

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 18, 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. Mike Mrowicki and Amelia Struthers of Putney.

Committee Bill Introduced; Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 887

By the Committee on Ways and Means,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, nonhomestead rates, and policy changes to education finance and taxation

Was read the first time and, pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 120

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to postsecondary schools and sexual misconduct protections

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 198

House concurrent resolution designating April 18, 2024 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont

Offered by: Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland, Chase of Colchester, Clifford of Rutland City, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Galfetti of Barre Town,

Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Maguire of Rutland City, Marcotte of Coventry, Mattos of Milton, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Parsons of Newbury, Peterson of Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, Sibia of Dover, Smith of Derby, Stone of Burlington, Taylor of Milton, Toof of St. Albans Town, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Williams of Granby

Offered by: Senators Collamore, Norris, Weeks, and Williams

Whereas, the submarine VERMONT (SSN 792) was commissioned on April 18, 2020, and it is the third U.S. naval vessel to be named in honor of the State of Vermont, and

Whereas, April 18, 2024 marks the fourth anniversary of the commissioning of the USS VERMONT (SSN 792), and

Whereas, the superior performance of the officers and enlisted personnel serving on the USS VERMONT (SSN 792) has extended Vermont's proud U.S. naval heritage to the Pacific as the submarine's new home port is U.S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and

Whereas, the officers and enlisted personnel of the USS VERMONT (SSN 792) honor Vermont traditions with the moniker *Big Sugar* and the motto *Freedom and Unity*, as they serve to protect our country and its freedoms, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 18, 2024 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the USS VERMONT (SSN 792) and the USS VERMONT Support Group.

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 216

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning school teams of the 2024 Jr Iron Chef VT competition

Offered by: Representatives Sibia of Dover, Arrison of Weathersfield, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Boyden of Cambridge, Branagan of Georgia, Burrows of West Windsor, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Chase of Chester, Cole of Hartford, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Small of Winooski, and Stone of Burlington

Whereas, the Vermont Afterschool organization administers Vermont Jr Iron Chef VT, a statewide culinary competition comprising middle and high school teams that are challenged to create “nutritious, local dishes to inspire school meal programs,” and

Whereas, the teams are judged on execution, teamwork, taste, creativity, local sourcing of ingredients, and compliance with the competition’s guidelines, and

Whereas, the teams compete for three awards: Crowd Pleaser, honoring the team that best incorporates color, texture, and taste; Lively Local, honoring the team that best highlights Vermont foods; and Mise en Place, honoring the team that shows exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism, and

Whereas, the 16th Jr Iron Chef VT competition was held on March 9, 2024 at the Champlaine Valley Exposition in Essex Junction, and the competition categories, the winning middle and high schools, their team names, and their culinary creations were the following:

Crowd Pleaser: Essex Middle School, Crispy Bakin’, Bao with Crispy “That’s Not Chicken?!”; Winooski Middle School, Wild Onions, Street Corn Risotto Cakes; Champlaine Valley Union High School, CVU Chefhawks #2, Pumpkin Ravioli with Pumpkin Brown Butter; and Twin Valley High School, La Cocina Blokes, Vermont Maple Empanada;

Lively Local: Cambridge Elementary School, Wicked Wildcats, Falafel Waffle; Twin Valley Middle School, Perfect Pickles, Garbage Platter; Hartford Area Career and Technology Center, Juniors at HACTC, Grilled Stuffed Portobello Mushroom over Polenta; and Lake Champlaine Waldorf School, Gnocchi Gnomes, Butternut Gnocchi with Spinach Cheese Sauce; and

Mise en Place: Edmunds Middle School, EM Yes Chef, Kimbap; Williston Central School, Lettuce Cook, Jackfruit Street Tacos; Lake Region Union High School, Ranger Raccoons, Lean, Mean, Pesto Naan with Greens; and

Lake Champlain Waldorf School, Tofoo Fighters, Vermont Kimbop, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the winning school teams of the 2024 Jr Iron Chef VT competition, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the winning teams and to Vermont Afterschool.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 12, 2024 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 189

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to mental health response service guidelines and social service provider safety

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 626

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 animal welfare

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. chapter 190 is added to read:

CHAPTER 190. DIVISION OF ANIMAL WELFARE

§ 3201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Animal” has the same meaning as in 13 V.S.A. § 351, provided that the animals or activities regulated under this chapter shall not apply to:

(A) activities regulated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Part 4;

(B) scientific research governed by accepted procedural standards subject to review by an institutional animal care and use committee;

(C) livestock and poultry husbandry practices for the raising, management, and use of domestic animals;

(D) veterinary medical or surgical procedures; and

(E) the killing of an animal as authorized pursuant to sections 3809 and 3545 of this title.

(2) “Director” means the Director of Animal Welfare and includes the Director’s designee.

(3) “Division” means the Division of Animal Welfare.

(4) “Domestic animal” has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 1151(2).

§ 3202. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISION OF ANIMAL WELFARE;

POWERS AND DUTIES

(a)(1) The Division of Animal Welfare is established within the Department of Public Safety. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint a Director of Animal Welfare who shall be in immediate charge of the Division. The Director shall be qualified by education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position. The Director shall have at least the following minimum qualifications:

(A) experience in interpreting or knowledge of animal welfare laws and rules;

(B) knowledge of animal welfare stakeholders in the State and regionally; and

(C) knowledge of the causes and characteristics of animal welfare and animal cruelty issues.

(2) The Director position shall be a classified service position in the Department of Public Safety.

(b)(1) The Director shall develop a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and enforcement of the animal welfare laws of the State. In developing the comprehensive plan, the Director shall first review the 2023 Report on Unification of Animal Welfare and Related Public Safety Function and similar reports and proposed legislation. The plan shall include:

(A) how the Director shall oversee investigation and response to animal cruelty complaints in the State in order to provide the best services to Vermont’s animals statewide;

(B) how the Director shall coordinate administration and enforcement of animal welfare laws in the State in a collaborative manner with those law enforcement officers and municipalities that retain authority to enforce animal cruelty requirements in the State;

(C) how the State should address the extent and scope of any deficiencies in Vermont's system of investigating and responding to animal cruelty complaints;

(D) how the State should ensure that investigations of animal cruelty complaints are conducted according to systematic and documented written standard operating procedures and checklists;

(E) a proposal to house and care for animals seized in response to complaints of animal cruelty, including how to pay for the care of seized animals;

(F) a proposal for funding animal welfare administration and enforcement in the State, including potential sources of public and private funding; and

(G) recommended amendments to animal welfare statutes or rules, including standards of care for animals housed by animal shelters or rescue organizations.

(2) The Director of Animal Welfare shall submit the comprehensive plan required by this subsection and any revisions thereto to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations not later than eight months after the date of hiring of the Director.

(c) The Director of Animal Welfare shall consult with other State agencies that respond to animal welfare complaints or with animal welfare responsibilities to quantify the amount of time State agency staff expend in fulfilling animal welfare responsibilities, including the costs to agencies of fulfilling the responsibilities.

(d) The Director of Animal Welfare shall be the sole employee of the Division of Animal Welfare until the comprehensive plan required under subdivision (b)(2) of this section is completed and the General Assembly enacts legislation, as needed, to implement the comprehensive plan.

§ 3203. ANIMAL WELFARE FUND

(a) The Animal Welfare Fund is established within the Department of Public Safety to fund the expenses incurred by the Division of Animal Welfare in implementing the requirements of this chapter. The Director of Animal Welfare shall administer the Fund.

(b) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) 50 percent of the revenue collected from the surcharge assessed under subsection 3581(f) of this title; and

(2) appropriations made by the General Assembly.

(c) All balances in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward. Interest earned by the Fund shall remain in the Fund.

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 3581 is amended to read:

§ 3581. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) A person who is the owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid more than six months old shall annually on or before April 1 cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed on a form approved by the Secretary for one year from that day in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the dog or wolf-hybrid is kept. A person who owns a working farm dog and who intends to use that dog on a farm pursuant to the exemptions in section 3549 of this title shall cause the working farm dog to be registered as a working farm dog and shall, in addition to all other fees required by this section, pay \$5.00 for a working farm dog license. The owner of a dog or wolf-hybrid shall cause it to wear a collar and attach a license tag issued by the municipal clerk to the collar. Dog or wolf-hybrid owners shall pay for the license \$4.00 for each neutered dog or wolf-hybrid, and \$8.00 for each unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid. If the license fee for any dog or wolf-hybrid is not paid on or before April 1, its owner or keeper may thereafter procure a license for that license year by paying a fee of 50 percent in excess of that otherwise required.

(b) Before a person shall be entitled to obtain a license for a neutered dog or wolf-hybrid, he or she shall exhibit to the clerk a certificate signed by a duly licensed veterinarian showing that the dog or wolf-hybrid has been sterilized.

(c)(1) A mandatory license fee surcharge of \$4.00 per license shall be collected by each city, town, or village for the purpose of funding the dog, cat, and wolf-hybrid spaying and neutering program established in chapter 193, subchapter 6 of this title.

(2) An optional license fee surcharge of up to \$10.00 per license is to be implemented by the legislative body of a city, town, or village that has established an animal and rabies control program for the sole purpose of funding the rabies control program.

(3) The license fee surcharges in this subsection shall not be considered part of the license fee for purposes of calculating a penalty for late payment.

(d) Before obtaining a license for a dog or wolf-hybrid six months of age or older, a person shall deliver to the municipal clerk a certificate or a certified copy thereof issued by a duly licensed veterinarian, stating that the dog or wolf-hybrid has received a current preexposure rabies vaccination with a vaccine approved by the Secretary, and the person shall certify that the dog or wolf-hybrid described in the certificate or copy is the dog or wolf-hybrid to be licensed. The municipal clerk shall keep the certificates or copies thereof on file. The Secretary shall prescribe the size and format of rabies certificates. The owner of any such dog or wolf-hybrid shall maintain a copy of the rabies vaccination form and provide it to State or municipal officials upon request.

* * *

(f) In addition to the license fees assessed in subsections (a) and (c) of this section and section 3583 of this title, municipal clerks shall assess a ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.00 fee for each license sold. The clerks shall forward the fees collected under this subsection to the State Treasurer on or before the 15th day of May, September, and January of each year, together with an accounting of the licenses sold. The funds collected under this subsection are to be used for rabies control programs and for administration of animal welfare laws in the State. For this purpose, on or before the 30th days of May, September, and January, the State Treasurer shall disburse the funds collected under this subsection as follows:

- (1) ~~Forty-five~~ 22.5 percent to the Fish and Wildlife Fund;
- (2) ~~Forty-five~~ 22.5 percent to the Commissioner of Health;
- (3) ~~Ten~~ five percent to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets;
and
- (4) 50 percent to the Animal Welfare Fund created by section 3203 of this title.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 351(4) is amended to read:

(4) “Humane officer” or “officer” means:

(A) any enforcement officer as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(11)(A) or investigator employed by the Office of the Attorney General or State’s Attorney; or

(B) an individual who has received the animal cruelty response training required by section 356 of this title who is:

(i) ~~a designated humane society employee; or~~

~~(ii) an animal control officer appointed by the legislative body of a municipality who is authorized by the legislative body employed by a municipal or State law enforcement agency to perform the duties and functions of a humane officer; or~~

(ii) a Division of Animal Welfare employee authorized to conduct investigations under this chapter.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be amended in Sec. 2, 20 V.S.A. § 3581, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) In addition to the license fees assessed in subsections (a) and (c) of this section and section 3583 of this title, municipal clerks shall assess a ~~\$1.00~~ \$3.00 fee for each license sold. The clerks shall forward the fees collected under this subsection to the State Treasurer on or before the 15th day of May, September, and January of each year, together with an accounting of the licenses sold. The funds collected under this subsection are to be used for rabies control programs and for administration of animal welfare laws in the State. For this purpose, on or before the 30th days of May, September, and January, the State Treasurer shall disburse the funds collected under this subsection as follows:

- (1) ~~Forty-five 14.85~~ percent to the Fish and Wildlife Fund;
- (2) ~~Forty-five 14.85~~ percent to the Commissioner of Health;
- (3) ~~Ten 3.3~~ percent to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets;
and
- (4) 67 percent to the Animal Welfare Fund created by section 3203 of this title.

Rep. Harrison of Chittenden, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and when further amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, and when further amended by striking out Sec. 4, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 3, definition of humane officer, shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except that 13 V.S.A. § 351(4)(B)(ii), inclusion of Division of Animal Welfare employee as humane officer, shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs was amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, and thereafter amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereafter, the bill was amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, as amended, and third reading ordered.

**Second Reading; Question Divided; Recess; Proposal of Amendment
Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered**

S. 209

Rep. Arsenaull of Williston, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting unserialized firearms and unserialized firearms frames and receivers

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. 13 V.S.A. chapter 85 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 85. WEAPONS

* * *

Subchapter 4. Unserialized Firearms and Firearms Frames and Receivers

§ 4081. SHORT TITLE

This subchapter shall be known as the “Vermont Ghost Guns Act.”

§ 4082. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Federal firearms licensee” means a federally licensed firearm dealer, federally licensed firearm importer, and federally licensed firearm manufacturer.

(2) “Federally licensed firearm dealer” means a licensed dealer as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(11).

(3) “Federally licensed firearm importer” means a licensed importer as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(9).

(4) “Federally licensed firearm manufacturer” means a licensed manufacturer as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(10).

(5) “Fire control component” means a component necessary for the firearm to initiate, complete, or continue the firing sequence, including any of the following: hammer, bolt, bolt carrier, breechblock, cylinder, trigger mechanism, firing pin, striker, or slide rails.

(6) “Frame or receiver of a firearm” means a part of a firearm that, when the complete firearm is assembled, is visible from the exterior and provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate one or more fire control components, even if pins or other attachments are required to connect the fire control components. Any part of a firearm imprinted with a serial number is presumed to be a frame or receiver of a firearm unless the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives makes an official determination otherwise or there is other reliable evidence to the contrary.

(7) “Three-dimensional printer” means a computer-aided manufacturing device capable of producing a three-dimensional object from a three-dimensional digital model through an additive manufacturing process that involves the layering of two-dimensional cross sections formed of a resin or similar material that are fused together to form a three-dimensional object.

(8) “Unfinished frame or receiver” means any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body, or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture when it may readily be completed, assembled, or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled, or converted.

(9) “Violent crime” has the same meaning as in section 4017 of this title.

§ 4083. UNLAWFUL CONDUCT INVOLVING UNSERIALIZED
FIREARMS, FRAMES, AND RECEIVERS

(a)(1) A person shall not knowingly possess an unfinished frame or receiver unless the unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(2) A person shall not knowingly transfer or offer to transfer an unfinished frame or receiver unless the unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(3) This subsection shall not apply to:

(A) a federal firearms licensee acting within the scope of the licensee's license;

(B) possession or transfer of an unfinished frame or receiver for the purpose of having it imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title; or

(C) an unfinished frame or receiver transferred to or possessed by a law enforcement officer for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

(b)(1) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(2) A person shall not knowingly transfer or offer to transfer a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(3) This subsection shall not apply to:

(A) a federal firearms licensee acting within the scope of the licensee's license;

(B) possession or transfer of a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm for the purpose of having it imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title;

(C) an unserialized frame or receiver transferred to or possessed by a law enforcement officer for legitimate law enforcement purposes;

(D) an antique firearm as defined in subsection 4017(d) of this title;

(E) a firearm that has been rendered permanently inoperable; or

(F) a firearm that was manufactured before 1968.

(c)(1) A person who manufactures a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm, including by a three-dimensional printer, shall cause the firearm, frame, or receiver to be imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to:

(A) a federally licensed firearms manufacturer acting within the scope of the manufacturer's license; or

(B) possession or transfer of a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm for the purpose of having it imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title.

(d)(1) A person who violates subdivision (a)(1) or (b)(1) of this section shall be:

(A) for a first offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$50.00;

(B) for a second offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$250.00; and

(C) for a third or subsequent offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$500.00.

(2) A person who violates subdivision (a)(2), (b)(2), or (c)(1) of this section shall be:

(A) for a first offense, imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both;

(B) for a second offense, imprisoned for not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both; and

(C) for a third or subsequent offense, imprisoned for not more than three years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(3) A person who carries an unserialized firearm while committing a violent crime, or while committing reckless endangerment in violation of section 1025 of this title, shall be imprisoned for not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

§ 4084. FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES; AUTHORITY TO

SERIALIZE FIREARMS, FRAMES, AND RECEIVERS

(a)(1) A federal firearms licensee may imprint a serial number on, or cause a serial number to be imprinted on, an unserialized firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm pursuant to this section.

(2) A licensee who causes a serial number to be imprinted on an unserialized firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall:

(A) ensure that the firearm, frame, or receiver remains in the custody and control of the licensee and is returned to the licensee immediately after it is serialized; and

(B) otherwise comply with the requirements of this section.

(b)(1) A firearm, frame, or receiver serialized pursuant to this section shall be imprinted with a serial number that begins with the licensee's abbreviated federal firearms license number, which is the first three and last five digits of the license number, and is followed by a hyphen that precedes a unique identification number. The serial number shall not be duplicated on any other firearm, frame, or receiver serialized by the licensee and shall be imprinted in a manner that complies with the requirements under federal law for affixing serial numbers to firearms, including that the serial number be at the minimum size and depth and not susceptible to being readily obliterated, altered, or removed.

(2) A licensee who serializes or causes to be serialized a firearm, frame, or receiver pursuant to this section shall make and retain records of the serialization that comply with the requirements under federal law for the sale of a firearm. In addition to any record required by federal law, the record shall include the date, name, age, and residence of any person to whom the item is transferred and the unique serial number imprinted on the firearm, frame, or receiver.

(3) A licensee shall not be deemed a firearms manufacturer solely for serializing a firearm, frame, or receiver pursuant to this section.

(c) Returning a firearm, frame, or receiver to a person other than a licensee after it has been serialized pursuant to federal law or this section constitutes a transfer that requires a background check of the transferee. A federal licensee who serializes or causes to be serialized a firearm, frame, or receiver pursuant to this section shall conduct a background check on the transferee pursuant to subsection 4019(c) of this title, provided that if the transfer is denied, the licensee shall deliver the firearm, frame, or receiver to a law enforcement agency for disposition. The agency shall provide the licensee with a receipt on agency letterhead for the firearm, frame, or receiver.

(d) A licensee who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall:

(1) for a first offense, be fined not more than \$2,500.00; and

(2) for a second or subsequent offense, be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than \$2,500.00, or both.

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

* * *

(33) Violations of 13 V.S.A. § 4083(a)(1) or (b)(1) relating to possessing a firearm, frame or receiver of a firearm, or unfinished frame or receiver of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number.

* * *

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 4019a is amended to read:

§ 4019A. FIREARMS TRANSFERS; WAITING PERIOD

(a) A person shall not transfer a firearm to another person until 72 hours after the licensed dealer facilitating the transfer is provided with a unique identification number for the transfer by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) or seven business days have elapsed since the dealer contacted NICS to initiate the background check, whichever occurs first.

(b) A person who transfers a firearm to another person in violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$500.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to a firearm transfer that does not require a background check under 18 U.S.C. § 922(t) or section 4019 of this title.

(d) As used in this section, “firearm” has the same meaning as in subsection 4017(d) of this title.

(e)(1) This section shall not apply to a firearms transfer at a gun show.

(2) As used in this subsection, “gun show” means a function sponsored by:

(A) a national, state, or local organization, devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms; or

(B) an organization or association that sponsors functions devoted to the collection, competitive use, or other sporting use of firearms in the community.

(3) This subsection shall be repealed on ~~July 1, 2024~~ July 1, 2025.

(f) This section shall not apply to the return of a firearm, frame, or receiver to a person by a licensed dealer after the dealer has serialized it pursuant to federal law or section 4084 of this title if the dealer returns the firearm, frame, or receiver to the same person from whom it was received.

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 4027 is added to read:

§ 4027. POLLING PLACES; WEAPONS PROHIBITED

(a)(1) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon at a polling place, or on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located, on an election day.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to the town clerk's office during any period when a board of civil authority has voted to permit early voting pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2546b(a)(1).

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon carried for legitimate law enforcement purposes by a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358;

(2) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon carried by a person while performing the person's official duties as an employee of the United States; a department or agency of the United States; a state; or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a state, if the person is authorized to carry a firearm as part of the person's official duties; or

(3) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon stored in a motor vehicle.

(d) Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each polling place.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Dangerous or deadly weapon" has the same meaning as in section 4016 of this title.

(2) "Firearm" has the same meaning as in section 4017 of this title.

(3) "Polling place" means a place that a municipality has designated to the Secretary of State as a polling place pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2502(f).

Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2510 is added to read:

§ 2510. POLLING PLACES; WEAPONS PROHIBITED

(a)(1) A person shall not knowingly possess a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon at a polling place, or on the walks leading to a building in which a polling place is located, on an election day.

(2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to the town clerk's office during any period when a board of civil authority has voted to permit early voting pursuant to subdivision 2546b(a)(1) of this title.

(b) This section shall not apply to:

(1) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon carried for legitimate law enforcement purposes by a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358;

(2) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon carried by a person while performing the person's official duties as an employee of the United States; a department or agency of the United States; a state; or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a state, if the person is authorized to carry a firearm as part of the person's official duties; or

(3) a firearm or a dangerous or deadly weapon stored in a motor vehicle.

(c) Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance to each polling place.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Dangerous or deadly weapon" has the same meaning as in 13 V.S.A. § 4016.

(2) "Firearm" has the same meaning as in section 13 V.S.A. § 4017.

(3) "Polling place" means a place that a municipality has designated to the Secretary of State as a polling place pursuant to subsection 2502(f) of this title.

Sec. 6. REPORT; VERMONT STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER (SAC)

On or before January 1, 2026, the Vermont Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) shall report data on prosecutions under Sec. 1 of this act to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary. The report shall include:

(1) the number of civil violations filed and adjudications obtained for violations of 13 V.S.A. § 4083(a)(1) or (b)(1) relating to possessing a firearm, frame or receiver of a firearm, or unfinished frame or receiver of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number;

(2) the number of criminal charges filed and convictions obtained for violations of 13 V.S.A. § 4083(a)(2), (b)(2), or (c)(1) relating to transferring, offering to transfer, or manufacturing a firearm, frame or receiver of a firearm, or unfinished frame or receiver of a firearm that is not imprinted with a serial number;

(3) the number of criminal charges filed and convictions obtained for violations of 13 V.S.A. § 4083(d)(3) relating to carrying an unserialized firearm while committing a violent crime, or while committing reckless endangerment; and

(4) the number of criminal charges filed and convictions obtained for violations of 13 V.S.A. § 4084(b) or (c) relating to improper serialization or handling of a firearm or frame or receiver of a firearm by a federal firearms licensee.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on February 28, 2025.

(b) Secs. 3, 4, 5, 6 and this section shall take effect on passage.

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

Thereupon, **Rep. Parsons of Newbury** asked that the question be divided by first considering Sections 4 and 5, regarding weapons at polling places, and their applicable effective dates, and by thereafter considering the remainder of the report of the Committee on Judiciary, and the Speaker ruled the question was divisible in that manner.

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

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

Thereupon, the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Judiciary in Sections 4 and 5 and their applicable effective dates.

Thereafter, the remainder of the report of the Committee on Judiciary was agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Sammis of Castleton** 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 read a third time?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 110. Nays, 31.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Andrews of Westford	Demrow of Corinth	McGill of Bridport
Andriano of Orwell	Dodge of Essex	Mihaly of Calais
Anthony of Barre City	Dolan of Essex Junction	Mrowicki of Putney
Arrison of Weathersfield	Dolan of Waitsfield	Nicoll of Ludlow
Arsenault of Williston	Donahue of Northfield	Notte of Rutland City
Austin of Colchester	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Noyes of Wolcott
Bartholomew of Hartland	Elder of Starksboro	Nugent of South Burlington
Bartley of Fairfax	Emmons of Springfield	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Beck of St. Johnsbury *	Farlice-Rubio of Barnet	Ode of Burlington
Berbeco of Winooski	Garofano of Essex	Pajala of Londonderry
Birong of Vergennes	Goldman of Rockingham	Patt of Worcester
Black of Essex	Goslant of Northfield	Pearl of Danville
Bluemle of Burlington	Graning of Jericho	Pouech of Hinesburg
Bongartz of Manchester	Harrison of Chittenden	Priestley of Bradford
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Headrick of Burlington	Quimby of Lyndon
Boyden of Cambridge	Hooper of Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Brady of Williston	Houghton of Essex Junction	Rice of Dorset
Branagan of Georgia	Howard of Rutland City	Roberts of Halifax
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	Shaw of Pittsford
Burrows of West Windsor	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Buss of Woodstock	Krasnow of South	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Burlington	Sims of Craftsbury
Carpenter of Hyde Park	LaBounty of Lyndon	Small of Winooski
Carroll of Bennington	Lalley of Shelburne	Squirrell of Underhill
Casey of Montpelier	LaLonde of South	Stebbins of Burlington
Chapin of East Montpelier	Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Chase of Chester	LaMont of Morristown	Stone of Burlington
Chesnut-Tangerman of	Lanpher of Vergennes	Taylor of Colchester
Middletown Springs	Leavitt of Grand Isle	Toleno of Brattleboro
Christie of Hartford	Lipsky of Stowe	Torre of Moretown
Cina of Burlington	Logan of Burlington	Troiano of Stannard
Coffey of Guilford	Long of Newfane	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Cole of Hartford	Marcotte of Coventry	White of Bethel
Conlon of Cornwall	Masland of Thetford	Whitman of Bennington
Corcoran of Bennington	McCarthy of St. Albans	Williams of Barre City
Cordes of Lincoln	City	Wood of Waterbury

Those who voted in the negative are:

Brennan of Colchester	Gregoire of Fairfield	Page of Newport City
Brownell of Pownal	Hango of Berkshire	Parsons of Newbury
Burditt of West Rutland	Higley of Lowell	Peterson of Clarendon
Canfield of Fair Haven	Labor of Morgan	Sammis of Castleton *
Chase of Colchester	Laroche of Franklin	Smith of Derby
Clifford of Rutland City	Maguire of Rutland City	Taylor of Milton
Demar of Enosburgh	Mattos of Milton	Templeman of Brownington
Dickinson of St. Albans	McCoy of Poultney	Toof of St. Albans Town
Town	McFaun of Barre Town	Walker of Swanton

Galfetti of Barre Town
Graham of Williamstown

Morgan of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington

Williams of Granby

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

Holcombe of Norwich
Hooper of Randolph
McCann of Montpelier

Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield
Oliver of Sheldon

Surprenant of Barnard

Rep. Beck of St. Johnsbury explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

With the exception of sections 4 and 5, this bill meets my threshold on firearms legislation – it helps to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people. I am hopeful that sections 4 and 5 will be removed prior to final passage.”

Rep. Sammis of Castleton explained his vote as follows:

“Madam Speaker:

Any bill that violates the right of few, violates the rights of us all.”

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

S. 187

Rep. Brady of Williston, for the Committee on Education, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to student application of sunscreen

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence.

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

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 40

House bill, entitled

An act relating to nonconsensual removal of or tampering with a condom

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Rachelson of Burlington**, action on the bill was postponed until April 23, 2024.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in**H. 666**

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to escrow deposit bonds

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 1, 27A V.S.A. § 4-110, in subdivision (b)(1), following “and the declarant”, by striking out the words “discloses the identity of the issuer of the surety bond to the purchaser” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “provides the purchaser with a copy of the surety bond under which the purchaser’s deposit is protected”

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar
Bill Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means**

S. 184

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the temporary use of automated traffic law enforcement (ATLE) systems

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Adjournment

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