

House Calendar

Friday, February 7, 2025

31st DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 141

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Favorable with Amendment

H. 118

An act relating to expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes

Rep. Arsenault of Williston, for the Committee on Judiciary, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1455 is amended to read:

§ 1455. HATE-MOTIVATED CRIMES

(a) A person who commits, causes to be committed, or attempts to commit any crime and whose conduct is motivated, in whole or in part, by ~~the victim's~~ another person's or a group of persons' actual or perceived membership in a protected category shall be subject to the following penalties:

(1) If the maximum penalty for the underlying crime is one year or less, the penalty for a violation of this section shall be imprisonment for not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(2) If the maximum penalty for the underlying crime is more than one year but less than five years, the penalty for a violation of this section shall be imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(3) If the maximum penalty for the underlying crime is five years or more, the penalty for the underlying crime shall apply; however, the court shall consider the motivation of the defendant as a factor in sentencing.

(b) ~~The victim's~~ A person's or a group of persons' actual or perceived membership in a protected category or categories need not be the predominant reason or the sole reason for the defendant's conduct.

(c) As used in this section, "protected category" includes race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, service in the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard, disability as defined by 21 V.S.A. § 495d(5), sexual orientation, gender identity, and perceived membership in any such group.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Special Committee Report

Rep. Birong of Vergennes, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which was referred the request of Bruce Busa for the House to judge the election and qualification of its member in House District Bennington-1 submits the following report:

The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs considered the request of Bruce Busa for the House to judge the election and qualification of its member in House District Bennington-1. The Committee affirms the certified election results and finds that Representative Jonathan Cooper of Pownal was duly elected and is qualified to represent House District Bennington-1 as a member of the House of Representatives.

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber before today's adjournment. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar of February 6, 2025.

H.C.R. 19

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermonter Noah Dines on establishing a new one-year world vertical skiing record of 3,590,097 feet

H.C.R. 20

House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and Montpelier High School's role in the Washington County teen performances

H.C.R. 21

House concurrent resolution expressing strong appreciation for the essential role of Vermont's school board members in the State's public education system and designating February as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 22

House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House

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H.C.R. 25

House concurrent resolution recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 26

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal

H.C.R. 27

House concurrent resolution honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program

For Informational Purposes

**ANNOUNCEMENT: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED FY 2026 BUDGET**

The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations will hold two **joint public hearings on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 1:45 p.m. and Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** via in person or videoconference.

The Committee will take testimony on the Governor’s recommended budget adjustments at the above date and time. **Anyone interested in testifying should sign up in advance of the hearing through the following online form:** <https://legislature.vermont.gov/links/joint-public-hearings-on-the-fy26-budget> **not later than 10:00 a.m. on February 12, 2025, for the first hearing, and 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2025, for the second hearing.** Instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent once you have signed up for the hearing.

The hearing will be available to watch live on YouTube at the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-appropriations>

For more information about the format of these events, contact Erin Pedley at epedley@leg.state.vt.us or Elle Oille-Stanforth at eoille-stanforth@leg.state.vt.us. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted electronically through email at testimony2025@leg.state.vt.us or mailed to the House Committee on Appropriations, c/o Erin Pedley, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover dates:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 14, 2025**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill, and the Fee/Revenue bills).

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (H.C.R.) PROCESS

Joint Rules 16a–16d provide the procedure for the General Assembly to adopt concurrent resolutions pursuant to the Consent Calendar. Here are the steps for Representatives to introduce an H.C.R. and to have it ceremonially read during a House session:

1. Meet with Legislative Counselor Michael Chernick regarding your H.C.R. draft request. Come prepared with an idea and any relevant supporting documents.
2. Have a date in mind if you want a ceremonial reading. You should meet with Counselor Chernick at least two weeks prior to the week you want your ceremonial reading to happen.
3. Counselor Chernick will draft your H.C.R., and Resolutions Editor and Coordinator Jill Pralle will edit it. Upon completion of this process, a paper or electronic copy will be released to you. If a paper copy is released to you, a sponsor signout sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit the sponsor list to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.
5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted to Counselor Chernick not later than 12:00 noon the Thursday of the week prior to the H.C.R.'s appearance on the Consent Calendar.
6. The Office of Legislative Counsel will then send your H.C.R. to the House Clerk's Office for incorporation into the Consent Calendar and House Calendar Addendum for the following week.
7. The week that your H.C.R. is on the Consent Calendar, any presentation copies that you requested will be mailed or available for pickup on Friday, after the House and Senate adjourn, which is when your H.C.R. is adopted pursuant to Joint Rules.
8. Your H.C.R. can be ceremonially read during a House session once it is adopted. If you would like to schedule a ceremonial reading, contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.