

# Journal of the House

Friday, March 31, 2023

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

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rabbi Jan Salzman, Congregational Ruach haMaqom, Burlington.

## Pages Honored

In appreciation of their many services to the members of the General Assembly, the Speaker recognized the following named Pages who are completing their service today and presented them with commemorative pins:

**Olivia P. Badger of Barre Town**  
**Gabrielle Bock of Northfield**  
**Nicholas R. Cellini of Pomfret**  
**Emilia Y. Chittenden of South Burlington**  
**Asa Lloyd of Montpelier**  
**Connor Noyes-Urffer of Brattleboro**  
**Elisa O'Brien of East Montpelier**

## Joint Resolution Adopted

### J.R.H. 4

Joint resolution, entitled

Joint resolution recognizing March 31, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Vermont, expressing support for the transgender rights of all Vermonters, and opposing legislation restricting the rights of transgender Vermonters regardless of their age

Offered by: Representatives Small of Winooski, Andrews of Westford, Andriano of Orwell, Anthony of Barre City, Arrison of Weathersfield, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Birong of Vergennes, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bongartz of Manchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Brownell of Pownal, Brumsted of Shelburne, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carpenter of Hyde Park, Carroll of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Chase of

Chester, Chase of Colchester, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Cole of Hartford, Conlon of Cornwall, Corcoran of Bennington, Cordes of Lincoln, Demrow of Corinth, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Dolan of Waitsfield, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Elder of Starksboro, Emmons of Springfield, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, James of Manchester, Jerome of Brandon, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Lanpher of Vergennes, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Mrowicki of Putney, Mulvaney-Stanak of Burlington, Nicoll of Ludlow, Notte of Rutland City, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, Patt of Worcester, Pearl of Danville, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Rice of Dorset, Roberts of Halifax, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Sims of Craftsbury, Squirrell of Underhill, Stebbins of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Taylor of Colchester, Templeman of Brownington, Toleno of Brattleboro, Torre of Moretown, Troiano of Stannard, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Bethel, Whitman of Bennington, Williams of Barre City, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, in 2009, March 31 was established as International Transgender Day of Visibility to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the transgender community, to raise awareness of the discrimination and potentially fatal violence transgender persons experience, and to recognize the bravery required to live a visibly transgender life, and

Whereas, before the establishment of the State of Vermont, Indigenous two-spirit and transgender individuals existed in many Native American communities, and although many of these traditions were lost or suppressed, they have experienced a revival, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont believes that every resident deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and afforded equal justice and fair access to societal opportunities, and

Whereas, in accordance with 9 V.S.A., chapter 139, discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodation and housing is prohibited, and 21

V.S.A. § 495(a)(1) and (2) prohibit such discrimination with respect to employment, and

Whereas, anti-transgender legislation, which has been introduced and adopted in a number of states, is an attack on the mental health and safety of transgender youth and creates a hostile environment for all children and their families, and

Whereas, in opposing such legislation, the State of Vermont takes a stand in proclaiming our State to be inclusive and to stand with the LGBTQIA2S+ community, as well as to encourage other states to join with Vermont in giving a stronger voice to transgender children and youth, and

Whereas, President Joe Biden recognized the importance of Transgender Day of Visibility with a proclamation issued on March 30, 2023, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 31, 2023 as Transgender Day of Visibility in Vermont, expresses support for the rights of all transgender Vermonters, and opposes legislation restricting the rights of transgender Vermonters regardless of their age, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Outright Vermont, the Pride Center of Vermont, and Out in the Open.

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

### **Remarks Journalized**

On motion of **Rep. Wood of Waterbury**, the following remarks by **Rep. Small of Winooski** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

We just heard the reading of a resolution recognizing today as Transgender Day of Visibility.

Each year on March 31, the world observes Trans Day of Visibility to raise awareness about transgender people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of trans people, while also drawing attention to the poverty, discrimination, and violence that the community continues to face.

International Trans Day of Visibility was created in 2009 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall. Crandall, the head of Transgender Michigan, created the day in response to the overwhelming majority of media stories about trans people being focused on violence. She hoped to create a day where people could re-

focus on celebrating the lives of transgender people, empowering them to live authentically, while still acknowledging that due to discrimination, not every trans person can or wants to be visible.

We must also acknowledge that visibility is just the tip of the iceberg. Visibility is what helps to lead us towards the full and necessary protections of trans and gender non-conforming people under the law on the state and federal level. Except, sadly, what we are seeing now are over 400 anti-LGBTQ bills that have been filed so far this year, with over half of them specifically targeting trans people, particularly youth. This builds on what we saw in both 2021 and 2022 with a massive increase in anti-trans legislation across the country. This anti-trans hypervisibility harms all trans people who are being demonized and scapegoated by politicians and in many media outlets.

But here in Vermont, I know that we are committed to protecting the rights of all our residents. Our rights to healthcare, fair housing, employment, and public accommodations. Today we affirmed those protections and our commitment to trans Vermonters, especially our trans youth, that we not only see them, but we will not follow the hateful lead of other states. Instead, we will be the leaders on bodily autonomy and expansive anti-discrimination protections.

In particular, we know that the hateful rhetoric towards trans people nationally is having a profound impact on our youth. We must listen to our youth to know how we move forward as a safe and affirming state. That's why I want to invite all members to join the over 250 youth from across Vermont who will be speaking out on the Statehouse lawn today at noon. This speak out is in connection to LGBTQIA+ youth in all 50 states who are also holding statewide actions with youth-specific demands for autonomy and safety related measures. I encourage you all to join, show your support as an ally, and most importantly listen to those most impacted. That is our responsibility as state leaders, Madam Speaker."

### **Third Reading; Bill Passed**

#### **H. 492**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate

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

**Third Reading; Bill Passed****H. 493**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding

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

**Amendment Offered; Third Reading; Division; Bill Passed****H. 494**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government

Was taken up.

Pending third reading of the bill, **Representatives Gregoire of Fairfield, Bartley of Fairfax, Branagan of Georgia, Demar of Enosburgh, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Hango of Berkshire, Laroche of Franklin, Oliver of Sheldon, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Walker of Swanton** moved to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. B.1100, miscellaneous fiscal-year 2024 one-time appropriations, in subsection (j), by adding a new subdivision (4) to read:

(4) \$60,000 General Fund for a grant to the Franklin County Field Days to conduct planning to investigate options for moving operation of the Field Days to a new location;

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct

and in the newly renumbered subdivision (6), by striking out the ending period and inserting in lieu thereof “.”

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

Thereafter, the bill was read a third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Ode of Burlington** requested the vote be by division.

Thereupon, the bill passed: Yeas, 111. Nays, 38.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;  
Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 146**

**Rep. Higley of Lowell**, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to amendments to the charter of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District

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.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;  
Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 271**

**Rep. Hooper of Burlington**, 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 Springfield

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.

**Favorable Report; Second Reading;  
Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 418**

**Rep. Mrowicki of Putney**, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment 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.

**Message from the Senate No. 35**

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Kucserik, 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. 4.** An act relating to reducing crimes of violence associated with juveniles and dangerous weapons.

**S. 17.** An act relating to sheriff reforms.

**S. 18.** An act relating to banning flavored tobacco products and e-liquids.

**S. 32.** An act relating to ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections.

**S. 42.** An act relating to divestment of State pension funds of investments in the fossil fuel industry.

**S. 89.** An act relating to establishing a forensic facility.

**S. 91.** An act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense.

**S. 133.** An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law.

**S. 137.** An act relating to energy efficiency modernization.

**S. 138.** An act relating to school safety.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

**H.C.R. 71.** House concurrent resolution recognizing the economic significance of Benefit Corporations in Vermont.

**H.C.R. 72.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Vermont's 2023 Youth of the Year honorees.

**H.C.R. 73.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division IV championship.

**H.C.R. 74.** House concurrent resolution congratulating former Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots' basketball coach Dave Fredrickson on his induction into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame.

**H.C.R. 75.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots on winning a second consecutive Division I boys Nordic skiing championship.

**H.C.R. 76.** House concurrent resolution designating April 6, 2023 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House.

**H.C.R. 77.** House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots on winning their 34th consecutive State

wrestling championship.

**H.C.R. 78.** House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the establishment of Concord Academy.

**H.C.R. 79.** House concurrent resolution recognizing April 5, 2023 as Start by Believing Day in Vermont.

**H.C.R. 80.** House concurrent resolution congratulating Cersosimo Industries Inc. on its 75th anniversary.

**H.C.R. 81.** House concurrent resolution designating April 4, 2023 as Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Day in Vermont.

### **Adjournment**

At eleven o'clock and forty-seven minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 21.

### **Concurrent Resolutions Adopted**

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

#### **H.C.R. 71**

House concurrent resolution recognizing the economic significance of Benefit Corporations in Vermont

#### **H.C.R. 72**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Vermont's 2023 Youth of the Year honorees

#### **H.C.R. 73**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the West Rutland High School Golden Horde girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division IV championship

#### **H.C.R. 74**

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots' basketball coach Dave Fredrickson on his induction into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame



**H.C.R. 75**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots on winning a second consecutive Division I boys Nordic skiing championship

**H.C.R. 76**

House concurrent resolution designating April 6, 2023 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House

**H.C.R. 77**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2023 Mt. Anthony Union High School Patriots on winning their 34th consecutive State wrestling championship

**H.C.R. 78**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the establishment of Concord Academy

**H.C.R. 79**

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 5, 2023 as Start by Believing Day in Vermont

**H.C.R. 80**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Cersosimo Industries Inc. on its 75th anniversary

**H.C.R. 81**

House concurrent resolution designating April 4, 2023 as Youth and Young Adult Mental Health Day in Vermont

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2023 Biennial Session.]