tag that gets no additional scrutiny and has no other checks and balances. Our current law of how we fund education doesn't work and is not sustainable. It's not easy to figure out, especially for part-time citizen legislatures, who have limited staffing, to sort out a new path forward. It's no wonder there have been so many studies done. The Governor's short-term options were unacceptable. I am not willing to take away free meals from school children and using our reserve funds to buy down the tax rate further this year is an expensive band-aid with long-term financial consequences."

Rep. Taylor of Milton explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted to sustain the Governor's veto. The taxpayers of my district and the Milton Town School District itself deserve better. This school budget season the Milton Town School District went to three votes and was on the verge of having to borrow money to continue to operate. The town became extremely divided, and emotions were high. The failure to pass substantial change this session leaves the path open for the same scenario or worse to play out next budget season. This will be devasting to Milton and I cannot sit back and support that possibility."

Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

Our constituents deserve better than this historic double-digit 13.8% increase in property tax bills. We owe it to Vermonters to lessen this financial burden and make more structural changes to our broken system."

Rules Suspended, Bills Messaged to Senate Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the following bills were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith:

H. 687

House bill, entitled

An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use

H. 72

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a harm-reduction criminal justice response to drug use

H. 887

House bill, entitled

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 289

On motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 102. Nays, 43.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford
Andriano of Orwell
Anthony of Barre City
Arrison of Weathersfield
Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Berbeco of Winooski
Birong of Vergennes
Black of Essex
Bluemle of Burlington
Bongartz of Manchester
Bos-Lun of Westminster
Boyden of Cambridge
Brady of Williston
Brown of Richmond
Brumsted of Shelburne
Burke of Brattleboro
Burrows of West Windson
Buss of Woodstock

Mihaly of Calais Minier of South Burlington Morris of Springfield Mrowicki of Putney Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Pajala of Londonderry Patt of Worcester * Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury

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 Conlon of Cornwall Cordes of Lincoln Demrow of Corinth Dodge of Essex

Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington LaMont of Morristown Lanpher of Vergennes Leavitt of Grand Isle Logan of Burlington Long of Newfane Masland of Thetford McCann of Montpelier McCarthy of St. Albans City McGill of Bridport

Sibilia of Dover Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury Surprenant of Barnard Taylor of Colchester Templeman of Brownington Toleno of Brattleboro Torre of Moretown Trojano of Stannard Waters Evans of Charlotte White of Bethel Whitman of Bennington Williams of Barre City Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax
Beck of St. Johnsbury
Branagan of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester
Brownell of Pownal
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Clifford of Rutland City
Corcoran of Bennington
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town
Donahue of Northfield
Galfetti of Barre Town *
Goslant of Northfield

Graham of Williamstown
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Higley of Lowell
Hooper of Randolph
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Lipsky of Stowe
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Mattos of Milton
McCoy of Poultney
McFaun of Barre Town
Morgan of Milton

Morrissey of Bennington
Oliver of Sheldon
Page of Newport City
Parsons of Newbury
Pearl of Danville
Peterson of Clarendon *
Quimby of Lyndon
Sammis of Castleton
Shaw of Pittsford
Sims of Craftsbury
Taylor of Milton
Toof of St. Albans Town
Walker of Swanton
Williams of Granby *

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland Dolan of Essex Junction Noyes of Wolcott Smith of Derby Stone of Burlington

Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I voted no to stop the punitive exploitation of Vermonters. The Renewable Energy Standard, like the unaffordable Heat Act of last session, is a vehicle for a carbon tax. Proponents of H.289 have stated publicly that an alternative cost-effective proposal to H.289 would not go far enough to enrich renewable energy producers. This plan will force Vermonters to absorb the cost of the required, expensive, and volatile carbon credits. The environmental impacts

on our hillsides and open spaces to make way for wind and solar have been completely ignored. This bill will drive up the cost of electricity for struggling Vermonters that cannot afford another carbon tax."

Rep. Patt of Worcester explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

When the Environment and Energy Committee first began taking testimony on H.289, I was astounded by the degree of agreement and consensus that went into this bill before it was formally introduced. I was disappointed and troubled by the Department of Public Service's cost analysis and counterproposal. Neither the PDS's nor the Joint Fiscal Offices' cost analysis considers what financial benefits Vermonters may also see going forward. H.289 does recognize that different utilities are in different situations, that some have already reached 100% renewable, for example. And, lastly, some of the PSD's supposedly 'clean' energy alternatives are not clean at all, based on my own knowledge and experience."

Rep. Peterson of Clarendon explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I'll vote no to any bill associated with the global warming money grab."

Rep. Williams of Granby explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

The most underserved, lowest income, oldest population in Vermont – yes, my district is getting shafted again. May I remind you, two towns in my district didn't even get electricity until 1963. We can't afford to live here anymore. Our children are leaving the State. Instead of helping us help ourselves, you are destroying our very existence. I have reminded you several times, leave us alone, stop putting these financial burdens on us and we can survive. You are not listening. The Vermont we grew up in no longer exists. I think a more fitting name for the new Vermont is CaliConnChusetts."

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Recess

At twelve o'clock and fourteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Called to Order

At one o'clock and fifty-one minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order. Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended, All Remaining Stages of Passage; Third Reading; Bill Passed; Rules Suspended, Messaged to the Senate Forthwith

H. 890

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to delaying implementation of certain health insurance claims editing requirements

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration.

Rep. Black of Essex, for the Committee on Health Care, reported in favor of its passage.

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

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bill placed in all remaining stages of passage. The bill was read the third time and passed.

Thereupon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** the rules were suspended and the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 645

On motion of Rep. McCoy of Poultney, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to the expansion of approaches to restorative justice

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 110. Nays, 35.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford Dolan of Waitsfield Minier of South Burlington
Andriano of Orwell Duke of Burlington Morris of Springfield
Anthony of Barre City Durfee of Shaftsbury Morrissey of Bennington
Arrison of Weathersfield Elder of Starksboro Mrowicki of Putney

Arsenault of Williston Austin of Colchester Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Boyden of Cambridge Brady of Williston Brown of Richmond Brownell of Pownal Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro **Burrows of West Windsor** Buss of Woodstock 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 Conlon of Cornwall Corcoran of Bennington Cordes of Lincoln Demrow of Corinth Dodge of Essex

Emmons of Springfield Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Graning of Jericho Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Randolph Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington LaMont of Morristown Lanpher of Vergennes Leavitt of Grand Isle Lipsky of Stowe Logan of Burlington Long of Newfane Masland of Thetford McCann of Montpelier McCarthy of St. Albans City McGill of Bridport Mihaly of Calais

Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Pajala of Londonderry Patt of Worcester Pearl of Danville Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Sammis of Castleton Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Sibilia of Dover Sims of Craftsbury Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury Surprenant of Barnard Taylor of Colchester Templeman of Brownington Toleno of Brattleboro Torre of Moretown Troiano of Stannard Waters Evans of Charlotte White of Bethel Whitman of Bennington Williams of Barre City Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax
Beck of St. Johnsbury
Branagan of Georgia
Brennan of Colchester
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Clifford of Rutland City
Demar of Enosburgh
Dickinson of St. Albans
Town
Donahue of Northfield

Galfetti of Barre Town

Hango of Berkshire
Harrison of Chittenden
Higley of Lowell
Labor of Morgan
Laroche of Franklin
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Mattos of Milton

McCoy of Poultney

Goslant of Northfield

Gregoire of Fairfield

Graham of Williamstown

McFaun of Barre Town Morgan of Milton Oliver of Sheldon Page of Newport City Parsons of Newbury Peterson of Clarendon Quimby of Lyndon Shaw of Pittsford Taylor of Milton Toof of St. Albans Town Walker of Swanton Williams of Granby Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland Noyes of Wolcott Dolan of Essex Junction Smith of Derby

Stone of Burlington

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 706

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 114. Nays, 31.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford Andriano of Orwell Anthony of Barre City Arrison of Weathersfield Arsenault of Williston Austin of Colchester Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Brady of Williston Brown of Richmond Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro Burrows of West Windsor Buss of Woodstock 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

Durfee of Shaftsbury Elder of Starksboro Emmons of Springfield Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Galfetti of Barre Town Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Goslant of Northfield Graning of Jericho Harrison of Chittenden Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Randolph Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington

Mihaly of Calais Minier of South Burlington Morris of Springfield Morrissey of Bennington Mrowicki of Putney Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Page of Newport City Pajala of Londonderry Parsons of Newbury Patt of Worcester Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Sammis of Castleton * Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill Stebbins of Burlington Stevens of Waterbury

Christie of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Surprenant of Barnard
Cina of Burlington	Lanpher of Vergennes	Taylor of Colchester
Coffey of Guilford	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Templeman of Brownington
Cole of Hartford	Lipsky of Stowe	Toleno of Brattleboro
Conlon of Cornwall	Logan of Burlington	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	Long of Newfane	Troiano of Stannard *
Cordes of Lincoln	Marcotte of Coventry	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Demar of Enosburgh	Masland of Thetford	White of Bethel
Demrow of Corinth	McCann of Montpelier	Whitman of Bennington
Dodge of Essex	McCarthy of St. Albans	Williams of Barre City
Dolan of Waitsfield	City	Wood of Waterbury
Donahue of Northfield	McFaun of Barre Town	
Duke of Burlington	McGill of Bridport	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Graham of Williamstown	Pearl of Danville
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Gregoire of Fairfield	Peterson of Clarendon
Boyden of Cambridge	Hango of Berkshire	Quimby of Lyndon
Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Shaw of Pittsford
Brennan of Colchester	Labor of Morgan	Sibilia of Dover
Brownell of Pownal	Laroche of Franklin	Sims of Craftsbury
Burditt of West Rutland	Maguire of Rutland City	Taylor of Milton
Canfield of Fair Haven	Mattos of Milton	Toof of St. Albans Town
Clifford of Rutland City	McCoy of Poultney	Walker of Swanton
Dickinson of St. Albans	Morgan of Milton	Williams of Granby
Town	Oliver of Sheldon	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland	Noyes of Wolcott	Stone of Burlington
Dolan of Essex Junction	Smith of Derby	

Rep. Sammis of Castleton explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to support H.706, not just for the sake of pollinators, but for the long-term health of our food chain, entire ecosystems, and our State. It should also be noted the United States government approved DDT as 'safe' once upon a time, and we all know how that turned out. Not too well."

Rep Troiano of Stannard explained his vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

I have been a sponsor of four pollinator protection bills in my ten years here. Virtually every Vermonter I have ever spoken to about pollinators has favored this and all these bills. As one beekeeper put it, I am not a beekeeper, I am a bee buyer. The evidence is strong; neonics are damaging our pollinator population."

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Governor's Veto Overridden

H. 121

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House bill, entitled

An act relating to enhancing consumer privacy and the age-appropriate design code

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

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, the Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 128. Nays, 17.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford Andriano of Orwell Anthony of Barre City Arrison of Weathersfield Arsenault of Williston * Austin of Colchester Bartley of Fairfax Berbeco of Winooski Birong of Vergennes Black of Essex Bluemle of Burlington Bongartz of Manchester Bos-Lun of Westminster Boyden of Cambridge Brady of Williston Branagan of Georgia Brown of Richmond Brownell of Pownal Brumsted of Shelburne Burke of Brattleboro Burrows of West Windsor **Buss of Woodstock** Campbell of St. Johnsbury Carpenter of Hyde Park Carroll of Bennington Casey of Montpelier Chapin of East Montpelier Chase of Chester Chase of Colchester

Durfee of Shaftsbury Elder of Starksboro Emmons of Springfield Farlice-Rubio of Barnet Galfetti of Barre Town Garofano of Essex Goldman of Rockingham Graning of Jericho Gregoire of Fairfield Hango of Berkshire Harrison of Chittenden Headrick of Burlington Holcombe of Norwich Hooper of Randolph Hooper of Burlington Houghton of Essex Junction Howard of Rutland City Hyman of South Burlington James of Manchester Jerome of Brandon Kornheiser of Brattleboro Krasnow of South Burlington Krowinski of Burlington Labor of Morgan LaBounty of Lyndon Lalley of Shelburne LaLonde of South Burlington

LaMont of Morristown

Mihaly of Calais Minier of South Burlington Morgan of Milton Morris of Springfield Morrissey of Bennington Mrowicki of Putney Nicoll of Ludlow Notte of Rutland City Nugent of South Burlington O'Brien of Tunbridge Ode of Burlington Page of Newport City Pajala of Londonderry Parsons of Newbury Patt of Worcester Pearl of Danville Peterson of Clarendon Pouech of Hinesburg Priestley of Bradford Rachelson of Burlington Rice of Dorset Roberts of Halifax Sammis of Castleton Satcowitz of Randolph Scheu of Middlebury Sheldon of Middlebury Sibilia of Dover Sims of Craftsbury Small of Winooski Squirrell of Underhill

Chesnut-Tangerman of
Middletown Springs
Christie of Hartford
Cina of Burlington
Coffey of Guilford
Cole of Hartford
Conlon of Cornwall
Corcoran of Bennington
Cordes of Lincoln
Demar of Enosburgh
Demrow of Corinth
Dodge of Essex
Dolan of Waitsfield
Donahue of Northfield
Duke of Burlington

Lanpher of Vergennes
Laroche of Franklin
Leavitt of Grand Isle
Lipsky of Stowe
Logan of Burlington
Long of Newfane
Maguire of Rutland City
Marcotte of Coventry
Masland of Thetford
McCann of Montpelier
McCarthy of St. Albans
City
McFaun of Barre Town
McGill of Bridport

Stebbins of Burlington
Stevens of Waterbury
Surprenant of Barnard
Taylor of Milton
Taylor of Colchester
Templeman of Brownington
Toleno of Brattleboro
Torre of Moretown
Troiano of Stannard
Waters Evans of Charlotte
White of Bethel
Whitman of Bennington
Williams of Barre City
Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Beck of St. Johnsbury
Brennan of Colchester
Burditt of West Rutland
Canfield of Fair Haven
Clifford of Rutland City
Dickinson of St. Albans

Town Goslant of Northfield Graham of Williamstown Higley of Lowell Mattos of Milton McCoy of Poultney Oliver of Sheldon Quimby of Lyndon Shaw of Pittsford Toof of St. Albans Town Walker of Swanton Williams of Granby

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Bartholomew of Hartland Dolan of Essex Junction Noyes of Wolcott Smith of Derby Stone of Burlington

Rep. Arsenault of Williston explained her vote as follows:

"Madam Speaker:

The provisions in H.121 represent the least we can do <u>right now</u> to protect our kids from a wholly unregulated and predatory industry. I vote yes to place the health and safety of children before the false claims of financial peril from some in the business community."

Rules Suspended, Bills Messaged to Senate Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the following bills were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith:

H. 645

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the expansion of approaches to restorative justice

H. 706

House bill, entitled

An act relating to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

H. 121

House bill, entitled

An act relating to enhancing consumer privacy and the age-appropriate design code

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in with Further Proposal of Amendment Thereto; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

H. 81

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to fair repair of agricultural equipment

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

- (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds:
- (1) The Vermont food, agriculture, and forest sectors are significant components of the State's economy, its rural heritage, and its identity as a State.
- (A) According to the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, about 20 percent of Vermont's land is used for agriculture, while another 78 percent is forested. In surveys conducted by the Initiative, over 97 percent of Vermonters expressed that they value the working landscape.
- (B) The 2023 U.S. Food and Agriculture Industries Economic Impact Study found that the food and agriculture industries in Vermont were associated with nearly 104,000 jobs, \$5.2 billion in wages, and \$19.3 billion in economic output.
- (C) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund estimates that Vermont's forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs.
- (2) Agricultural and forestry activity varies by season, is weatherdependent, and is heavily reliant on having access to increasingly sophisticated agricultural and forestry equipment. Vermont farmers' and foresters' access to safe and reliable equipment is essential to timely planting, cultivating, tilling,

and harvesting of produce, protein, grain, timber, and other wood forest products.

- (3) The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the increased and ongoing need for functional agricultural and forestry equipment as individuals in Vermont increasingly rely on the equipment to guarantee access to food and wood products during periods of supply chain disruption, raw material and commodities shortages, and heightened food insecurity.
- (4) Authorized repair providers are important Vermont businesses that play a critical role for farmers and foresters by offering access to diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services for agricultural and forestry equipment.
- (5) In general, original equipment manufacturers and authorized repair providers are able to provide independent repair providers and owners with adequate access to necessary parts for agricultural and forestry equipment. However, in order to maintain complex safety and emissions systems, limitations on software-related repairs implemented by original equipment manufacturers have led to frustration for some customers.
- (6) Due to workforce, seasonal workload, and geographic constraints, authorized repair providers are not always able to meet the demand for timely diagnosis, maintenance, or repair services to farmers and foresters in this State.
- (7) As for many Vermont employers, critical workforce shortages prevent authorized repair providers from operating at full staff capacity, which can contribute to costly delays in performing diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services.
- (8) The need for more accessible and affordable repair options is felt more acutely among specific sectors of the population, notably Vermont residents in more rural and remote areas.
- (9) Original equipment manufacturer shops and authorized repair providers are sometimes not located close to owners or independent repair providers, which may require owners or independent repair providers to travel long distances for repair or to be without functioning agricultural or forestry equipment for longer periods of time.
- (10) Owners may be capable of performing their own diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services for their equipment.
- (11) Independent repair providers play a vital role in Vermont's economy. Providing access to information, parts, and diagnostic and repair tools is essential in contributing to a competitive repair market and allowing independent repair shop employees to fix equipment safely.

- (12) Extending the useful life and efficient operation of equipment may provide additional benefits for farmers, foresters, and the environment.
- (A) Computerized components of modern agricultural and forestry equipment include precious metals that are finite.
- (B) Emissions of agricultural and forestry equipment are better regulated and limited by functional software and hardware computer elements, thereby increasing the need for access to timely and effective repairs to ensure optimal functionality that is within the confines of federal regulatory limitations and existing technology needed to preserve intellectual property.
- (13) Broader distribution of the information, tools, and parts necessary to repair modern agricultural and forestry equipment may shorten repair times, lengthen the useful lives of the equipment, lower costs for users, and benefit the environment.
- (b) Purpose. The purpose of this act is to ensure equitable access to the parts, tools, and documentation that are necessary for independent repair providers and owners to perform timely repair of agricultural and forestry equipment in a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable manner.

Sec. 2. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the Fair Repair Act.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. chapter 106 is added to read:

<u>CHAPTER 106. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EQUIPMENT;</u> <u>FAIR REPAIR</u>

§ 4051. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Agricultural equipment" means a device, part of a device, or an attachment to a device used principally off road and designed solely for an agricultural purpose, including a tractor, trailer, or combine; implements for tillage, planting, or cultivation; and other equipment principally associated with livestock or crop production, horticulture, or floriculture.
- (2)(A) "Authorized repair provider" means an individual or business that has an arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer under which the original equipment manufacturer grants to the individual or business a license to use a trade name, service mark, or other proprietary identifier for the purposes of offering the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of equipment under the name of the original equipment manufacturer or other arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer to offer such services on behalf of the original equipment manufacturer.

- (B) An original equipment manufacturer that offers the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of its own equipment and that does not have an arrangement described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) with an unaffiliated individual or business shall be considered an authorized repair provider with respect to such equipment.
- (3) "Documentation" means any manual, diagram, reporting output, service code description, schematic diagram, security code, password, or other guidance or information, whether in an electronic or tangible format, to perform the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment.
- (4) "Forestry equipment" means nondivisible equipment, implements, accessories, and contrivances used principally off road and designed solely for harvesting timber or for on-site processing of wood forest products necessary to and associated with a logging operation.
- (5) "Independent repair provider" means a person operating in this State, either through a physical business location or through a mobile service that offers on-site repairs in the State, that does not have an arrangement described in subdivision (2) of this section with an original equipment manufacturer and that is engaged in the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment.
 - (6) "Memorandum of understanding" means an agreement that is:
 - (A) related to the right to repair of agricultural or forestry equipment;
 - (B) not legally binding; and
- (C) between the original equipment manufacturer and the American Farm Bureau Federation or similar organization that advocates on behalf of farmers or loggers.
- (7) "Original equipment manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise supplying new agricultural or forestry equipment manufactured by or on behalf of itself to any individual or business.
- (8) "Owner" means an individual or business that owns or leases agricultural or forestry equipment used in this State.
- (9) "Part" means any replacement part, either new or used, made available by an original equipment manufacturer for purposes of effecting the services of maintenance or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment manufactured by or on behalf of, sold or otherwise supplied by, the original equipment manufacturer.

- (10) "Repair" means to maintain, diagnose, or fix agricultural or forestry equipment resulting in the equipment being returned to its original equipment manufacturer specifications. "Repair" does not include the ability to:
- (A) modify from original equipment specifications the embedded software or code;
- (B) change any equipment or engine settings that negatively affect emissions or safety compliance; or
- (C) download or access the source code of any embedded software or code.
- (11) "Tools" means any software program, hardware implement, or other apparatus used for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment, including software or other mechanisms required to restore the product to its original manufacturer, including any updates.
- (12) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 1839.

§ 4052. AVAILABILITY OF PARTS, TOOLS, AND DOCUMENTATION

- (a) Duty to make available parts, tools, and documentation.
- (1) An original equipment manufacturer shall offer for sale or otherwise make available to an independent repair provider or owner the parts, tools, and documentation for diagnosis or repair.
- (2) If agricultural or forestry equipment includes an electronic security lock or other security-related function that must be unlocked, enabled, or disabled to perform diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the equipment, an original equipment manufacturer may require a secured authorization process in order to prevent access to the source code or infringement of intellectual property in software or hardware owned by the original equipment manufacturer or licensed to the original equipment manufacturer by a third party and subject to terms of use.
- (3) An original equipment manufacturer may satisfy its obligation to make parts, tools, and documentation available to an independent repair provider or owner through an authorized repair provider that consents to sell or make available parts, tools, or documentation on behalf of the manufacturer.
- (b) Terms; limitations. Under the terms governing the sale or provision of parts, tools, and documentation, an original equipment manufacturer shall not impose on an independent repair provider or owner an additional cost or burden that is not reasonably necessary within the ordinary course of business

- or is designed to be an impediment on the independent repair provider or owner, including:
- (1) a substantial obligation to use, or a restriction on the use of, the parts, tools, or documentation necessary to diagnose, maintain, or repair agricultural or forestry equipment;
- (2) a condition that the independent repair provider or owner become an authorized repair provider of the original equipment manufacturer; or
- (3) an additional burden or material change that adversely affects the timeliness or method of delivering parts, tools, or documentation.

§ 4053. ATTORNEY GENERAL ENFORCEMENT; NOTICE

- (a) A violation of this section shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, provided that no private right of action shall arise from the provisions of this act. The Attorney General has the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, and bring civil actions as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1.
- (b) The Attorney General shall be notified in writing by the original equipment manufacturer not later than 30 days after a memorandum of understanding expires or has been terminated, withdrawn, or canceled by an original equipment manufacturer subject to this chapter.

§ 4054. APPLICATION; LIMITATIONS

- (a) This chapter does not require an original equipment manufacturer to divulge a trade secret to an owner or an independent repair provider.
- (b) This chapter does not alter the terms of any arrangement described in subdivision 4051(2)(A) of this title in force between an authorized repair provider and an original equipment manufacturer, including the performance or provision of warranty or recall repair work by an authorized repair provider on behalf of an original equipment manufacturer pursuant to such arrangement, except that any provision governing such an arrangement that purports to waive, avoid, restrict, or limit the original equipment manufacturer's obligations to comply with this chapter is void and unenforceable.
- (c) This chapter does not alter the terms of a lease of agricultural or forestry equipment between an owner and another person.
 - (d) An independent repair provider or owner shall not:

- (1) modify agricultural or forestry equipment to temporarily deactivate safety notification systems, except as necessary to provide diagnosis, maintenance, or repair services;
- (2) access any function of a tool that enables the independent repair provider or owner to change the settings for a piece of agricultural or forestry equipment in a manner that brings the equipment out of compliance with the original manufacturer specifications or any applicable federal, state, or local safety or emissions laws; or
- (3) obtain or use parts, tools, or documentation to evade or violate emissions, copyright, trademark, or patent laws or to engage in any other illegal activity.
- (e) Original equipment manufacturers and authorized repair providers are not liable for faulty or otherwise improper repairs completed by independent repair providers or owners, including repairs that cause:
- (1) damage to agricultural or forestry equipment that occurs during such repairs; and
- (2) an inability to use, or the reduced functionality of, agricultural or forestry equipment resulting from the faulty or otherwise improper repair.
- (f) In the event that federal law preempts part of the activity regulated by this chapter, this chapter shall be construed to regulate activity that has not been preempted.
- (g) This chapter shall not apply to an original equipment manufacturer that has entered into a memorandum of understanding that substantially incorporates the provisions of this chapter. In the event that a memorandum of understanding expires or is terminated, withdrawn, or canceled, the original equipment manufacturer shall be required to comply with all provisions of this chapter no later than 30 days upon such termination, withdrawal, cancellation, or expiration.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, Reps. Templeman of Brownington, Priestley of Bradford, Carroll of Bennington, Chase of Chester, Cole of Hartford, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Graning of Jericho, Jerome of Brandon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Marcotte of Coventry, Nicoll of Ludlow, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Pearl of Danville, Rice of Dorset, Sammis of Castleton, Surprenant of Barnard, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City moved that the House concur in the Senate the proposal of amendment

with further proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

- (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds:
- (1) The Vermont food, agriculture, and forest sectors are significant components of the State's economy, its rural heritage, and its identity as a State.
- (A) According to the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative, about 20 percent of Vermont's land is used for agriculture, while another 78 percent is forested. In surveys conducted by the Initiative, over 97 percent of Vermonters expressed that they value the working landscape.
- (B) The 2023 U.S. Food and Agriculture Industries Economic Impact Study found that the food and agriculture industries in Vermont were associated with nearly 104,000 jobs, \$5.2 billion in wages, and \$19.3 billion in economic output.
- (C) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund estimates that Vermont's forest products industry generates an annual economic output of \$1.4 billion and supports 10,500 jobs.
- (2) Agricultural and forestry activity varies by season, is weather-dependent, and is heavily reliant on having access to increasingly sophisticated agricultural and forestry equipment. Vermont farmers' and foresters' access to safe and reliable equipment is essential to timely planting, cultivating, tilling, and harvesting of produce, protein, grain, timber, and other wood forest products.
- (3) The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the increased and ongoing need for functional agricultural and forestry equipment as individuals in Vermont increasingly rely on the equipment to guarantee access to food and wood products during periods of supply chain disruption, raw material and commodities shortages, and heightened food insecurity.
- (4) Authorized repair providers are important Vermont businesses that play a critical role for farmers and foresters by offering access to diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services for agricultural and forestry equipment.
- (5) In general, original equipment manufacturers and authorized repair providers are able to provide independent repair providers and owners with adequate access to necessary parts for agricultural and forestry equipment. However, in order to maintain complex safety and emissions systems, limitations on software-related repairs implemented by original equipment manufacturers have led to frustration for some customers.

- (6) Due to workforce, seasonal workload, and geographic constraints, authorized repair providers are not always able to meet the demand for timely diagnosis, maintenance, or repair services to farmers and foresters in this State.
- (7) As for many Vermont employers, critical workforce shortages prevent authorized repair providers from operating at full staff capacity, which can contribute to costly delays in performing diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services.
- (8) The need for more accessible and affordable repair options is felt more acutely among specific sectors of the population, notably Vermont residents in more rural and remote areas.
- (9) Original equipment manufacturer shops and authorized repair providers are sometimes not located close to owners or independent repair providers, which may require owners or independent repair providers to travel long distances for repair or to be without functioning agricultural or forestry equipment for longer periods of time.
- (10) Owners may be capable of performing their own diagnosis, maintenance, and repair services for their equipment.
- (11) Independent repair providers play a vital role in Vermont's economy. Providing access to information, parts, and diagnostic and repair tools is essential in contributing to a competitive repair market and allowing independent repair shop employees to fix equipment safely.
- (12) Extending the useful life and efficient operation of equipment may provide additional benefits for farmers, foresters, and the environment.
- (A) Computerized components of modern agricultural and forestry equipment include precious metals that are finite.
- (B) Emissions of agricultural and forestry equipment are better regulated and limited by functional software and hardware computer elements, thereby increasing the need for access to timely and effective repairs to ensure optimal functionality that is within the confines of federal regulatory limitations and existing technology needed to preserve intellectual property.
- (13) Broader distribution of the information, tools, and parts necessary to repair modern agricultural and forestry equipment may shorten repair times, lengthen the useful lives of the equipment, lower costs for users, and benefit the environment.
- (b) Purpose. The purpose of this act is to ensure equitable access to the parts, tools, and documentation that are necessary for independent repair providers and owners to perform timely repair of agricultural and forestry equipment in a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable manner.

Sec. 2. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the Fair Repair Act.

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. chapter 106 is added to read:

CHAPTER 106. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EQUIPMENT;

FAIR REPAIR

§ 4051. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Agricultural equipment" means a device, part of a device, or an attachment to a device used principally off road and designed solely for an agricultural purpose, including a tractor, trailer, or combine; implements for tillage, planting, or cultivation; and other equipment principally associated with livestock or crop production, horticulture, or floriculture.
- (2)(A) "Authorized repair provider" means an individual or business that has an arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer under which the original equipment manufacturer grants to the individual or business a license to use a trade name, service mark, or other proprietary identifier for the purposes of offering the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of equipment under the name of the original equipment manufacturer or other arrangement with the original equipment manufacturer to offer such services on behalf of the original equipment manufacturer.
- (B) An original equipment manufacturer that offers the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of its own equipment and that does not have an arrangement described in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) with an unaffiliated individual or business shall be considered an authorized repair provider with respect to such equipment.
- (3) "Documentation" means any manual, diagram, reporting output, service code description, schematic diagram, security code, password, or other guidance or information, whether in an electronic or tangible format, used to perform the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment.
- (4) "Forestry equipment" means nondivisible equipment, implements, accessories, and contrivances used principally off road and designed solely for harvesting timber or for on-site processing of wood forest products necessary to and associated with a logging operation.
- (5) "Independent repair provider" means a person operating in this State, either through a physical business location or through a mobile service that offers on-site repairs in the State, that does not have an arrangement

described in subdivision (2) of this section with an original equipment manufacturer and that is engaged in the services of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment.

- (6) "Memorandum of understanding" means an agreement that is:
 - (A) related to the right to repair of agricultural or forestry equipment;
 - (B) not legally binding; and
- (C) between the original equipment manufacturer and the American Farm Bureau Federation or similar organization that advocates on behalf of farmers or loggers.
- (7) "Original equipment manufacturer" means a person engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or otherwise supplying new agricultural or forestry equipment manufactured by or on behalf of itself to any individual or business.
- (8) "Owner" means an individual or business that owns or leases agricultural or forestry equipment used in this State.
- (9) "Part" means any replacement part, either new or used, made available by an original equipment manufacturer for purposes of effecting the services of maintenance or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment manufactured by or on behalf of, sold or otherwise supplied by, the original equipment manufacturer.
- (10) "Repair" means to maintain, diagnose, or fix agricultural or forestry equipment, resulting in the equipment being restored to its fully functional condition, including any updates. "Repair" does not include the ability to:
- (A) permanently modify from original equipment specifications the embedded software or code;
- (B) permanently change any equipment or engine settings that negatively affect emissions or safety compliance; or
- (C) download or access the source code of any embedded software or code, unless doing so is required to restore the equipment to its fully functional condition, including any updates.
- (11) "Tools" means any software program, hardware implement, or other apparatus used for diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of agricultural or forestry equipment, including software or other mechanisms that provision, program, or pair a new part; calibrate functionality; or perform any other function required to bring the product back to fully functional condition, including any updates.

(12) "Trade secret" has the same meaning as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 1839.

§ 4052. AVAILABILITY OF PARTS, TOOLS, AND DOCUMENTATION

- (a) Duty to make available parts, tools, and documentation.
- (1) An original equipment manufacturer shall offer for sale or otherwise make available to an independent repair provider or owner the parts, tools, and documentation that the original equipment manufacturer offers for sale or otherwise makes available to an authorized repair provider.
- (2) If agricultural or forestry equipment includes an electronic security lock or other security-related function that must be unlocked, enabled, or disabled to perform diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the equipment, an original equipment manufacturer shall make available to an independent repair provider or owner any parts, tools, and documentation necessary to unlock or disable the function and to reset the lock or function after the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair is complete.
- (3) An original equipment manufacturer may satisfy its obligation to make parts, tools, and documentation available to an independent repair provider or owner through an authorized repair provider that consents to sell or make available parts, tools, or documentation on behalf of the manufacturer.
- (b) Terms; limitations. Under the terms governing the sale or provision of parts, tools, and documentation, an original equipment manufacturer shall not impose on an independent repair provider or owner an additional cost or burden that is not reasonably necessary within the ordinary course of business or is designed to be an impediment on the independent repair provider or owner, including:
- (1) a substantial obligation to use, or a restriction on the use of, the parts, tools, or documentation necessary to diagnose, maintain, or repair agricultural or forestry equipment;
- (2) a condition that the independent repair provider or owner become an authorized repair provider of the original equipment manufacturer;
- (3) a requirement that a part, tool, or documentation be registered, paired with, or approved by the original equipment manufacturer or an authorized repair provider before the part, tool, or documentation is operational; or
- (4) an additional burden or material change that adversely affects the timeliness or method of delivering parts, tools, or documentation.

§ 4053. ATTORNEY GENERAL ENFORCEMENT; NOTICE

- (a) A person who violates a provision of this chapter commits an unfair and deceptive act in trade and commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.
- (b) The Attorney General has the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, enter into assurances of discontinuance, and bring civil actions as provided under chapter 63, subchapter 1 of this title.
- (c) The Attorney General shall be notified in writing by the original equipment manufacturer not later than 30 days after a memorandum of understanding expires or has been terminated, withdrawn, or canceled by an original equipment manufacturer subject to this chapter.

§ 4054. APPLICATION; LIMITATIONS

- (a) This chapter does not require an original equipment manufacturer to divulge a trade secret to an owner or an independent repair provider.
- (b) This chapter does not alter the terms of any arrangement described in subdivision 4051(2)(A) of this title in force between an authorized repair provider and an original equipment manufacturer, including the performance or provision of warranty or recall repair work by an authorized repair provider on behalf of an original equipment manufacturer pursuant to such arrangement, except that any provision governing such an arrangement that purports to waive, avoid, restrict, or limit the original equipment manufacturer's obligations to comply with this chapter is void and unenforceable.
- (c) This chapter does not alter the terms of a lease of agricultural or forestry equipment between an owner and another person.
 - (d) An independent repair provider or owner shall not:
- (1) modify agricultural or forestry equipment to temporarily deactivate safety notification systems, except as necessary to provide diagnosis, maintenance, or repair services;
- (2) access any function of a tool, excluding a tool strictly needed for a software update or to correct a defect or safety issue, that enables the independent repair provider or owner to change the settings for a piece of agricultural or forestry equipment in a manner that brings the equipment out of compliance with the original manufacturer specifications or any applicable federal, state, or local safety or emissions laws; or

- (3) obtain or use parts, tools, or documentation to evade or violate emissions, copyright, trademark, or patent laws or to engage in any other illegal activity.
- (e) Original equipment manufacturers and authorized repair providers are not liable for faulty or otherwise improper repairs completed by independent repair providers or owners, including repairs that cause:
- (1) damage to agricultural or forestry equipment that occurs during such repairs; and
- (2) an inability to use, or the reduced functionality of, agricultural or forestry equipment resulting from the faulty or otherwise improper repair.
- (f) In the event that federal law preempts part of the activity regulated by this chapter, this chapter shall be construed to regulate activity that has not been preempted.
- (g) If an original equipment manufacturer is a party to a memorandum of understanding:
- (1) the original equipment manufacturer is still obligated to meet the requirements established in this chapter; and
- (2) the memorandum of understanding may be used, subject to the provisions set forth in this chapter, to establish the processes and procedures for an independent repair provider or owner to repair agricultural or forestry equipment.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the House concurred in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal thereto.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

J.R.S. 57

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 57. Joint resolution relating to compensation of Members of the General Assembly during the remainder of the 2024 Adjourned Session.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That notwithstanding the provisions of 32 V.S.A. §§ 1051(a)(1) and 1052(a)(1) providing for a weekly rate of compensation, commencing June 17, 2024, Members of the General Assembly shall be entitled to compensation for services equal to a daily rate of one-fourth of the annually adjusted weekly compensation set forth in sections 1051(a)(1) and 1052(a)(1) and reimbursement for expenses at the daily rate established in sections 1051(a)(3) and 1052(b) of Title 32 for each day on which their respective houses shall sit and the member attends for the remainder of the 2024 Adjourned Session, except that no member shall receive compensation for more than four days in any week.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the resolution were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the following bill passed by the House and Senate was ordered to be delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

H. 55

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous unemployment insurance amendments

Recess

At three o'clock and eighteen minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

Message from the Senate No. 79

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 considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 687. An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

The Senate has on its part considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 887. An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

The Senate has on its part considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 289. An act relating to the Renewable Energy Standard.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

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

H. 890. An act relating to delaying implementation of certain health insurance claims editing requirements.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

Called to Order

At four o'clock and thirty-eight minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Bill Ordered Delivered to Governor Forthwith

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the following bill passed by the House and Senate was ordered to be delivered to the Governor forthwith pursuant to Joint Rule 15.

H. 890

House bill, entitled

An act relating to delaying implementation of certain health insurance claims editing requirements

Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development Appointment

Pursuant to 2024, Act 146, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Expansion and Development:

Rep. Marcotte of Coventry

Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families Appointments

Pursuant to Act No. 207 of 2018, Sec. 1, the Speaker appointed the following members of the Advisory Council on Child Poverty and Strengthening Families:

Rep. McGill of Bridport Rep. Branagan of Georgia

Joint Resolution Adopted; Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith

J.R.H. 12

Joint House resolution, entitled

By Representatives Long of Newfane, McCoy of Poultney, and Small of Winooski,

J.R.H. 12. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2024.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate adjourn their respective Houses on the seventeenth or eighteenth day of June 2024, they be adjourned *sine die*.

Was taken up, read, and adopted on the part of the House.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the resolution were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Senate Notified of Completion of House Business

Rep. Long of Newfane moved that the House direct the Clerk to inform the Senate that the House has completed the business of the Biennial Session and is ready to adjourn *sine die* pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 12, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

At four o'clock and forty-three minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Long of Newfane**, the House adjourned pursuant to the provisions of J.R.H. 12.

FINAL MESSAGES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Message from the Senate No. 80

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 considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 72. An act relating to a harm-reduction criminal justice response to drug use.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

The Senate has on its part considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 645. An act relating to the expansion of approaches to restorative justice.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

The Senate has on its part considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 706. An act relating to banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

And has passed the same, the refusal of the Governor to approve notwithstanding.

The Senate has on its part considered the Governor's veto of a House bill of the following title:

H. 121. An act relating to enhancing consumer privacy and the age-appropriate design code.

And has sustained such veto.

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

J.R.H. 12. Joint resolution relating to final adjournment of the General Assembly in 2024.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

MEMBERS APPOINTED AFTER FINAL ADJOURNMENT

Agricultural Worker Labor and Employment Laws Study Committee Appointments

Pursuant to 2024, Act No. 117 (S.102), Sec. 3, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Agricultural Worker Labor and Employment Laws Study Committee:

Rep. Bartley of Fairfax

Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs

Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury

Rep. Surprenant of Barnard

Commission on the Future of Public Education Appointments

Pursuant to 2024, Act No. 183 (H.887), Sec. 1, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Commission on the Future of Public Education:

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall