

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Message from the House No. 54

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Nigel Hicks-Tibbles, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 14. An act relating to a report on criminal justice-related investments and trends.

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

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Bills Referred to Committee on Finance

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Finance:

H. 67. An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances.

H. 171. An act relating to adult protective services.

H. 270. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the adult-use and medical cannabis programs.

H. 470. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule were severally referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

H. 31. An act relating to aquatic nuisance control.

H. 62. An act relating to the interstate Counseling Compact.

H. 77. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

H. 86. An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

H. 291. An act relating to the creation of the Cybersecurity Advisory Council.

H. 461. An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws.

Bills Referred

Pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A, House bills of the following titles:

H. 504. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Berlin.

H. 505. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Rutland.

Were referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 26.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 26. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, May 5, 2023, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 3 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

PROPOSAL 3

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, and that a labor organization chosen to represent a group of employees shall have the right to collect dues from its members. 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.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 152.

By Senator Sears,

An act relating to public access to trials.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

House bill of the following title was read the third time.

H. 230. An act relating to implementing mechanisms to reduce suicide.

And passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment on a roll call, Yeas 19, Nays 9.

Senator Ingalls having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Champion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Sears, Vyhovsky, Watson, White, Wrenner.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Brock, Collamore, Ingalls, Mazza, Norris, Starr, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Hardy, McCormack.

Bill Passed in Concurrence**H. 288.**

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

An act relating to liability for the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Recess

On motion of Senator Baruth the Senate recessed until the fall of the gavel.

Called to Order

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

House bill of the following title was read the third time.

H. 479. An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

And passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment on a roll call, Yeas 28, Nays 0.

Senator Mazza having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bray, Brock, Champion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Harrison, Hashim, Ingalls, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, Norris, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Sears, Starr, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams, Wrenner.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Hardy, McCormack.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.