

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 4, 2024

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Kenzan, Shao Shan Temple, Calais.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Referred to Committee

Proposal 3

Subject: Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

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

Article 23. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer's employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

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.

Was referred to the Committee on General and Housing

Senate Bills Referred

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

S. 167

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

To the Committee on Education.

S. 259

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to climate change cost recovery

To the Committee on Environment and Energy.

S. 301

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

S. 304

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's career and technical education programs

To the Committee on Education.

S. 310

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to natural disaster government response, recovery, and resiliency

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Third Reading; Bill Passed in Concurrence**S. 190**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to statements made by a child victim of an offense involving serious bodily injury

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

Adjournment

At one o'clock and twenty-three minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.