

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 4

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

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

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

J.R.S. 36. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 12, 2024.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 5 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

PROPOSAL 5

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont in order to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to a clean environment.

Sec. 2. Article 23 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 23. [Right to a clean environment]

That the people have a right to clean air and water and the preservation of the natural, scenic, and cultural values of the environment. The State of Vermont's natural resources are the common property of all the people. The State shall conserve and maintain the natural resources of Vermont for the benefit of all people.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in this proposal shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 255.

By Senator Watson,

An act relating to equity and public access at the Public Utility Commission.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 256.

By Senators Williams, Collamore, Gulick, Hashim, Norris and Weeks,

An act relating to Department of Motor Vehicles credentials and number plates with veteran designations.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 257.

By Senators Vyhovsky, Baruth, Clarkson, Gulick, Hardy, McCormack, Ram Hinsdale, Watson and White,

An act relating to secondary enforcement of certain motor vehicle violations.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 258.

By Senators Bray, Hardy, McCormack and White,

An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 259.

By Senators Watson, Sears, Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, White and Wrenner,

An act relating to climate change cost recovery.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 260.

By Senators Watson, Clarkson, Hardy and Vyhovsky,

An act relating to replacing State-owned impervious surface in floodplains.

To the Committee on Institutions.

S. 261.

By Senators Campion, Lyons and Sears,

An act relating to liability for the release of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 262.

By Senator Campion,

An act relating to the intentional release of balloons.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

By Reps. Branagan and others,

By Senators Brock and Norris,

H.C.R. 132.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' softball team on its exciting, undefeated season.

By Reps. Masland and Holcombe,

By Senators MacDonald, Clarkson, McCormack and White,

H.C.R. 133.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Thetford Academy Panthers' Division III baseball championship team.

By Reps. Dolan and Houghton,

H.C.R. 134.

House concurrent resolution in memory of youth mental health care leader Margaret Atkins Reilly Gannaway.

By Reps. Morgan and others,

By Senator Wrenner,

H.C.R. 135.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Milton High School Division II Yellowjackets on winning the school's 17th girls' soccer state championship.

Message from the House No. 5

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

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 27. An act relating to coercive controlling behavior and abuse prevention orders.

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

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

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 132. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Georgia Elementary and Middle School Chargers seventh- and eighth-grade girls' softball team on its exciting, undefeated season.

H.C.R. 133. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Thetford Academy Panthers' Division III baseball championship team.

H.C.R. 134. House concurrent resolution in memory of youth mental health care leader Margaret Atkins Reilly Gannaway.

H.C.R. 135. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Milton High School Division II Yellowjackets on winning the school's 17th girls' soccer state championship.

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

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 36.