

House Calendar

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

85th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 10:00 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 941 Municipal regulation of agriculture	1698
Rep. Durfee Amendment	1698

New Business

Third Reading

H. 657 Enabling unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain certain services without parental consent	1700
H. 727 Sustainable data center deployment	1701
H. 935 Emergency management	1701
H. 938 Establishing the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum	1701

Action Under Rule 52

H.R. 15 Reaffirming the abiding friendship between the State of Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the 27th anniversary of the Vermont-Taiwan sister-state relationship and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations	1701
--	------

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

S. 210 An act relating to access to autopsy reports Rep. Steady for Human Services	1701
--	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 941

An act relating to municipal regulation of agriculture

(Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury will speak for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.)

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury to H. 941

That the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT; MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF
AGRICULTURE

(a) The General Assembly finds that since the enactment of 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 115, it has been both the intent of the General Assembly and the controlling law that a municipality shall not regulate farming, including the construction of farm structures.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify that municipalities lack authority to regulate farming or the construction of farm structures as set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4413, with the exception of farming and the construction of farm structures in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4412.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4413 is amended to read:

§ 4413. LIMITATIONS ON MUNICIPAL BYLAWS

* * *

(d)(1) A bylaw under this chapter shall not regulate:

(A) ~~required agricultural practices, including the construction of farm structures, as those practices are defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets~~ farming that meets the minimum threshold criteria in the Required Agricultural Practices Rule and is therefore required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices Rule, except as described in section 4412(16) of this title;

(B) construction of a farm structure as defined by the Required Agricultural Practices Rule;

(C) the cultivation or other use of land for growing plants for food for personal use, donation, or sale, including orchard crops, viticultural crops, and for maple sap. As used in this subdivision, “food” means articles or agricultural commodities for human or animal consumption;

(D) the cultivation of ornamental plants as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 1101;

(E) accepted silvicultural practices, as defined by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, including practices that are in compliance with the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; or

~~(C)~~(F) forestry operations.

(2) As used in this section:

~~(A) “Farm structure” means a building, enclosure, or fence for housing livestock, raising horticultural or agronomic plants, or carrying out other practices associated with accepted agricultural or farming practices, including a silo, as “farming” is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22) has the same meaning as defined in the Required Agricultural Practices Rule, but excludes a dwelling for human habitation.~~

~~(B) “Forestry operations” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 2602.~~

~~(C) “Farming” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(22).~~

* * *

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development provisions shall apply in every municipality:

* * *

(15) No bylaw shall have the effect of prohibiting the raising, feeding, or management of poultry, excluding roosters, for personal use, donation, or sale. As used in this section, “poultry” has the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 1459(4).

(16) No bylaw shall have the effect of prohibiting farming but may regulate the following for a farm or farm structure subject to the Required

Agricultural Practices Rule on a parcel less than 0.75 acres that was not operating as of July 1, 2026 and is not on conserved land:

(A) Ingress and egress of vehicular traffic and ensuring pedestrian safety, including regulating parking, signage, pavement markings, functional enclosure of livestock adjacent to road; and

(B) Siting and setbacks requirements.

Sec. 4. MUNICIPAL REGULATION OF FARMING STUDY; REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall convene a stakeholder group to examine options to address conflicts between landowners that involve agricultural livestock activities in densely populated villages, towns, or cities in Vermont. At a minimum, the stakeholder group shall include membership-based agricultural organizations, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vermont Farm to Plate, and individuals with expertise in local or regional planning, as well as zoning administration.

(b) The stakeholder group shall consider options to address conflicts, including establishing or expanding the Required Agricultural Practices Rule to regulate livestock, particularly addressing stocking densities on parcels of less than 10 acres; utilizing ordinances to address livestock; protecting the right to grow food for personal consumption, including livestock; and creating rules like the Cannabis Control Board rule to enforce against an operation based on health, safety, or the integrity of the broader industry.

(c) On or before January 31, 2027, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Environment and the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy that summarizes findings, considerations, and any recommendations of the stakeholder group and offers a recommendation from the Secretary on solutions, including recommended statutory changes or rulemaking, that would best support municipalities when significant landowner conflicts arise regarding livestock.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

New Business

Third Reading

H. 657

An act relating to enabling unaccompanied homeless youth to obtain certain services without parental consent

H. 727

An act relating to sustainable data center deployment

H. 935

An act relating to emergency management

H. 938

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum

Action Under Rule 52

H.R. 15

House resolution reaffirming the abiding friendship between the State of Vermont and the Republic of China (Taiwan) on the 27th anniversary of the Vermont-Taiwan sister-state relationship and supporting enhanced Vermont-Taiwan bilateral relations and Taiwan's participation in international organizations

(For text, see House Journal of March 27, 2026)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

S. 210

An act relating to access to autopsy reports

Rep. Steady of Milton, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended in Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 505, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2)(A) An individual who is not authorized to receive the autopsy report pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) may petition the Probate Division of the Superior Court for a copy of the autopsy report. The petition shall contain an affidavit attesting to the petitioner's relationship to the decedent and the reason the petitioner is seeking the autopsy report. The petitioner shall notify the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the State's Attorney of the county in which the death occurred within five days after filing the petition. The Office and the State's Attorney shall have an opportunity to respond within 14 days after notice. If the Superior Court finds that the petitioner has demonstrated good cause for the petitioner to obtain the autopsy report, it shall order the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to provide a

copy to the petitioner, in whole or in part, and may place restrictions on the petitioner's dissemination of the copy provided.

(B) In determining good cause under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(2), the Superior Court shall consider:

(i) the relationship of the petitioner to the decedent and decedent's family;

(ii) whether the disclosure is necessary for the public evaluation of governmental performance;

(iii) the seriousness of intrusion into the decedent and decedent family's privacy;

(iv) whether the disclosure is by the least intrusive means available, including whether and to what degree redaction of some portions of the autopsy report is appropriate;

(v) the availability of similar information in other public records regardless of form; and

(vi) whether the disclosure interferes with an ongoing criminal investigation.

(C) Nothing in this subdivision (2) shall prohibit a petitioner from refiling a petition for a copy of an autopsy report upon a material change in information.

(Committee vote: 10-0-1)

For Informational Purposes

PUBLIC HEARING ON COMMUNITY SAFETY CONCERNS

The House and Senate Committees on Judiciary will hold a **public hearing on March 31 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the House chamber of the State House. Those interested in testifying may attend the hearing in person or virtually.

The Committees will take testimony on community safety concerns arising from the March 11, 2026, protest and immigration enforcement action in South Burlington. **Anyone interested in testifying must sign up in advance of the hearing through the following online form no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 30.** For those planning to testify, instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent the morning of the hearing. Each participant will be given 2 minutes to testify.

Online sign-up form: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/links/public-hearing-on-community-safety-concerns>

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

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

Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted through email to testimony@leg.state.vt.us or mailed to the House/Senate Committee on Judiciary, c/o Megan Cannella, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633. For more information about the format of this event, contact Megan Cannella at Megan.Cannella@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 #3273: \$29,303,666.00 to the Public Service Department, Office of Economic Opportunity from the U.S. Department of Energy. The Home Energy Rebate Program funds will be used to weatherize low-

income homes. The first-year distribution is \$14,133.00 with subsequent yearly awards through May 31, 2029, for a total of \$29,303,666.00. *[Received March 9, 2026]*

JFO #3274: \$50,000.00 to the Vermont Secretary of State's office from the Vermont Community Foundation. Funds are for the Local Civic Journalism program to support the State of Vermont Local Journalism Awards. This award expands the Local Journalism grants in the FY26 Secretary of State's budget. *[Received March 16, 2026]*

JFO #3275: \$250,000.00 to the Vermont Police Academy, Criminal Justice Training Council from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Funds to support curriculum development of de-escalation of volatile and high-risk situations. *[Received March 16, 2026]*