

Journal of the House

Friday, January 5, 2024

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Mollie Burke of Brattleboro.

Memorial Service

House members rose as the Speaker placed before the House the following names of members of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

Rep. Louvenia Dorsey Bright of South Burlington	Member of the House, Sessions 1989-1994
Rep. John C. "Jack" Candon of Norwich	Member of the House, Sessions 1983-1986
Rep. Mark J. Candon of Proctor	Member of the House, Sessions 1981-1984
Rep. Betty C. Ferraro of Rutland City	Member of the House, Sessions 1991-1992
Rep. Betty A. Nuovo of Middlebury	Member of the House, Sessions 1981-1990 and 1997-2016
Rep. Albert E. "Chuck" Pearce of Richford	Member of the House, Sessions 2009-2018
Rep. Connie N. Quimby of Concord	Member of the House, Sessions 2013-2020

Thereupon, the members of the House held a moment of silence in memory of the deceased members.

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of House bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee as follows:

H. 651

By Reps. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, and Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation and an annual supervision and regulation report

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 652

By Rep. Bongartz of Manchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to updates to the HOME Act

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 653

By Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Burke of Brattleboro, and Goldman of Rockingham,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting facility fees for certain hospital outpatient department services

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 654

By Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Christie of Hartford, and Small of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to recognition of foreign laws concerning parental rights and legally protected health care

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 655

By Reps. Dolan of Essex Junction, Christie of Hartford, LaLonde of South Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to qualifying offenses for sealing criminal history records and access to sealed criminal history records

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 656

By Reps. Burrows of West Windsor, Stone of Burlington, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a right to repair powered wheelchairs

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 657

By Reps. Sims of Craftsbury, Anthony of Barre City, and Masland of Thetford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the modernization of Vermont's communications taxes and fees

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 658

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry and Jerome of Brandon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 659

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry and Jerome of Brandon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 660

By Rep. Peterson of Clarendon,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to youth sports in Vermont
To the Committee on Education.

H. 661

By Reps. Stebbins of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to child abuse and neglect investigation and substantiation standards and procedures
To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 662

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry and Page of Newport City,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the merger of entities that hold separate alcoholic beverage licenses
To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 663

By Rep. Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to requiring payment of the prevailing wage for State-funded storm repair and climate change mitigation projects
To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 664

By Reps. Bos-Lun of Westminster, Berbeco of Winooski, Brumsted of Shelburne, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Goldman of Rockingham, Labor of Morgan, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Stebbins of Burlington, and Waters Evans of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to designating a State Mushroom

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 665

By Reps. Holcombe of Norwich, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Goldman of Rockingham, and Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Green Mountain Care Board's regulatory duties and hospital budget reviews

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 666

By Reps. Harrison of Chittenden, Burditt of West Rutland, Buss of Woodstock, Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clifford of Rutland City, Dolan of Waitsfield, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Maguire of Rutland City, McCoy of Poultney, Sammis of Castleton, and Shaw of Pittsford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to escrow deposit bonds

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 667

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier, Anthony of Barre City, Birong of Vergennes, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Chase of Chester, Christie of Hartford, Coffey of Guilford, Elder of Starksboro, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, LaBounty of Lyndon, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Nugent of South Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Rice of Dorset, Sammis of Castleton, Troiano of Stannard, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 668

By Reps. Stebbins of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Torre of Moretown, Anthony of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cole of Hartford, Headrick of Burlington, Hyman of South Burlington, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Sims of Craftsbury, Templeman of Brownington, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Low-Income Electric Ratepayer Protection Act

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 669

By Reps. Stebbins of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Torre of Moretown, Anthony of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cole of Hartford, Headrick of Burlington, Hyman of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Pouech of Hinesburg, Sims of Craftsbury, Templeman of Brownington, and Troiano of Stannard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to thermal energy networks

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 670

By Reps. Harrison of Chittenden, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Clifford of Rutland City, Howard of Rutland City, Jerome of Brandon, Maguire of Rutland City, McCoy of Poultney, Peterson of Clarendon, Sammis of Castleton, and Shaw of Pittsford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the scope and enforcement of bail and conditions of release

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 671

By Reps. Wilson of Lyndon, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland, Clifford of Rutland City, Lipsky of Stowe, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon, Sammis of Castleton, and Smith of Derby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the Affordable Heat Act and Global Warming Solutions Act

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 672

By Rep. Harrison of Chittenden,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to work search requirements for individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 673

By Reps. Rice of Dorset, Sims of Craftsbury, Anthony of Barre City, Boyden of Cambridge, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Jerome of Brandon, LaBounty of Lyndon, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Nugent of South Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, Roberts of Halifax, Surprenant of Barnard, Templeman of Brownington, Torre of Moretown, and Williams of Granby,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's outdoor recreation economy

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 674

By Reps. Templeman of Brownington, Anthony of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dolan of Waitsfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Headrick of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, McGill of Bridport, Page of Newport City, Priestley of Bradford, Roberts of Halifax, Sims of Craftsbury, Stebbins of Burlington, and Surprenant of Barnard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to regulation of septage and other materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

H. 675

By Reps. Bos-Lun of Westminster, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Lincoln, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Stebbins of Burlington, and Surprenant of Barnard,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to issuing grants for permanent supportive housing

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 676

By Rep. Mihaly of Calais,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for coronary artery calcium testing for individuals with chronic high cholesterol

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 677

By Rep. Buss of Woodstock,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to providing positions and funding to support statewide student support systems

To the Committee on Education.

H. 678

By Reps. Jerome of Brandon, Carroll of Bennington, Marcotte of Coventry, Priestley of Bradford, White of Bethel, and Williams of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to utilization of first responders in emergency management

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 679

By Rep. Stevens of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a property tax surcharge and allocation of property transfer tax revenue

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 680

By Reps. Dolan of Waitsfield, Birong of Vergennes, and Jerome of Brandon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding access to special venue serving permits

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 681

By Rep. Pajala of Londonderry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to home-delivered meals as a Medicaid covered service

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 682

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Education Equity Team Pilot Project and report

To the Committee on Education.

Joint Resolution Adopted in Concurrence**J.R.S. 34**

By Senator Kitchel,

J.R.S. 34. Joint resolution to provide for a Joint Assembly to hear the budget message of the Governor.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at one o'clock in the afternoon to receive the budget message of the Governor.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 13

Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland spoke for the Committee on Rules.

House resolution, entitled

House resolution authorizing limited remote committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2024

Was taken up and adopted.

Joint Resolution Adopted

J.R.H. 7

Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland spoke for the Committee on Rules.

Joint House resolution, entitled

Joint resolution authorizing limited remote joint committee voting through the remainder of calendar year 2024

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

Joint Resolution Adopted

J.R.H. 8

Joint House resolution, entitled

Joint resolution providing for an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of Sergeant at Arms

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

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 649

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury moved that the Committee on General and Housing be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Truth and Reconciliation Commission

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, which was agreed to.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and
Bill Committed to Other Committee**

H. 105

Rep. McCarthy of St. Albans City moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Ways and Means, which was agreed to.

Message from the Senate No. 3

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 concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 128. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments.

H.C.R. 129. House concurrent resolution designating September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 130. House concurrent resolution honoring Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro.

H.C.R. 131. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Division I Colchester High School Lakers championship girls' soccer team.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and six minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 31.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 128

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Kenneth Gragg for his exemplary career accomplishments

H.C.R. 129

House concurrent resolution designating September 26, 2024 as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 130

House concurrent resolution honoring Richard DeGray for his dedication to the botanical beautification of Brattleboro

H.C.R. 131

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Division I Colchester High School Lakers championship girls' soccer team

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2024 Adjourned Session.]