

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. James Gregoire of Fairfield.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Addison Blanchard of Reading led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

S. 159

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the County and Regional Governance Study Committee
To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 285

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to law enforcement interrogation policies
To the Committee on Judiciary.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 164

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Morgan of Milton, Hango of Berkshire, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Graham of Williamstown, Gregoire of Fairfield, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Maguire of Rutland City, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Nugent of South Burlington, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon,

Sims of Craftsbury, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Williams of Granby

Whereas, many Americans and Vermonters may not be aware that there are more than 1.6 million children of U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, family pressures are magnified for children who remain stateside when a parent is deployed abroad, and the children of the approximately 1,000 Vermont National Guard personnel who may be deployed over the course of a year experience this disruption firsthand, and

Whereas, military children's frequent relocation and corresponding lack of long-term community stability present them with an unwelcome distraction, and

Whereas, in 1986, the U.S. Department of Defense first designated April as the Month of the Military Child, and this annual event is part of a year-round initiative that brightens and improves these children's lives, and

Whereas, related programs include the national Military Kids Connect, partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H Clubs, and Sesame Street for Military Families, as well as many local activities that offices such as the Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services administer, and

Whereas, as part of this special month, April 17, 2024 will be Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, an opportunity for Americans to show solidarity with military families by wearing purple, a color that symbolizes all branches of the military, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2024 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard Office of Child & Youth Services.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 1, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 193

House concurrent resolution honoring Steve Mason for his dedicated and superb leadership of the Lowell School Board and the North Country Supervisory Union Board

Offered by: Representatives Higley of Lowell, Labor of Morgan, Marcotte of Coventry, Page of Newport City, and Smith of Derby

Offered by: Senators Ingalls and Starr

Whereas, an example of an ideal school board member and leader is Steve Mason of Lowell, whose long service on both local and supervisory union panels has won much praise, and

Whereas, school board service requires a special commitment to the governance and improvement of local public schools and an ability to meet the needs of students, teachers, parents, and the broader taxpaying community, and

Whereas, longevity in school board leadership roles is becoming increasingly unusual, given that the important issues confronting school boards are subject to intense public scrutiny, and

Whereas, Steve Mason chaired the Lowell School Board for 19 years (2005–2024), the North Country Supervisory Union Board for eight years (2014–2022), and the North Country Supervisory Union Policy Committee for 17 years (2005-2022), and

Whereas, he has always been passionate about students being engaged learners with rigorous instruction that transcends the classroom, and

Whereas, Steve Mason has worked tirelessly to develop fiscally responsible district and supervisory union budgets for voter approval, while simultaneously proposing the best possible available curriculum and education opportunities, and

Whereas, the Lowell School’s students, teachers, administrators, and support staff will miss Steve Mason’s knowledge and wisdom and his unique ability to ask thought provoking questions, encouraging everyone, always, regardless of age, to do his or her best, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Steve Mason for his dedicated and superb leadership of the Lowell School Board and the North Country Supervisory Union Board, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Steve Mason.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 29, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Recess

At ten o'clock and twenty-nine minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At one o'clock and six minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

**Amended Offered and Withdrawn; Bill Amended;
Third Reading; Bill Passed****H. 657**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Peterson of Clarendon** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 13a, 19 V.S.A. § 26a, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) As used in this subsection, "reasonable charge" means:

(A) \$270.00 for each small wireless facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 1.6002(l), as may be amended.

(B) A per-linear-foot fee for coaxial cable and fiber optic cable, as follows:

(i) \$0.02 in a county that has a population of fewer than 25,000;

(ii) \$0.07 in a county that has a population of at least 25,000 but fewer than 100,000; and

(iii) \$0.13 in a county that has a population of at least 100,000.

(C) All other communications property, except twisted-pair cable, shall be subject to a fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory fee schedule established by the Secretary of Transportation.

Second: In Sec. 13a, 19 V.S.A. § 26a, in subdivision (b)(3)(E), after the word utility, by adding the following: , unless it is used to provide broadband internet access service as defined in 3 V.S.A. § 348(d)(1) or is leased to an internet service provider for such purpose

Thereupon, **Rep. Peterson of Clarendon** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Sims of Craftsbury** moved to the amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 13a, 19 V.S.A. § 26a, in subdivision (b)(2)(B), by striking out the words “digital subscriber line” and inserting in lieu thereof “twisted-pair cable”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read a third time and passed.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 871

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the development of an updated State aid to school construction program

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 879

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Maguire of Rutland City** moved to amend the bill in Sec. 5, Emergency Temporary Shelter Program Task Force, in subsection (b), by adding a new subdivision (10) to read as follows:

(10) a representative, appointed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns;

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 105. Nays, 37.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford
Arrison of Weathersfield
Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bartholomew of Hartland

Dolan of Waitsfield
Durfee of Shaftsbury
Elder of Starksboro
Emmons of Springfield
Farlice-Rubio of Barnet

Nicoll of Ludlow
Notte of Rutland City
Noyes of Wolcott
Nugent of South Burlington
O'Brien of Tunbridge

Beck of St. Johnsbury	Garofano of Essex	Ode of Burlington
Berbeco of Winooski	Goldman of Rockingham *	Pajala of Londonderry
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Patt of Worcester
Black of Essex	Headrick of Burlington	Pearl of Danville
Bluemle of Burlington	Holcombe of Norwich	Pouech of Hinesburg
Bongartz of Manchester	Hooper of Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Bos-Lun of Westminster *	Houghton of Essex Junction	Rachelson of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Howard of Rutland City *	Rice of Dorset
Brady of Williston	Hyman of South Burlington*	Roberts of Halifax
Brown of Richmond *	James of Manchester	Sammis of Castleton *
Brumsted of Shelburne	Jerome of Brandon	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burke of Brattleboro	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Scheu of Middlebury
Burrows of West Windsor	Krasnow of South Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Buss of Woodstock	LaBounty of Lyndon	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Lalley of Shelburne	Sims of Craftsbury
Carpenter of Hyde Park	LaLonde of South Burlington	Small of Winooski *
Casey of Montpelier	LaMont of Morristown *	Squirrell of Underhill
Chapin of East Montpelier	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Stebbins of Burlington
Chase of Chester	Lipsky of Stowe	Stevens of Waterbury
Chase of Colchester	Logan of Burlington *	Stone of Burlington *
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Long of Newfane	Surprenant of Barnard
Christie of Hartford	Masland of Thetford	Taylor of Colchester
Cina of Burlington	McCann of Montpelier	Templeman of Brownington
Coffey of Guilford	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cole of Hartford	McGill of Bridport *	Torre of Moretown
Conlon of Cornwall	Mihaly of Calais	Troiano of Stannard
Corcoran of Bennington	Morris of Springfield	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Cordes of Lincoln	Mrowicki of Putney	White of Bethel
Demrow of Corinth		Whitman of Bennington *
Dodge of Essex		Williams of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction		Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Goslant of Northfield	Minier of South Burlington
Branagan of Georgia	Graham of Williamstown	Morrissey of Bennington
Brennan of Colchester	Gregoire of Fairfield	Page of Newport City
Brownell of Pownal	Hango of Berkshire	Parsons of Newbury
Burditt of West Rutland	Harrison of Chittenden	Peterson of Clarendon
Canfield of Fair Haven	Higley of Lowell	Quimby of Lyndon
Carroll of Bennington	Labor of Morgan	Shaw of Pittsford
Clifford of Rutland City	Laroche of Franklin	Smith of Derby
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Taylor of Milton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Toof of St. Albans Town
Donahue of Northfield *	Mattos of Milton	Walker of Swanton
Galfetti of Barre Town	McCoy of Poultney	Williams of Granby *
	McFaun of Barre Town	

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

Andriano of Orwell
Anthony of Barre City

Hooper of Randolph
Lanpher of Vergennes

Morgan of Milton
Oliver of Sheldon

Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Keeping people sheltered in hotels is not an ideal way to provide housing. But providing hotel rooms for Vermonters when other options are not available is an essential policy to protect and preserve lives until better housing options can be developed.”

Rep. Brown of Richmond explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes to support this bill as an established plan addressing how we provide shelter and services for our most vulnerable community members.”

Rep. Donahue of Northfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I cannot support the significant expansions to our existing rules that this bill places into statute.”

Rep. Goldman of Rockingham explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because housing is health care.”

Rep. Howard of Rutland City explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on this bill. Nothing is perfect. I visited a motel in Rutland – deplorable! Mold in the laundry room, which had to be closed. Seeing children in hallways is heartbreaking. The Administration has had over three years to come up with a ‘plan.’ How many houses could have been built during that time?”

Rep. Hyman of South Burlington explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

We are all in this body one bad day away from needing this program.”

Rep. LaMont of Morristown explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I want to apologize to Vermonters for having to brunt the financial burden of the expansive program. And, although not fiscally sound, it is all we have. It is not the best solution. It costs so much, and I wish there was a better plan to sustainably house Vermonters, especially our most vulnerable population. Humans are not disposable. I hope the people in these situations tap into services and find their way to a sustainable lifestyle.”

Rep. Logan of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

As a housing and services provider for young adults transitioning out of homelessness, I support H.879. It meets one part of the State’s obligation to ensure that, when homelessness occurs, it is brief, rare, and non-recurring.”

Rep. McGill of Bridport explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on this bill because all Vermonters are worthy of dignity, respect, and compassion. Until this body is ready to truly commit to resolving homelessness and ensure all Vermonters can thrive, this bill is the bare minimum in upholding our oaths of office.”

Rep. Sammis of Castleton explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Between a poorly run program and no program, we’re effectively left with no good options - a rock and a hard place. It goes without saying the hotels need oversight, and to be preserved for those who actually need it as a temporary housing option, not full-time residence.”

Rep. Small of Winooski explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes for the dignity of unhoused Vermonters. At a time when it takes the average Vermonter over 200 days to find permanent housing, this program provides time and services to support some of our State’s most vulnerable people, rather than throwing them out on the street in 28 days.”

Rep. Stone of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on this bill as it applies values and purpose to the work we do. We should do all that we can to ensure that Vermont is a place where all can not only live but where all can be safe and thrive.”

Rep. Whitman of Bennington explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This bill provides temporary shelter, between 45 to 90 days, for families with children, people with disabilities, and others experiencing catastrophic situations, while establishing a long-term vision for emergency temporary shelter. I believe this is the least we can do for our most vulnerable Vermonters and vote yes.”

Rep. Williams of Granby explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Instead of blaming the Governor for things that are not working, maybe it would be more productive to work with him. Let’s start working as a team instead of pointing fingers. This is four plus years in the making. It is way past time to ‘fix’ homelessness and far, far, too much money that could have been spent on permanent solutions.”

Message from the Senate No. 40

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 passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 181. An act relating to establishing a television assessment and community media.

S. 195. An act relating to how a defendant’s criminal record is considered in imposing conditions of release.

S. 253. An act relating to building energy codes.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 51. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 5, 2024.

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

**Amendment Offered; Amendment Offered and Withdrawn;
Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed**

H. 829

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating permanent upstream eviction protections and enhancing housing stability

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Small of Winooski, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, and Logan of Burlington** moved that the bill be amended by adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be Secs. 16 and 16a to read as follows:

* * * NO-CAUSE EVICTIONS MORATORIUM * * *

Sec. 16. EVICTION MORATORIUM FOR NO-CAUSE EVICTIONS

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b)(1) of this subsection, a landlord shall not terminate a tenancy for no cause pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(c) or (e).

(b) A landlord may terminate a tenancy:

(1) pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(c) or (e), because the landlord or a member of the landlord's immediate family has a good faith intention to occupy the premises;

(2) pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(a), because the tenant failed to pay rent;

(3) pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(b)(1), because the tenant failed to comply with a material term of the rental agreement or with obligations imposed under 9 V.S.A. chapter 137;

(4) pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(b)(2), because the tenant engaged in criminal activity, illegal drug activity, or acts of violence, any of which threaten the health or safety of other residents; or

(5) pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4467(d), because in the absence of a written rental agreement the landlord has contracted to sell the building.

Sec. 16a. LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPEAL OF NO-CAUSE EVICTIONS

It is the intent of the General Assembly that this section be repealed upon passage of legislation repealing no-cause evictions under 9 V.S.A. § 4467(c) or (e).

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Small of Winooski and others?, **Rep. Headrick of Burlington** requested the vote be by division.

Thereupon, the amendment was disagreed to: Yeas, 13. Nays, 119.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. McFaun of Barre Town** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 7, appropriation, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; perpetually affordable housing, by striking out “\$7,300,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$5,800,000.00”

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 8a to read as follows:

Sec. 8a. APPROPRIATION; IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING AND
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PILOTS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

In fiscal year 2025, \$1,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for the purpose of implementing the housing and residential services pilots for individuals with developmental disabilities developed pursuant to 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 186, Sec. 5.

Thereupon, **Rep. McFaun of Barre Town** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Bluemle of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Garofano of Essex, Hooper of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington** moved that the bill be amended by adding a new section to be Sec. 13a to read as follows:

Sec. 13a. EVICTIONS; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Evictions Study Committee to review the causes of eviction in Vermont and propose legislation advancing eviction laws responsive to Vermont’s crises of housing and homelessness.

(b) Membership. The Committee is composed of the following members:

(1) three current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) three current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) a representative of the Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court;

(4) the Executive Director of Vermont Legal Aid or designee;

(5) a representative of the Vermont Landlord Association, appointed by the Director of the Association; and

(6) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Vermont Community Action Partnership.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study Vermont's current evictions process and propose modernizing evictions legislation based on an analysis of the following issues:

(1) the empirical reality of Vermont's existing evictions process, including:

(A) the existing statutory bases for eviction under 9 V.S.A. chapter 137 (residential rental agreements) and 10 V.S.A. chapter 153 (mobile home parks);

(B) the bases on which landlords and mobile home park owners rely in terminating tenancies, including:

(i) for terminations that involve an evictions proceeding, the bases for eviction advanced by landlords and mobile home park owners and the regularity of their usage;

(ii) for terminations that do not involve an evictions proceeding, the asserted bases on which landlords and mobile home park owners rely and the regularity of their usage; and

(iii) the relative proportion of terminations that occur under subdivision (i) or (ii) of this subdivision (B);

(C) the procedures used by landlords and mobile home park owners to terminate a tenancy, including termination processes used before, during, and after commencement and judicial resolution of an evictions proceeding;

(D) the procedures used by tenants to defend themselves in evictions proceedings;

(E) issues of judicial enforcement and administration arising from existing evictions law, including issues leading to inconsistent enforcement and administration of evictions laws across Vermont; and

(F) the effects of existing evictions and landlord-tenant laws on rates of homelessness in Vermont; and

(2) models for evictions laws responsive to Vermont's crises of housing and homelessness, whether drawn from other states, advocacy groups, State departments or agencies, or industry groups.

(d) Assistance. For purposes of scheduling meetings and preparing recommended legislation, the Committee shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Operations and the Office of Legislative Counsel.

(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2024, the Committee shall report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, which may be in the form of proposed legislation.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The ranking member of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before August 31, 2024.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist upon submission of its recommendations for legislative action and any findings to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than 12 meetings.

(2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings

(3) Payments to members of the Committee authorized under this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

Which was agreed to. Thereafter, the bill was read a third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 97. Nays, 42.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Dolan of Waitsfield *	Morris of Springfield
Arsenault of Williston	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mrowicki of Putney
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Nicoll of Ludlow
Bartholomew of Hartland	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Notte of Rutland City
Berbeco of Winooski	Garofano of Essex	Noyes of Wolcott
Black of Essex	Goldman of Rockingham	Nugent of South Burlington
Bluemle of Burlington	Graning of Jericho	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bongartz of Manchester	Headrick of Burlington	Ode of Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Holcombe of Norwich	Pajala of Londonderry
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Burlington	Patt of Worcester
Brown of Richmond	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pouech of Hinesburg
Brownell of Pownal	Howard of Rutland City	Priestley of Bradford
Brumsted of Shelburne	Hyman of South Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Rice of Dorset
Burrows of West Windsor	Jerome of Brandon	Roberts of Halifax
Buss of Woodstock	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Scheu of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Krasnow of South Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Carpenter of Hyde Park	LaBounty of Lyndon	Sims of Craftsbury
Carroll of Bennington	Lalley of Shelburne *	Small of Winooski
Casey of Montpelier	LaLonde of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Chapin of East Montpelier	LaMont of Morristown *	Stebbins of Burlington
Chase of Chester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stevens of Waterbury
Chase of Colchester	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Stone of Burlington *
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs *	Logan of Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard
Christie of Hartford	Long of Newfane *	Taylor of Colchester
Cina of Burlington	Masland of Thetford	Templeman of Brownington
Coffey of Guilford	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cole of Hartford	McFaun of Barre Town	Torre of Moretown
Conlon of Cornwall	McGill of Bridport *	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Cordes of Lincoln	Mihaly of Calais	White of Bethel
Demrow of Corinth	Minier of South Burlington	Whitman of Bennington
Dodge of Essex		Williams of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction		Wood of Waterbury *

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arrison of Weathersfield	Elder of Starksboro	Morrissey of Bennington
Bartley of Fairfax	Galfetti of Barre Town	Page of Newport City
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Goslant of Northfield	Parsons of Newbury
Birong of Vergennes	Graham of Williamstown	Peterson of Clarendon
Boyd of Cambridge	Gregoire of Fairfield	Quimby of Lyndon
Branagan of Georgia	Hango of Berkshire	Sammis of Castleton
Brennan of Colchester	Harrison of Chittenden	Shaw of Pittsford

Burditt of West Rutland	Higley of Lowell	Sibilia of Dover
Canfield of Fair Haven	Labor of Morgan	Smith of Derby
Clifford of Rutland City	Laroche of Franklin	Taylor of Milton
Corcoran of Bennington	Lipsky of Stowe	Toof of St. Albans Town
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Walker of Swanton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Williams of Granby
Donahue of Northfield	Mattos of Milton	
	McCoy of Poultney *	

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

Andriano of Orwell	McCann of Montpelier	Pearl of Danville
Anthony of Barre City	Morgan of Milton	Satcowitz of Randolph
Hooper of Randolph	Oliver of Sheldon	Troiano of Stannard

Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

When you are in crisis you need to act. This bill is action to move us out of crisis. Voting no is not a solution.”

Rep. Dolan of Waitsfield explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to address comprehensively and over time our statewide housing shortage that will benefit and sustain the vitality of our communities. This bill also continues our commitment to provide much needed housing for our Vermont adults with developmental disabilities.”

Rep. Lalley of Shelburne explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I support a long-term vision to create the supportive and affordable housing Vermont needs. The costs to build the housing we need are estimated at \$200 million a year for ten years. As we finance this housing, we must continue to address the regulatory barriers that are the reason why smaller and affordable options for older Vermonters and for one or two person households, now the norm, are in such short supply.”

Rep. LaMont of Morristown explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I am a committee member who voted yes for the Taylor amendment, and here on the floor I am voting yes. This is a temporary extension of a moratorium that has already been passed. We just voted yes for temporary

supportive housing. Intersectionality exists; we cannot address the homelessness without taking proactive measures to keep people housed. This too is not it, but with housing as a priority we have to start somewhere.”

Rep. Long of Newfane explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Lack of affordable housing is a top issue for Vermonters. This bill will make a real difference in Vermonters’ lives while continuing to move us forward toward our housing goals. I voted to support H.829 as Vermont’s roadmap for continued, strategic housing investment.”

Rep. McCoy of Poultney explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Raising taxes and fees, instead of funding these programs through our budget, is something I cannot support. Increasing the property transfer tax as well as the personal income tax to support these programs is something that I cannot support. My vote is no.”

Rep. McGill of Bridport explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes on this bill, on the second day of Fair Housing Month, because we are in the midst of a housing crisis and the ill effects are far-reaching. When we invest in struggling Vermonters, we all thrive.”

Rep. Stone of Burlington explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes as this will help facilitate equal access to timely justice and facilitates greater input from a diverse array of stakeholders. I look forward to this process and working closely with my colleagues and constituents to make it happen and reach consensus.”

Rep. Wood of Waterbury explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

We lament about not having a plan to help solve our homelessness crisis. This is the first bona fide bill that sets forth such a plan. I vote yes to bring some sanity to solving the homelessness and housing crises.”

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Bill Amended;
Amendments Offered and Withdrawn; Third Reading Ordered**

H. 874

Rep. Brady of Williston spoke for the Committee on Education.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education laws

Rep. Beck of St. Johnsbury, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended the bill ought to pass.

Rep. Mihaly of Calais, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. § 945, in subsection (a), following “shall maintain an Adult Diploma Program (ADP)” by striking out “, which shall be an assessment process”

Second: In Sec. 3, 16 V.S.A. § 4011, in subsection (f), following “the previous two years” by inserting “40 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the payment required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund”

Third: In Sec. 6, legislative intent and findings; appropriation; community schools, in subsection (b), by striking out “\$1,900,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,000,000.00”

Fourth: In Sec. 9, review of flexible pathways; intent, by striking out the word “competition” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “completion”

Fifth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a to read:

Sec. 5a. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REPORT

On or before December 15, 2024, the Agency of Education, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health, shall include in its report required pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 67, Sec. 3(e)(2) an evaluation of the community schools program created under 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 67 and make recommendations for further legislative action. The report and recommendations shall address, at a minimum, the following questions:

(1) Does the community schools structure support schools in more efficient implementation of the education quality standards contained in 16 V.S.A. § 165?

(2) Does the community schools structure improve access to and efficiency in the provision of mental health services, social support services, and health services?

Sixth: In Sec. 10, postgraduation career and settlement behaviors of students attending Vermont postsecondary institutions; report, by striking subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read:

(b) Given that one of the goals of the Flexible Pathways Initiative is to increase rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary continuation in Vermont, and given that retention of students requires those students to graduate and enroll in a postsecondary school or enter the workforce, the report required under this section shall also include the following:

(1) information on participation rates by Flexible Pathways Initiative program type, by significant demographic group, including an assessment by demographic group of over- or underrepresentation in these programs;

(2) student performance, measured by completion rates by high school of origin, on dual enrollment and early college coursework;

(3) postsecondary enrollment rates for students participating in dual enrollment and early college, as compared to nonparticipating students;

(4) postsecondary retention rates for a period of at least one academic year and persistence rates for students participating in dual enrollment and early college, as compared to nonparticipating students; and

(5) post high school continuation into the workforce for students participating in dual enrollment and early college, as compared to nonparticipating students.

Seventh: In Sec. 10, postgraduation career and settlement behaviors of students attending Vermont postsecondary institutions; report, by adding a new subsection to be subsection (c) to read:

(c) In preparing this report, the entities listed in subsection (a) of this section shall have the administrative and technical support of the Agency of Education.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Appropriations agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Christie of Hartford** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 13, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 13 and reader assistance heading to read as follows:

* * * Harassment in Schools * * *

Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this title, unless the context otherwise clearly requires:

* * *

(26)(A) “Harassment” means an incident or incidents of verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct, including any incident conducted by electronic means, based on or motivated by a student’s or a student’s family member’s actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability that has the purpose or effect of objectively ~~and substantially~~ undermining and detracting from or interfering with a student’s ~~educational performance~~ education or access to school resources or creating an objectively intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

(B) “Harassment” includes conduct that violates subdivision (A) of this subdivision (26) and constitutes one or more of the following:

(i) Sexual harassment, which means conduct that includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when one or both of the following occur:

(I) Submission to that conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student’s education.

(II) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as a component of the basis for decisions affecting that student.

(ii) Racial harassment, which means conduct directed at the characteristics of a student’s or a student’s family member’s actual or perceived race or color, and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes, racial slurs, comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures, threats, graffiti, display, or circulation of written or visual material, and taunts on manner of speech and negative references to racial customs.

(iii) Harassment of members of other protected categories, which means conduct directed at the characteristics of a student's or a student's family member's actual or perceived creed, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes, slurs, comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures, threats, graffiti, display, or circulation of written or visual material, taunts on manner of speech, and negative references to customs related to any of these protected categories.

(C) Notwithstanding any judicial precedent to the contrary, the conduct described in this subdivision (a)(26) need not be severe or pervasive to constitute harassment. Creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment based on any legally protected category also constitutes harassment. A hostile environment exists where conduct:

(i) has or would have the effect of interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or mental, emotional, or physical well-being;

(ii) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for the student's emotional safety;

(iii) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or

(iv) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption with the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation, or abuse might reach school property.

* * *

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 14 to read as follows:

Sec. 14. 16 V.S.A. § 570f is amended to read:

§ 570f. HARASSMENT; NOTICE AND RESPONSE

* * *

(c)(1) To prevail in an action alleging unlawful harassment filed pursuant to this section and 9 V.S.A. chapter 139, the plaintiff shall prove both of the following:

(1)—The that the student was subjected to unwelcome conduct harassment based on the student's or the student's family member's actual or perceived membership in a category protected by law by pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4502.

(2) The conduct was either In determining whether conduct constitutes unlawful harassment:

(A) for multiple instances of conduct, so pervasive that when viewed from an objective standard of a similarly situated reasonable person, it substantially and adversely affected the targeted student's equal access to educational opportunities or benefits provided by the educational institution; or Courts shall apply the definition of harassment under subdivision 11(a)(26) of this title.

(B) for a single instance of conduct, so severe that when viewed from an objective standard of a similarly situated reasonable person, it substantially and adversely affected the targeted student's equal access to educational opportunities or benefits provided by the educational institution The determination shall be made on the basis of the record as a whole, according to the totality of the circumstances, and a single incident may constitute unlawful harassment.

(C) Incidents that may be harassment shall be considered in the aggregate with varying types of conduct and conduct based on multiple characteristics viewed in totality rather than in isolation.

(D) Conduct may constitute unlawful harassment, regardless of whether:

(i) the complaining student is the person being harassed;

(ii) the complaining student acquiesced or otherwise submitted to or participated in the conduct;

(iii) the conduct is also experienced by others outside the protected class involved in the conduct;

(iv) the complaining student was able to continue the student's education or access to school resources in spite of the conduct;

(v) the conduct resulted in a physical or psychological injury; or

(vi) the conduct occurred outside the complaining student's school.

(3) Behavior that a reasonable person with the same protected characteristic would consider to be a petty slight or trivial inconvenience shall not constitute harassment pursuant to subdivision 11(a)(26) of this title.

* * *

Third: By adding a reader assistance heading and new section to be Sec. 15 to read as follows:

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

Thereupon, **Rep. Christie of Hartford** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Holcombe of Norwich, Arsenault of Williston, Burrows of West Windsor, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Christie of Hartford, Dolan of Waitsfield, Graning of Jericho, Ode of Burlington, and Sibia of Dover** moved that the bill be amended by adding a reader assistance heading and new section to be Sec. 12a to read as follows:

* * * Prohibition on Paying Tuition after School Closure * * *

Sec. 12a. 16 V.S.A. § 830 is added to read:

§ 830. PROHIBITION ON SCHOOL CLOSURE AND TRANSITION TO
PAYING TUITION

A school district shall be prohibited from closing an existing school and providing for the education of its resident students by paying tuition for its students to attend a public or approved independent school chosen by the parents of the district's students. A school district that closes an existing school shall provide for the education of its resident students by designating a public school or schools to serve as the public school of the district in accordance with sections 821, 822, and 827 of this title, as applicable.

Thereupon, **Rep. Holcombe of Norwich** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw her amendment.

Thereafter, third reading was ordered.

**Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to;
Third Reading Ordered**

S. 278

Rep. Burditt of West Rutland, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting a comparative negligence defense in an action for a negligence claim relating to a sexual act or sexual conduct

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 1036 is amended to read:

§ 1036. CONTRIBUTORY AND COMPARATIVE NEGLIGENCE

(a) Contributory negligence shall not bar recovery in an action by any plaintiff, or ~~his or her~~ the plaintiff's legal representative, to recover damages for negligence resulting in death, personal injury, or property damage, if the negligence was not greater than the causal total negligence of the defendant or defendants, but the damage shall be diminished by general verdict in proportion to the amount of negligence attributed to the plaintiff. Where recovery is allowed against more than one defendant, each defendant shall be liable for that proportion of the total dollar amount awarded as damages in the ratio of the amount of ~~his or her~~ the defendant's causal negligence to the amount of causal negligence attributed to all defendants against whom recovery is allowed.

(b) Contributory and comparative negligence shall be prohibited as a defense to limit a plaintiff's recovery for damages in an action for a negligence claim relating to a sexual act as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3251 or sexual conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2821.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Judiciary agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Rep. Long of Newfane presiding.

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 862

Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Barre

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 876**

Rep. Emmons of Springfield spoke for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the corrections laws

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 882**

Rep. Emmons of Springfield spoke for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

Speaker presiding.

Rep. Harrison of Chittenden, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 659**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to captive insurance

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. White of Bethel**, action on the bill was postponed until April 5, 2024.

Amendments Offered; Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 875**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the State Ethics Commission and the State Code of Ethics

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Brennan of Colchester, Harrison of Chittenden, and Pajala of Londonderry** moved that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 22, 24 V.S.A. chapter 60, by striking out sections 1995–1998 in their entireties

Second: By striking out Sec. 23, initial ethics training for in-office municipal officers, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 23 to read as follows:

Sec. 23. [Deleted.]

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by the member from Colchester and others?, **Rep. Harrison of Chittenden** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by the member from Colchester and others?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 41. Nays, 83.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arrison of Weathersfield	Gregoire of Fairfield	Morris of Springfield
Bartley of Fairfax	Hango of Berkshire	Morrissey of Bennington
Branagan of Georgia	Harrison of Chittenden	Page of Newport City
Brennan of Colchester	Higley of Lowell	Pajala of Londonderry
Brownell of Pownal	Labor of Morgan	Peterson of Clarendon
Canfield of Fair Haven	LaBounty of Lyndon	Quimby of Lyndon
Clifford of Rutland City	Laroche of Franklin	Roberts of Halifax
Corcoran of Bennington	Lipsky of Stowe	Shaw of Pittsford
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Sibilia of Dover
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Smith of Derby
Donahue of Northfield	Mattos of Milton	Templeman of Brownington
Galfetti of Barre Town	McCoy of Poultney	Toof of St. Albans Town
Goslant of Northfield	McFaun of Barre Town	Walker of Swanton
	Minier of South Burlington	Williams of Granby

Those who voted in the negative are:

Andrews of Westford	Dolan of Waitsfield	McGill of Bridport
Austin of Colchester	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Mihaly of Calais
Bartholomew of Hartland	Elder of Starksboro	Nicoll of Ludlow
Berbeco of Winooski	Emmons of Springfield	Notte of Rutland City

Birong of Vergennes	Goldman of Rockingham	Noyes of Wolcott
Black of Essex	Graning of Jericho	Nugent of South Burlington
Bluemle of Burlington	Headrick of Burlington	Ode of Burlington
Bongartz of Manchester	Holcombe of Norwich	Patt of Worcester
Boyden of Cambridge	Hooper of Burlington	Pouech of Hinesburg
Brady of Williston	Houghton of Essex Junction	Priestley of Bradford
Brown of Richmond	Howard of Rutland City	Rachelson of Burlington
Brumsted of Shelburne	Hyman of South Burlington	Rice of Dorset
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burrows of West Windsor	Jerome of Brandon	Scheu of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Carpenter of Hyde Park	Krasnow of South Burlington	Small of Winooski
Carroll of Bennington	Lalley of Shelburne	Squirrell of Underhill
Chase of Chester	LaLonde of South Burlington	Stebbins of Burlington
Chase of Colchester	LaMont of Morristown	Stevens of Waterbury
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stone of Burlington
Christie of Hartford	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Taylor of Milton
Cina of Burlington	Logan of Burlington	Taylor of Colchester
Coffey of Guilford	Long of Newfane	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cole of Hartford	Masland of Thetford	Torre of Moretown
Conlon of Cornwall	McCann of Montpelier	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Cordes of Lincoln	McCarthy of St. Albans City	White of Bethel
Dodge of Essex		Whitman of Bennington
Dolan of Essex Junction		Williams of Barre City
		Wood of Waterbury

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

Andriano of Orwell	Chapin of East Montpelier	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Anthony of Barre City	Demrow of Corinth	Oliver of Sheldon
Arsenault of Williston	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Parsons of Newbury
Beck of St. Johnsbury	Garofano of Essex	Pearl of Danville
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Graham of Williamstown	Sammis of Castleton
Burditt of West Rutland	Hooper of Randolph	Sims of Craftsbury
Buss of Woodstock	Morgan of Milton	Surprenant of Barnard
Casey of Montpelier	Mrowicki of Putney	Troiano of Stannard

Pending third reading of the bill?, **Rep. Shaw of Pittsford** moved that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 16, 3 V.S.A. § 1221(c), and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 16 to read as follows:

Sec. 16. [Deleted.]

Which was disagreed to. Thereafter, the bill was read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill pass?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 82. Nays, 37.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Nicoll of Ludlow
Austin of Colchester	Elder of Starksboro	Notte of Rutland City
Bartholomew of Hartland	Emmons of Springfield	Noyes of Wolcott
Berbeco of Winooski	Goldman of Rockingham	Nugent of South Burlington
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Ode of Burlington
Black of Essex	Headrick of Burlington	Patt of Worcester
Bluemle of Burlington	Holcombe of Norwich	Pouech of Hinesburg
Bongartz of Manchester	Hooper of Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Boyden of Cambridge	Houghton of Essex Junction	Rachelson of Burlington
Brady of Williston	Howard of Rutland City	Rice of Dorset
Brown of Richmond	Hyman of South Burlington	Satcowitz of Randolph
Brumsted of Shelburne	James of Manchester *	Scheu of Middlebury
Burke of Brattleboro	Jerome of Brandon	Sheldon of Middlebury
Burrows of West Windsor	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Krasnow of South Burlington	Small of Winooski
Carpenter of Hyde Park	Lalley of Shelburne	Squirrell of Underhill
Carroll of Bennington	LaLonde of South Burlington	Stebbins of Burlington
Chase of Chester	Lanpher of Vergennes	Stone of Burlington
Chase of Colchester	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Taylor of Milton
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	Logan of Burlington	Taylor of Colchester *
Christie of Hartford	Long of Newfane	Templeman of Brownington
Coffey of Guilford *	Mattos of Milton	Toleno of Brattleboro
Cole of Hartford	McCann of Montpelier	Torre of Moretown
Conlon of Cornwall	McCarthy of St. Albans City	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Cordes of Lincoln	McGill of Bridport	White of Bethel
Dodge of Essex	Mihaly of Calais	Whitman of Bennington
Dolan of Essex Junction		Williams of Barre City
Dolan of Waitsfield		Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arrison of Weathersfield *	Gregoire of Fairfield	Morris of Springfield
Bartley of Fairfax	Hango of Berkshire	Morrissey of Bennington
Branagan of Georgia	Harrison of Chittenden	Page of Newport City
Brennan of Colchester	Higley of Lowell	Pajala of Londonderry
Brownell of Pownal	Labor of Morgan	Peterson of Clarendon
Canfield of Fair Haven	LaBounty of Lyndon	Quimby of Lyndon
Clifford of Rutland City	Laroche of Franklin	Roberts of Halifax
Corcoran of Bennington	Lipsky of Stowe	Shaw of Pittsford
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Smith of Derby
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Marcotte of Coventry	Toof of St. Albans Town
Donahue of Northfield	McCoy of Poultney *	Walker of Swanton
	McFaun of Barre Town	Williams of Granby

Goslant of Northfield

Minier of South Burlington

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

Andriano of Orwell

Demrow of Corinth

O'Brien of Tunbridge

Anthony of Barre City

Farlice-Rubio of Barnet

Oliver of Sheldon

Arsenault of Williston

Galfetti of Barre Town

Parsons of Newbury

Beck of St. Johnsbury

Garofano of Essex

Pearl of Danville

Bos-Lun of Westminster

Graham of Williamstown

Sammis of Castleton

Burditt of West Rutland

Hooper of Randolph

Sims of Craftsbury

Buss of Woodstock

LaMont of Morristown

Stevens of Waterbury

Casey of Montpelier

Masland of Thetford

Surprenant of Barnard

Chapin of East Montpelier

Morgan of Milton

Troiano of Stannard

Cina of Burlington

Mrowicki of Putney

Rep. Arrison of Weathersfield explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

I can not support a bill that places this significant additional burden on our municipal offices.”

Rep. Coffey of Guilford explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Today I voted yes to support our small town select boards and communities. When we have clear ethical standards and training for our elected officials, we bring accountability, transparency, and support for our local officials in doing their important work in municipal government.”

Rep. James of Manchester explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Democracy is fragile in America today. We have to rebuild trust. That work begins at the grassroots level in our towns with all of us. The bill offers a simple way to rebuild that trust – to take a tangible step toward figuring that elected officials at every level are held to high and consistent ethical standards.”

Rep. McCoy of Poultney explained her vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Yet another unfunded mandate on our municipalities.”

Rep. Taylor of Colchester explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

This has been a particularly difficult vote for me. The Town of Colchester that I represent has an ethics policy that I understand has been working well. I am loath to burden our town clerk with any additional work. But I also understand that all towns need a similar well thought out ethics policy.”

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 884

Rep. McCarthy of St. Albans City spoke for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the modernization of governance for the St. Albans Cemetery Association

Having appeared on the Notice Calendar and appearing on the Action Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

At six o'clock and thirty-five minutes in the evening, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.