

House Calendar

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

22nd DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 10:00 A.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

H. 508

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington

Favorable

H. 532

An act relating to mandatory retirement of college professors

Rep. Mihaly of Calais, for the Committee on General and Housing, recommends that the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment

S. 23

An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2031, by striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (1) and (2) to read as follows:

(1) “Deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” means synthetic media that appears to a reasonable person to be a realistic representation of an individual that does any of the following:

(A) injures the reputation of a political candidate; or

(B) attempts to unduly influence the outcome of an election, including a public question, by providing materially false information to voters.

(2) “Synthetic media” means an image, an audio recording, or a video recording of an individual’s appearance, speech, or conduct that has been created or intentionally manipulated with the use of digital technology, including artificial intelligence.

Second: In Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2032, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (1) and (2) to read as follows:

(1) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of images and video recordings, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer and inclusive to the greatest extent possible of individuals with disabilities. For video recordings, the disclosure shall appear for the full duration of the video recording.

(2) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of audio recordings only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch and pace that can be easily heard by the average listener and inclusive to the greatest extent possible of individuals with disabilities, at the beginning of the audio recording, at the end of the audio recording, and, if the audio is greater than two minutes in length, interspersed within the audio recording at intervals of not greater than two minutes each.

Third: In Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2032, in subsection (a), in the last sentence, by striking out the words “created or”.

NOTICE CALENDAR
Favorable with Amendment

H. 270

An act relating to confidentiality for peer support counseling among emergency service providers

Rep. Lueders of Lincoln, 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. § 7257c is added to read:

§ 7257c. CONFIDENTIALITY; PEER SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Emergency service provider” means an individual:

(A) currently recognized by a Vermont fire department as a firefighter;

(B) currently licensed by the Department of Health as an emergency medical technician, an emergency medical responder, an advanced emergency medical technician, or a paramedic;

(C) currently certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, including constables and sheriffs;

(D) currently employed by the Department of Corrections as a probation, parole, or correctional facility officer;

(E) currently certified by the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board as a 911 call taker or employed as an emergency communications dispatcher providing service for an emergency service provider organization;

(F) currently registered as a ski patroller at a Vermont ski resort with the National Ski Patrol or Professional Ski Patrol Association;

(G) currently working as a mental health professional in a crisis setting who is licensed, certified, or rostered, respectively, to provide mental health services as a physician pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33; an advance practice registered nurse specializing in psychiatric mental health pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 28; a psychologist pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 55; a peer support provider or peer recovery support specialist pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 60; a social worker pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 6; an alcohol and drug abuse counselor pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 62; a clinical mental health counselor pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 65; a marriage and family therapist pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 76; a psychoanalyst pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 77; an applied behavior analyst pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 95; or a nonlicensed or noncertified psychotherapist, noncertified psychoanalyst, or any other professional that provides mental health services; or

(H) currently serving as a medical examiner or assistant medical examiner as appointed by the Chief Medical Examiner.

(2) “Employer” means an entity that employs or oversees emergency service providers working in a paid or volunteer capacity.

(3) “Peer support communication” means an oral or written communication made in the course of a peer support session; a note or report arising out of a peer support session; or a record of a peer support session.

(4) “Peer support program” means a program to provide support services to emergency service providers working in a paid or volunteer capacity.

(5) “Peer support session” means an individual or group peer support session provided by a peer support specialist for emergency service providers who have been involved in a potentially traumatizing event or are suffering from cumulative or chronic emotional stress by reason of their employment or volunteer service or related to other personal matters.

(6)(A) “Emergency service peer support specialist” means an individual who:

(i) has been designated by an employer to serve as a member of an employer-based peer support program or designated by a peer support program to act as a peer support resource;

(ii) has received training in providing peer support to emergency service providers who have been involved in potentially traumatizing events by reason of their employment or volunteer service; or

(iii) is otherwise a member of an organized and recognized Vermont peer support program.

(B) “Emergency service peer support specialist” shall not be construed to have the same meaning as a “certified peer support provider” defined pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3191.

(b)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section:

(A) any peer support communication made by a participant in a peer support session of a peer support program led by an emergency service peer support specialist shall not be disclosed by any individual participating in the peer support session; and

(B) any peer support communication relating to a peer support session led by an emergency service peer support specialist between the emergency service peer support specialist and another staff member of the peer support program or between staff members of a peer support program shall not be disclosed by any individual participating in the peer support communication.

(2) Written peer support communications are exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential. The Public Records Act exemptions created in this section shall not be subject to the provisions of 1 V.S.A. § 317(e) (repeal of Public Records Act exemptions).

(c) Except as provided by subsection (d) of this section, any peer support communication made by a participant or emergency service peer support specialist in a peer support session led by an emergency service peer support

specialist shall not be admissible in a judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceeding, including during any discovery conducted as part of an adjudicatory proceeding. Limitations on disclosure imposed by this subsection shall not include knowledge acquired by an emergency service provider from observations made during the course of employment or volunteer service or information acquired by the emergency service provider during the course of employment or volunteer service that is otherwise subject to discovery or introduction into evidence.

(d)(1) Confidentiality protections described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to the following information as it pertains to an individual designated to receive such information in the normal course of the individual's professional responsibilities:

(A) any threat of suicide or homicide made by a participant of a peer support session or any information conveyed in a peer support session relating to a threat of suicide or homicide;

(B) any information relating to the abuse of a child or vulnerable adult or other information that is required to be reported by law;

(C) any admission of conduct likely to pose a risk to public safety; or

(D) any admission of a plan to commit a crime.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit:

(A) any communications between emergency service peer support specialists regarding a peer support session or between an emergency service peer support specialist and another staff member of a peer support program; and

(B) an emergency service peer support specialist or an emergency service provider participating in a peer support session from disclosing personal experiences or emotions discussed during the peer support session to the extent that such a disclosure is consistent with the participant's obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-191, and its associated regulations.

(e) An employer, emergency service peer support specialist, or peer support program shall not be subject to civil liability for any injuries or damages arising from the provision of peer support services or for any disclosure made in violation of this section by an emergency service provider who participates in a peer support session unless the conduct of the employer, emergency service peer support specialist, or peer support program constitutes gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to confidentiality in peer support sessions for emergency service providers”

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 516

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Essex

Rep. Pinsonault of Dorset, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 117, in section 402, in the first sentence, following “resident of the Town of Essex,” by striking out “cemetery commissioners,” and inserting in lieu thereof “cemetery commissioners,”

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

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 13, 2026**, 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 13, 2026**.

(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 20, 2026**, 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 or email 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 communicate 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 sign-out sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit a final sponsor list (with all sponsors listed) to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.
5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted, by email *or* on a paper sign-out sheet, to Counselor Chernick **not later than 1:00 p.m. the Wednesday 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, meaning it must have been adopted through the House Consent Calendar not later than the week prior to your requested ceremonial reading date. Contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.
9. **A Note:** If there is a **specific date, week, or month that your resolution must be read** (e.g. to designate a specified period of time or to recognize a group on a certain day), please inform Second Assistant Clerk Courtney

Reckord as soon as possible, so she can reserve that date in advance. You do not need to have the resolution drafted by then.