

# House Calendar

Friday, February 28, 2025

52nd DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Third Reading**

**H. 339**

An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 96**

An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need

**Rep. Cordes of Bristol**, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9434 is amended to read:

§ 9434. CERTIFICATE OF NEED; GENERAL RULES

(a) A health care facility other than a hospital shall not develop or have developed on its behalf a new health care project without issuance of a certificate of need by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, a “new health care project” ~~includes~~ means any of the following:

(1) The construction, development, purchase, renovation, or other establishment of a health care facility, or any capital expenditure by or on behalf of a health care facility, for which the capital cost exceeds ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(2) A change from one licensing period to the next in the number of licensed beds of a health care facility through addition or conversion, or through relocation from one physical facility or site to another.

(3) The offering of any home health service, or the transfer or conveyance of more than a 50 percent ownership interest in a health care facility other than a hospital or nursing home.

(4) The purchase, lease, or other comparable arrangement of a single piece of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for which the cost, or in the case of a donation the value, is in excess of ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00. For purposes of this subdivision, the purchase or lease of one or more articles of

diagnostic or therapeutic equipment that are necessarily interdependent in the performance of their ordinary functions or that would constitute any health care facility included under subdivision 9432(8)(B) of this title, as determined by the Board, shall be considered together in calculating the amount of an expenditure. The Board's determination of functional interdependence of items of equipment under this subdivision shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(5) The offering of a health care service or technology having an annual operating expense that exceeds ~~\$500,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00 for either of the next two budgeted fiscal years, if the service or technology was not offered or employed, either on a fixed or a mobile basis, by the health care facility within the previous three fiscal years.

(6) The construction, development, purchase, lease, or other establishment or expansion of an ambulatory surgical center for which the cost exceeds \$10,000,000.00.

(b) A hospital shall not develop or have developed on its behalf a new health care project without issuance of a certificate of need by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, a "new health care project" ~~includes~~ means any of the following:

(1) The construction, development, purchase, renovation, or other establishment of a health care facility, or any capital expenditure by or on behalf of a hospital, for which the capital cost exceeds ~~\$3,000,000.00~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(2) The purchase, lease, or other comparable arrangement of a single piece of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment for which the cost, or in the case of a donation the value, is in excess of ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$5,000,000.00. For purposes of this subdivision, the purchase or lease of one or more articles of diagnostic or therapeutic equipment that are necessarily interdependent in the performance of their ordinary functions or that would constitute any health care facility included under subdivision 9432(8)(B) of this title, as determined by the Board, shall be considered together in calculating the amount of an expenditure. The Board's determination of functional interdependence of items of equipment under this subdivision shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(3) The offering of a health care service or technology having an annual operating expense that exceeds ~~\$1,000,000.00~~ \$3,000,000.00 for either of the next two budgeted fiscal years, if the service or technology was not offered or employed, either on a fixed or a mobile basis, by the hospital within the previous three fiscal years.

(4) A change from one licensing period to the next in the number of licensed beds of a health care facility through addition or conversion, or through relocation from one physical facility or site to another.

(5) The offering of any home health service.

(c) In the case of a project that requires a certificate of need under this section, expenditures for which are anticipated to be in excess of ~~\$30,000,000.00~~ \$50,000,000.00, the applicant first shall secure a conceptual development phase certificate of need, in accordance with the standards and procedures established in this subchapter, that permits the applicant to make expenditures for architectural services, engineering design services, or any other planning services, as defined by the Board, needed in connection with the project. Upon completion of the conceptual development phase of the project, and before offering or further developing the project, the applicant shall secure a final certificate of need in accordance with the standards and procedures established in this subchapter. Applicants shall not be subject to sanctions for failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection if such failure is solely the result of good faith reliance on verified project cost estimates issued by qualified persons, which cost estimates would have led a reasonable person to conclude the project was not anticipated to be in excess of ~~\$30,000,000.00~~ \$50,000,000.00 and therefore not subject to this subsection. The provisions of this subsection notwithstanding, expenditures may be made in preparation for obtaining a conceptual development phase certificate of need, which expenditures shall not exceed ~~\$1,500,000.00 for non-hospitals or \$3,000,000.00 for hospitals~~ \$10,000,000.00.

(d) If the Board determines that a person required to obtain a certificate of need under this subchapter has separated a single project into components in order to avoid cost thresholds or other requirements under this subchapter, the person shall be required to submit an application for a certificate of need for the entire project, and the Board may proceed under section 9445 of this title. The Board's determination under this subsection shall have the effect of a final decision and is subject to appeal under section 9381 of this title.

(e) The Board may periodically adjust the monetary jurisdictional thresholds contained in this section. In doing so, the Board shall reflect the same categories of health care facilities, services, and programs recognized in this section. Any adjustment by the Board shall not exceed an amount calculated using the cumulative Consumer Price Index rate of inflation.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9435 is amended to read:

§ 9435. EXCLUSIONS

\* \* \*

(f)(1) Excluded from this subchapter are routine replacements of:

(A) medical equipment that is fully depreciated; and

(B) nonmedical equipment and fixtures, including furnaces, boilers, refrigeration units, kitchen equipment, heating and cooling units, and similar items, regardless of their remaining useful life.

(2) These The replacements described in subdivision (1) of this subsection and purchased by a hospital shall be included in the hospital's budget and may be reviewed in the budget process set forth in subchapter 7 of this chapter.

\* \* \*

(i) Excluded from this subchapter are emergency and nonemergency ground ambulance services, affiliated agencies, and equipment and supplies used by emergency medical personnel, as those terms are defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025 and shall apply to all new health care projects initiated on or after that date. For applications for a certificate of need that are already in process on July 1, 2025 for which one or more persons have been granted interested party status, the jurisdictional thresholds and exclusions in place at the time the application was filed shall continue to apply until a final decision is made on the application. For applications for a certificate of need that are already in process on July 1, 2025 for which no person has been granted interested party status, the applicant may withdraw the application in accordance with Board rules.

**(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)**

**Rep. Branagan of Georgia**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Health Care.

**(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)**

## 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 27, 2025.

**H.C.R. 41**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership

**H.C.R. 42**

House concurrent resolution honoring Oxbow Union High School CoPrincipal and Gather author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich

**H.C.R. 43**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II boys' championship indoor track and field team

**H.C.R. 44**

House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 18, 2025 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont

**H.C.R. 45**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship

**H.C.R. 46**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball program on winning a fourth consecutive State championship

**H.C.R. 47**

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont

**H.C.R. 48**

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington

## **For Informational Purposes**

### **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.

#### **JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE NOTICES**

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)(D):

**JFO #3244:** \$2,335,401.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Funds support continued crisis counseling assistance and training in response to the July 2024 flood event. *[Received February 7, 2025]*

**JFO #3245:** \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Funds used to provide trainings for crisis staff and to make improvements to the State's crisis system dispatch platform. *[Received February 7, 2025]*