



JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

The House of Representatives was called to order at 6:31 o'clock p.m., in accordance with the provisions of House Rule 50, and under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Leader.

Prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Ann M. Clark of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

The following is the prayer:

Let us pray. Lord, awaken our hearts with Your presence. Help guide us to do what is best for the citizens of Connecticut. Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ann M. Clark of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House of Representatives was called to order, by the Office of the House Clerk under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Leader.

It was moved that the House agenda dated Tuesday, April 20, 2021 be adopted, and the items on said agenda - illustrating Business on the Clerk's desk - were acted upon as indicated, and the matters contained in the agenda were incorporated by reference into the House Journal and the House Transcript.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CIVIL PREPAREDNESS EMERGENCIES

The following declaration was received from His Excellency, the Governor, on the date indicated, read by the Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal.

April 19, 2021

The Honorable Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

Frederick J. Jortner
Clerk of the State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06016

Michael Jefferson
Clerk of the State Senate

State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06016

RE: Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies

Dear Secretary Merrill and Clerks of the General Assembly:

On March 10, 2020, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that was affecting multiple countries and states and had resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and surrounding states, as well as resulting shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness, and in order to provide me and other appropriate officials with all authorities necessary to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and protect public safety within the State of Connecticut, I declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State, pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Those states of emergency were to remain in effect through September 9, 2020.

On September 1, 2020, in anticipation of the expiration of those states of emergency and in recognition of continued and newly emerging threats to public health and safety and civil preparedness posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I renewed the March 10, 2020 declarations and declared new public health and civil preparedness emergencies through February 9, 2021.

On January 26, 2021, again in anticipation of the expiration of those states of emergency and in recognition of the continued threats and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the need to pursue a vigorous vaccination campaign and continue to provide health care and economic relief the Connecticut's citizens, I again renewed the emergency declarations and declared new public health and civil preparedness emergencies until April 20, 2021.

Since I declared and renewed those public health and civil preparedness emergencies, and due in no small part to the orders I have issued pursuant to those declarations, Connecticut has made significant progress in responding to COVID-19 and mitigating its devastating public health and economic effects. Since my January declarations, I have directed my staff to work with state agencies, business and community leaders, and legislative leaders and staff to review the existing declarations and assess all currently active executive orders to determine their continued necessity. While my staff has identified scores of executive orders that may safely be allowed to expire on April 20, for a reduction by more than 60 percent from currently active orders, this review has made apparent that many of the orders currently in effect remain essential to the state's civil preparedness and public health. COVID-19 remains a global pandemic, capable of spreading quickly within our state. While our vaccination effort currently continues to lead the country in many respects, an effective mass vaccination program and an adequate response to the continued public health threats and economic impacts of the pandemic require that I retain all of the flexibility and resources that the declared states of emergency provide. As was true in January, the risks to public health and to our state's economy would be heightened substantially if the existing emergencies expired as scheduled on April 20.

As a result, in March 2021 the General Assembly passed, and I signed into law, Special Act 21-2, which ratified my previous declarations and explicitly authorized me to renew such declarations through May 20, 2021 and exercise all authorities granted by Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Therefore, for the same reasons I declared emergencies on March 10 and declared new and renewed emergencies on September 1 and January 26 pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the General Statutes, I am renewing the existing public health emergency and civil preparedness emergencies throughout the state.

In addition, I will be required in the coming months to respond to a number of continuing public health and civil preparedness risks. Among many other things, I will need to continue to administer a mass vaccination program, respond to the potential threat posed by new and more infectious variants of the disease, and manage an orderly and safe resumption of more business, governmental, and community activities. As I did in September and January, out of an abundance of caution and to eliminate any confusion about the extent of my emergency powers to address the many risks and concerns that will arise in the coming months and did not constitute clear justifications for the original emergencies I declared in March of 2020 and again in September 2020 and January of 2021, and pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby declare that new states of public health and civil preparedness emergency exist throughout the State.

These new and renewed states of emergency shall run concurrently and remain in effect through May 20, 2021, unless earlier terminated by me. The Department of Public Health, along with municipal and district health departments, as well as multiple other state agencies in supporting roles, are responding to these renewed public health and civil preparedness emergencies. As I did at the time I declared and renewed the public health and civil preparedness emergencies on March 10, September 1, and January 26, and in accordance with Section 19a-131a (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby authorize and direct the Commissioner of Public Health to delegate the powers regarding isolation or quarantine to municipal and district directors of public health, while concurrently retaining such authority.

Orders regarding additional measures to protect public health and safety and ensure the state's civil preparedness will follow as I determine to be necessary.

I am filing this declaration with you under my hand and seal on this 19th day of April, 2021.

NED LAMONT
Governor

**FAVORABLE REPORTS OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES
HOUSE BILLS**

The following House Bills were received from the committees indicated, the bills read the second time and tabled for the Calendar and printing:

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Substitute for H.B. No. 6103 (RAISED) (File No. 527) AN ACT CONCERNING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PROPERTY USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

ENVIRONMENT. Substitute for H.B. No. 6503 (RAISED) (File No. 528) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITIES ON FARMS.

ENVIRONMENT. Substitute for H.B. No. 6551 (RAISED) (File No. 529) AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Substitute for H.B. No. 6609 (RAISED) (File No. 530) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO FILE FOR A CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTION.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. Substitute for H.B. No. 6642 (RAISED) (File No. 531) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF ACCESS TO MUNICIPAL-OWNED BEACHES AND PARKS ADJACENT TO MARINE OR TIDAL WATERS.

ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to House Rule 50, the House adjourned at 6:33 o'clock p.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.