

House Calendar

Monday, April 28, 2025

111th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

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ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until April 28, 2025

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 398

An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority

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

First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, in section 254, in the section heading, by striking out the word “STATE” and inserting in lieu thereof “STATE AUTHORITY”

Second: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, in section 280gg, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

(a)(1) There is established within the Authority the Vermont Disaster Recovery Loan Fund, referred to in this subchapter as “the Fund,” the purpose of which is to enable the Authority to provide loans and other forms of financial assistance to businesses, including agricultural and forest product enterprises, after disasters.

(2) The Authority shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development; the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets; and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation in determining whether funds shall be made available following a nondeclared disaster event impacting areas of the State. A consultation shall not be required in the event of a disaster declaration declared by the Governor or the President of the United States.

New Business

Third Reading

H. 364

An act relating to approval of the annexation of property by the Village of Swanton

S. 36

An act relating to the Medicaid payment model for residential substance use disorder treatment services

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 13

An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for home- and community-based service providers

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 900 is amended to read:

§ 900. DEFINITIONS

~~Unless otherwise required by the context, the words and phrases in this chapter shall be defined as follows~~ As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) “Community-based services” means the following services provided pursuant to Vermont’s Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration or a successor program:

(A) long-term services and supports provided to older adults and adults with disabilities in a home or community setting other than a nursing home, including enhanced residential care services;

(B) home health and hospice services, adult day rehabilitation services, and assistive community care services; and

(C) short- and long-term services and supports provided to individuals with mental conditions, individuals with substance use disorders, individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and individuals with a brain injury, in a home or community setting that is not a clinical residential setting or a private nonmedical residential setting.

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 911 is added to read:

§ 911. PAYMENT RATES FOR PROVIDERS OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall calculate payment rates for providers of community-based services that are reasonable and adequate to achieve the required outcomes for the populations they serve. When calculating these payment rates, the Secretary:

(1) for informational purposes, shall ensure that the calculations take into account factors that include:

(A) the reasonable cost of any governmental mandate that has been enacted, adopted, or imposed by any State or federal authority; and

(B) a cost adjustment factor to reflect changes in reasonable costs of goods to and services of providers of community-based services, including those attributed to inflation and labor market dynamics; and

(2) may consider geographic differences in wages, benefits, housing, and real estate costs in each region of the State.

(b) The Secretary shall establish a methodology for calculating payment rates for providers of community-based services in accordance with this section. The methodology shall:

(1) provide a schedule for conducting studies of the Medicaid reimbursement rates paid to the providers of community-based services, including the rates' adequacy and their underlying methodologies, that includes studying the rates paid to providers for each type of service at least once every five years;

(2) set forth a predictable timeline for redetermination of base rates;

(3) include a process for calculating an annual inflationary rate adjustment;

(4) to the extent permitted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, take into account the financial needs of providers whose reimbursements may be negatively affected by client absences; and

(5) use Vermont labor market rates and Vermont costs of operation.

(c) The Secretary shall establish a process by which a provider of community-based services whose financial condition places it at imminent risk of closure may request provider stabilization from the Agency.

(d) The Secretary shall recalculate the payment rates for providers of community-based services in accordance with this section at least annually and shall report those rates, and the amounts necessary to fund them, to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Human Services, and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare annually as part of the Agency's budget presentation.

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 8914 is amended to read:

§ 8914. RATES OF PAYMENTS TO DESIGNATED AND SPECIALIZED SERVICE AGENCIES

(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall ~~have sole responsibility for establishing~~ calculate the Departments of Health's, of Mental Health's, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living's rates of payments for designated and specialized service agencies ~~that are reasonable and adequate to achieve~~

~~the required outcomes for designated populations in accordance with 33 V.S.A. § 911. When establishing rates of payment for designated and specialized service agencies, the Secretary shall adjust rates to take into account factors that include:~~

~~(1) the reasonable cost of any governmental mandate that has been enacted, adopted, or imposed by any State or federal authority; and~~

~~(2) a cost adjustment factor to reflect changes in reasonable costs of goods and services of designated and specialized service agencies, including those attributed to inflation and labor market dynamics.~~

~~(b) When establishing rates of payment for designated and specialized service agencies, the Secretary may consider geographic differences in wages, benefits, housing, and real estate costs in each region of the State.~~

Sec. 4. PAYMENT RATES FOR PROVIDERS OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES; UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2026, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committees on Human Services and on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare with an update on the Agency's implementation of 33 V.S.A. § 911, as added by Sec. 2 of this act, including the Agency's proposed schedule for Medicaid rate studies and the methodology the Agency developed for calculating payment rates for providers of community-based services.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to Medicaid payment rates for community-based service providers"

H. 206

An act relating to the Uniform Commercial Code

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

First: In Sec. 11, transitional provisions for articles 9 and 12 of the Uniform Commercial Code amendments, in subdivision (b)(1)(A), following "transaction validly entered into", by inserting "before"

Second: In Sec. 11, transitional provisions for articles 9 and 12 of the Uniform Commercial Code amendments, in subdivision (d)(2), following "as amended by this act, on", by striking out "July 1, 2025"

H. 463

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill in: Sec. 7, 9 V.S.A. § 206, following “pertaining” by inserting to

NOTICE CALENDAR Favorable with Amendment

H. 86

An act relating to establishing the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program at the Agency of Natural Resources

Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier, for the Committee on Environment, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

(a) It is the purpose of this act to establish the accepted standards of care for the application of salt and salt alternatives in an effective and efficient manner that provides safe conditions for pedestrians and motor vehicles on traveled surfaces while also reducing the impacts of salt and salt alternatives on the quality of the waters of the State.

(b) It is intent of this act that a person’s compliance with the standards of care required under this act shall limit the person’s liability in negligence lawsuits.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A is added to read:

Subchapter 3A. Chloride Contamination Reduction Program

§ 1351. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Apply salt” or “application of salt” means to apply salt or a salt alternative to roadways, parking lots, or sidewalks for the purpose of winter maintenance or for summer dust control. “Apply salt” or “application of salt” does not mean the application of salt to a transportation infrastructure construction project.

(2) “Commercial salt applicator” means any individual who for compensation applies salt but does not include municipal or State employees.

(3) “Master commercial salt applicator” means any individual who employs and is responsible for individuals who for compensation apply salt but does not include municipal or State employees.

(4) “Salt” means sodium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or any other substance containing chloride used for the purpose of deicing, anti-icing, or dust control.

(5) “Salt alternative” means any substance not containing chloride used for the purpose of deicing, anti-icing, or dust control.

(6) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

(7) “Transportation infrastructure construction project” means a project that involves the construction of roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, or other construction activities at transportation facilities or within transportation rights-of-way.

§ 1352. CHLORIDE CONTAMINATION REDUCTION PROGRAM

(a) The Secretary of Natural Resources, after consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and other states with similar chloride reduction programs, shall establish the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program for the voluntary education, training, and certification of commercial salt applicators regarding effective and efficient application of salt and salt alternatives to provide safe conditions for pedestrians and motor vehicles on traveled surfaces while also reducing the impacts of salt and salt alternatives on the quality of the waters of the State.

(b) As part of the Program, the Secretary of Natural Resources, on or before July 1, 2026, shall adopt by rule best management practices for application of salt or salt alternatives by commercial salt applicators. The best management practices may be based on practices currently implemented by the Agency of Transportation or other entities. The best management practices shall:

(1) establish measures or techniques to increase efficiency in the application of salt or salt alternatives so that the least amount of salt or salt alternatives are used while maintaining safe conditions for pedestrians and motor vehicles on traveled surfaces;

(2) establish standards for when and how salt and salt alternatives are applied in order to prevent salt or salt alternatives from entering waters of the State, including:

(A) salt alternatives that are cost-effective and less harmful to water quality while maintaining safe conditions for pedestrians and motor vehicles on traveled surfaces;

(B) whether and how to implement equipment to calibrate, monitor, or meter application of salt or salt alternatives; and

(C) when sand is an appropriate alternative to salt or salt alternatives for deicing or dust control, particularly in regard to when application of sand will be less harmful to water quality;

(3) establish record-keeping requirements for commercial salt applicators, including records of training and records describing the type and rate of application of salt or salt alternatives, the dates of use, weather conditions requiring use of salt or salt alternatives, and any other factors that the Secretary of Natural Resources deems necessary for the purposes of the Program;

(4) create and circulate a model form for record-keeping information required under this section;

(5) establish requirements for certification under this subchapter, including frequency of training and manner of training;

(6) establish a testing requirement for applicators to complete prior to receiving an initial certification under the Program; and

(7) establish other requirements deemed necessary by the Secretary to achieve the purposes of the Program.

(c)(1) The Program shall offer training for commercial applicators in the implementation of the best management practices required under subsection (b) of this section. Upon completion of training, a commercial salt applicator shall be designated a certified commercial salt applicator. The term of a commercial salt applicator certification issued under the Program shall be for two years from the date of issuance of certification.

(2) A business that employs multiple commercial salt applicators may apply to the Secretary for certification of the business owner or other designated employee as a master commercial salt applicator. A certified master commercial salt applicator shall ensure that all persons employed by the business to apply salt or salt alternatives are trained to comply with the best management practices established under subsection (b) of this section.

(d)(1) A certified commercial salt applicator shall submit an annual summary of total winter salt usage to the Secretary of Natural Resources.

(2) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall establish methods to estimate and track the amount of salt applied by certified commercial salt applicators.

(e) The Secretary may revoke a certification issued under this subchapter after notice and opportunity for a hearing for a violation of the requirements of this subchapter, the rules of this subchapter, or the provisions of a certification issued under this subchapter.

(f)(1) The Program shall include requirements for certification of a master commercial salt applicator.

(2) The Program shall specifically exclude salt applications related to transportation infrastructure construction projects.

(3) The Secretary may elect to implement the Program with State agency staff or through a third-party vendor, or some combination.

§ 1353. SALT APPLICATION; LIMITED LIABILITY; PRESUMPTION OF COMPLIANCE

(a) An Agency of Natural Resources' certified commercial salt applicator or an owner, occupant, or lessee of real property maintained by an Agency of Natural Resources' certified commercial salt applicator shall not be liable for damages arising from hazards on real property owned, occupied, maintained, or operated by that person when:

(1) the hazards are caused solely by snow or ice; and

(2) any failure or delay in removing or mitigating the hazards is the result of the certified commercial salt applicator's implementation of the best management practices established under section 1352 of this title for application of salt or salt alternatives.

(b) The limitation on liability provided for under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply when the damages are due to gross negligence or reckless disregard of the hazard.

(c) A certified commercial salt applicator or a commercial salt applicator employed by a certified master commercial salt applicator is entitled to a rebuttable presumption that they are in compliance with the requirements of sections 1263 and 1264 of this title when applying salt or salt alternatives according to the best management practices established under section 1352 of this title. The rebuttable presumption under this subsection shall not apply to requirements of a total maximum daily load plan required under this chapter or the requirements of a municipal separate storm sewer system permit required under section 1264 of this title.

(d) In order to maintain the liability protection provided in subsection (a) of this section, a commercial salt applicator or an owner, an occupant, or a lessee of land shall keep a record describing its road, parking lot, and property maintenance practices, consistent with the requirements determined by the Secretary under this subchapter. The records shall include the type and rate of application of salt or salt alternatives used, the dates of treatment, and the weather conditions for each event requiring application of salt or salt alternatives. Such records shall be retained by the applicator for a period of three years.

§ 1354. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Secretary of Natural Resources, through the staff of the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program, shall conduct education and outreach to inform:

(1) commercial salt applicators of the existence of the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program and the training and liability protection offered under the Program; and

(2) members of the public who purchase salt or salt alternatives for use on driveways, sidewalks, private roads, and other paved surfaces of the potential harm to water quality, pets, and wildlife from excessive application of salt and salt alternatives and how to decrease the potential harm.

Sec. 3. ANR REPORT ON MANAGEMENT OF SALT AND SAND

STORAGE FACILITIES

On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Transportation and the House Committees on Environment and on Transportation a report regarding the management of State and municipal facilities (facilities) for the storage of salt, salt and sand mixtures, and sand that is not mixed with salt. The report shall include:

(1) an inventory of facilities in the State used for the storage of salt, salt and sand mixtures, or sand that is not mixed with salt;

(2) an estimated number of facilities that are currently covered;

(3) an estimate of the number of facilities that are not covered and are within 100 yards of a surface water or drinking water source;

(4) an estimate of the number of facilities that are not covered and are more than 100 yards from a surface water or drinking water source; and

(5) an estimate of the total cost to cover or move facilities for the storage of salt, salt and sand mixtures, or sand that is not mixed with salt, including a proposed annual amount of funding that would be required to meet the timelines for cover or management.

Sec. 4. MUNICIPAL SALT APPLICATORS; VERMONT LOCAL ROADS CURRICULUM

(a)(1) On or before July 1, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in collaboration with the Secretary of Transportation, shall identify and make changes to the voluntary Vermont Local Roads curriculum needed to support municipal salt applicators in meeting the purpose of this act, including training for best management practices for spreading salt on roads, parking lots, and sidewalks.

(2) As used in this subsection, “municipal salt applicator” means any individual who applies or supervises others who apply salt or salt alternatives in the applicator’s capacity as an employee or agent of a town or a municipality but does not include State employees.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. § 901a to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2027, a municipal employee shall not be subject to any civil liability for acts or omission the employee conducts as a municipal salt applicator if:

(A) the municipal salt applicator completed the Vermont Local Roads curriculum providing best management practices for applying salt or salt alternatives on roads, parking lots, and sidewalks in the previous 365 days;

(B) the alleged damages are caused solely by hazards from snow or ice; and

(C) any failure or delay in removing or mitigating the hazards is the result of the municipal salt applicator’s implementation of the best management practices learned under the Vermont Local Roads curriculum.

(2) The protection from liability provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply when the damages are due to gross negligence or reckless disregard of the hazard.

(c) In order to maintain the liability protection provided in subsection (b) of this section, a municipality shall keep a record describing its road, parking lot, and property maintenance practices, consistent with the requirements determined by the Secretary under the Vermont Local Roads curriculum. The records shall include the type and rate of application of salt or salt alternatives used, the dates of treatment, and the weather conditions for each event

requiring application of salt or salt alternatives. Such records shall be retained by the municipality for a period of three years.

Sec. 5. FEE REPORT

On or before January 15, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall solicit interest from third-party vendors for training and certifying commercial salt applicators under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A. If there is insufficient interest from vendors, the Secretary shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance and the House Committees on Environment and on Ways and Means a recommended fee to charge for certification of commercial applicators under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A.

Sec. 6. AUTHORIZED POSITION; APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In addition to other positions authorized at the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2026, a permanent classified position is authorized for the purpose of administering the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program in 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A.

(b) In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2026, \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Natural Resources for the permanent classified position authorized under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) It is the intention of the General Assembly that the appropriation in subsection (b) of this section shall be made annually for the identified purposes.

(d) In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2026, up to \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Natural Resources for the purpose of contracting with an external organization to establish a certification training program. This certification program will be funded on an ongoing basis by certification fees charged to commercial salt applicators and attendees.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the report of the Committee on Environment be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 5, fee report, by striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following three new sentences:

The Secretary shall recommend to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance and the House Committees on Environment and on Ways and Means a fee to be charged either by the State or by a third-party vendor for certification of commercial salt applicators under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 3A. Any fee charged to commercial salt applicators by the State or a third-party vendor for certification under the Chloride Contamination Reduction Program shall be approved by the General Assembly.

Second: In Sec. 6, authorized position; appropriations, in subsection (d), in the first sentence, after “fiscal year 2026,” and before “\$250,000.00” by striking out “up to”

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

S. 50

An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration

Rep. James of Manchester, for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

§ 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING

* * *

(c) In accordance with this section, the Commission shall adopt and implement rules that govern the installation and operation of net metering systems.

(1) The rules shall establish and maintain a net metering program that:

* * *

(G) accounts for changes over time in the cost of technology; ~~and~~

(H) allows a customer to retain ownership of the environmental attributes of energy generated by the customer’s net metering system and of

any associated tradeable renewable energy credits or to transfer those attributes and credits to the interconnecting retail provider, and:

(i) if the customer retains the attributes, reduces the value of the credit provided under this section for electricity generated by the customer's net metering system by an appropriate amount; and

(ii) if the customer transfers the attributes to the interconnecting provider, requires the provider to retain them for application toward compliance with sections 8004 and 8005 of this title; and

(I) allows a customer to change the customer's decision to retain or transfer the attributes once in the 120-day period after the net metering system is commissioned.

* * *

(3) The rules shall establish standards and procedures governing application for and issuance or revocation of a certificate of public good for net metering systems under the provisions of section 248 of this title. In establishing these standards and procedures:

* * *

(F) This subdivision (F) applies to an application for a net metering system with a capacity that is greater than ~~15~~ 25 kilowatts, unless the system is located on a new or existing structure the primary purpose of which is not the generation of electricity. With respect to such a system, the rules shall not waive or include provisions that are less stringent than each of the following:

(i) the requirement of subdivision 248(a)(4)(C) of this title to provide a copy of the application to the Agencies of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Natural Resources; the Department of Public Service; the Division for Historic Preservation; the municipal legislative body; and the municipal and regional planning commissions; and

(ii) the requirements of subsection 248(f) (preapplication submittal) of this title.

(G) The rules shall establish an expedited registration procedure for net metering systems of 25 kilowatts and less in size.

* * *

Sec. 2. RULEMAKING

The Public Utility Commission shall update its Rule 5.100 to allow ground mounted photovoltaic net metering systems of 25 kilowatts and less to qualify for expedited registration. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the

Commission shall allow systems of 25 kilowatts and less to use the expedited registration before the rules are updated.

Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 248(s) is amended to read:

(s) This subsection sets minimum setback requirements that shall apply to in-state ground-mounted solar electric generation facilities approved under this section, unless the facility is installed on a canopy constructed on an area primarily used for parking vehicles that is in existence or permitted on the date the application for the facility is filed.

(1) The minimum setbacks shall be:

(A) From a State or municipal highway, measured from the edge of the traveled way:

(i) 100 feet for a facility with a plant capacity exceeding 150 kW;
and

(ii) 40 feet for a facility with a plant capacity less than or equal to 150 kW but greater than ~~15~~ 25 kW; and

(iii) 10 feet for a facility with a plant capacity less than or equal to 25 kW.

(B) From each property boundary that is not a State or municipal highway:

(i) 50 feet for a facility with a plant capacity exceeding 150 kW;
and

(ii) 25 feet for a facility with a plant capacity less than or equal to 150 kW but greater than ~~15~~ 25 kW; and

(iii) 10 feet for a facility with a plant capacity less than or equal to 25 kW.

~~(2) This subsection does not require a setback for a facility with a plant capacity equal to or less than 15 kW. [Repealed.]~~

(3) On review of an application, the Commission may:

(A) require a larger setback than this subsection requires;

(B) approve an agreement to a smaller setback among the applicant, the municipal legislative body, and each owner of property adjoining the smaller setback; or

(C) require a setback for a facility constructed on an area primarily used for parking vehicles, if the application concerns such a facility.

(4) In this subsection:

(A) “kW” and “plant capacity” shall have the same meaning as in section 8002 of this title.

(B) “Setback” means the shortest distance between the nearest portion of a solar panel or support structure for a solar panel, at its point of attachment to the ground, and a property boundary or the edge of a highway’s traveled way.

Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 248(a)(7) is amended to read:

(7) When a certificate of public good under this section or amendment to such a certificate is issued for an in-state electric generation or energy storage facility with a capacity that is greater than ~~15~~ 25 kilowatts, the certificate holder within 45 days shall record a notice of the certificate or amended certificate, on a form prescribed by the Commission, in the land records of each municipality in which a facility subject to the certificate is located ~~and shall submit proof of this recording to the Commission.~~ The recording under this subsection shall be indexed as though the certificate holder were the grantor of a deed. The prescribed form shall not exceed one page and shall require identification of the land on which the facility is to be located by reference to the conveyance to the current landowner, the number of the certificate, and the name of each person to which the certificate was issued and shall include information on how to contact the Commission to view the certificate and supporting documents.

Sec. 5. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION;

DEFINITION OF SINGLE PLANT

On or before November 1, 2025, and with input from stakeholders, the Public Utility Commission shall submit a recommended amended definition of “plant” in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(18) and an overview of their process and explanation of the recommendation to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. In making its recommendation, the Commission shall consider:

- (1) the land use benefits of collocation of energy generation facilities;
 - (2) the ability to ensure comprehensive review of collocated facilities;
- and
- (3) the potential impacts to ratepayers associated with collocated facilities.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 9-0-0)

Constitutional Proposal

PROPOSAL 3

Declaration of rights; right to collectively bargain

Second of Four Days on the Notice Calendar

Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington for the Committee on General and Housing.

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. 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.

(Committee vote: 10-1-0)

For Informational Purposes
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations and the Vermont House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs will hold a public hearing on Veteran's Affairs on **Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. in Room 11 at the State House.**

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

YouTube livestream:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-government-operations-and-military-affairs>

H.C.R. REQUEST DEADLINE

All requests for a 2025 House Concurrent Resolution should be submitted to Michael Chernick in the Office of Legislative Counsel by noon on **Friday, April 25, 2025.**

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]*
- JFO #3246:** 125+ acre land donation valued at \$184,830.00 from Pieter Van Schaik of Cavendish, VT to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The acreage will become part of the Lord State Forest. *[Received March 24, 2025]*
- JFO #3247:** \$2,875,419.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families to support families affected by the July 2024 flood event. The request includes three (3) limited-service positions. Two (2) Emergency Management Specialists to the AHS central office and one (1) Grants and Contract Manager to the Department of Children and Families Positions funded through June 30, 2027. *[Received 04/10/2025, expedited review requested 04/10/2025]*
- JFO #3248:** \$35,603.00 to the Vermont Department of Libraries from the Vermont Community Foundation and the dissolution of the VT Public Library Foundation. The grant will provide modest grants to VT libraries with a preference for smaller libraries and for programs and projects that support children and diversity. *[Received April 10, 2025]*
- JFO #3249:** \$22,117.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Corrections to ensure compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). *[Received April 10, 2025]*
- JFO #3250:** \$391,666.00 to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from the Northern Border Regional Commission. Funds will support the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaboration (VOREC) Program Director as well as VOREC initiatives. *[Received April 11, 2025]*

JFO #3251: \$50,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Central Office from the National Governor's Association. The funds will support state-side improvements of service-to-career pathways, with a focus on emergency responders. *[Received April 11, 2025]*

JFO #3252: \$10,000,000.00 to the Vermont Department of Libraries from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Public Facilities Preservation Initiative grant will provide smaller grants to rural libraries for the completion of necessary capital improvement projects. *[Received April 11, 2025]*