

House Calendar

Thursday, February 12, 2026

38th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 3:30 P.M.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 527

An act relating to extending the sunset of 30 V.S.A. § 248a

Rep. Sibilia of Dover, for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, recommends 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. § 248a is amended to read:

§ 248a. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FACILITIES

* * *

(i) Sunset of Commission authority. Effective on July 1, 2026 2030, no new applications for certificates of public good under this section may be considered by the Commission.

* * *

Sec. 2. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS;

INCREASED PARTICIPATION

(a) The Public Utility Commission shall recommend changes to 30 V.S.A. § 248a to increase transparency, efficiency, fairness, and the ability of individuals and municipalities to participate in the telecommunications siting process. The Commission shall hold at least two workshops on the issue and shall invite, at a minimum, the following: the telecommunications service providers that have used the section 248a process; the Vermont League of Cities and Towns; the regional planning commissions; Vermonters for a Clean Environment; the Department of Public Service; the Department of Public Safety; the Agency of Natural Resources; and any other relevant stakeholders.

(b) The workshops shall address the following topics and procedures:

(1) the advance notice process, including the content of the notice; the length of the notice period; distribution requirements; prepetition hearings and site visits at the municipal or regional planning level; prepetition supplements and amendments; recommendations from municipal entities and regional planning commissions; whether municipalities should be required to hold a public hearing on an application and whether the Department of Public Service

should be required to attend; and the effect of failure to file a petition within 180 days following the advance notice date;

(2) procedures for the postpetition comment period, including consideration of comments, motions to intervene, and requests for hearings, as well as for issuing a significant issue determination during the review period pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248a(f);

(3) procedures for contested case proceedings following a Commission’s “significant issue” determination that include scheduling, site visits including visibility determinations, discovery, and motions;

(4) conduct of evidentiary hearings, including allowing for public participation, and streamlining the posthearing briefing process to comply with the applicable review periods under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(f);

(5) evidentiary burdens for section 248a criteria, including rebuttable presumptions of compliance from agency determinations, how and when municipalities are given substantial deference, and if other parties, such as adjoining neighbors, should be given substantial deference;

(6) requirements for supplements and amendments to a pending petition, with express standards for substantial and nonsubstantial changes;

(7) streamlined administrative process for transfers of certificates of public good issued under section 248a in whole or in part; and

(8) any other topics the Commission determines should be addressed through rules or orders following consultation with stakeholders.

(c) On or before December 15, 2027, the Commission shall submit an overview of the process it conducted, the recommendations it has, and a description of any changes the Commission made to the section 248a process after the consultations with stakeholders to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee Vote: 5-3-1)

Favorable

J.R.S. 37

Joint resolution supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition and urging that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) only introduce new Olympic sports that practice gender equality

Rep. Duke of Burlington, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, recommends that the resolution ought to be adopted in concurrence.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 898

An act relating to copper-based to fiber-based telecommunications network transitions and consumer protections

(Rep. Sibilia of Dover will speak for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.)

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR NOTICE

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 prior to adjournment of the next legislative day. 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.

H.C.R. 193

House concurrent resolution in memory of Bennington Town Manager
Stuart Alan Hurd

H.C.R. 194

House concurrent resolution in memory of North Bennington educator, coach, volunteer firefighter, and religious leader Robert P. Nolan

H.C.R. 195

House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as School Board Appreciation Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 196

House concurrent resolution honoring U.S. Army Major General and Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Gregory Knight on his exemplary service on behalf of our State and nation

H.C.R. 197

House concurrent resolution congratulating the YMCA on its 175th anniversary and extending best wishes for the organization's future endeavors

H.C.R. 198

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division II championship girls' soccer team

H.C.R. 199

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division I field hockey team on winning a second consecutive championship

H.C.R. 200

House concurrent resolution celebrating the life of Nathan Suter of Montpelier

H.C.R. 201

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers on winning the inaugural Northern Vermont Youth Football League 5/6 championship

H.C.R. 202

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers on winning the 2025 Northern Vermont Youth Football League Division I championship

H.C.R. 203

House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as Recovery Awareness Month in Vermont

For Informational Purposes

NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

Thursday, February 19, 2026 - 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber – Election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and of two (2) trustees for the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Candidates for the positions of Adjutant and Inspector General, and legislative candidates for Vermont State Colleges Corporation trustees must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 12, 2026, by 4:00 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

ANNOUNCEMENT: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED FY 2027 BUDGET

The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations will hold two **joint public hearings on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 1:45 p.m. and Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** in Room 11 of the State House. Interested parties may attend the hearing in person or virtually.

The Committees will take testimony on the Governor's recommended budget at the above dates and times. **Anyone interested in testifying must sign up in advance of the hearings through the following online form not later than 10:00 a.m. on February 12, 2026, for the first hearing, and 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2026, for the second hearing.** Registration will be first-come, first-served and will be limited to 40 people on each date. For those planning to testify, instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent once you have signed up for the hearing.

Online sign-up form: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/links/public-hearing-on-fy27-budget>

For those not planning to testify, the hearings will be available to watch live on YouTube at the following link:

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

Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted electronically through email at testimony@vtleg.gov or mailed to the House Committee on Appropriations, c/o Autumn Crabtree, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633. For more information about the format of these events, contact Autumn Crabtree at Autumn.Crabtree@vtleg.gov or Elle Oille-Stanforth at Elle.Oille-Stanforth@vtleg.gov

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.

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 #3271: \$218,385.00 to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services from the U.S. Department of Justice. Funds will be used to consolidate data into one case management system. *[Received January 27, 2026]*

JFO #3272: \$195,053,740.00 to the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Central Office from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Participation in the Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) will help to ensure long-term health care system sustainability in Vermont. This grant includes two (2) limited-service positions (LSP): one (1) Health Care Reform Integration Manager to the Office of Health Care Reform and one (1) Financial Manager II to the Agency of Human Services Central Office. Both limited positions are expected to last through 9/30/2031.

[Received January 27, 2026]