

Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 9.

An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Norris for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 5136(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) The Court Administrator is authorized to contract with public or private agencies to assist plaintiffs to seek relief and to gain access to Superior Court. Law enforcement agencies shall assist in carrying out the intent of this section.

(2) The Court Administrator shall establish procedures to ensure access to orders against sexual assault after regular court hours or on weekends and holidays in accordance with subdivisions (A)–(D) of this subdivision.

(A) The court shall designate an authorized person to receive requests for ex parte emergency relief orders against sexual assault submitted after regular court hours pursuant to section 5134 of this title, including requests made by reliable electronic means according to the procedures in this subdivision (2).

(B) If a secure setting is not available for processing an ex parte emergency relief order against sexual assault submitted after regular court hours, or if the authorized person determines that electronic submission is appropriate under the circumstances, the authorized person shall inform the applicant that a complaint and affidavit may be submitted electronically.

(C) The affidavit shall be sworn to or affirmed by administration of the oath over the telephone to the applicant by the authorized person and shall conclude with the following statement: “I declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of Vermont that the foregoing is true and accurate. I understand that making false statements is a crime subject to a term of imprisonment or a fine, or both, as provided by 13 V.S.A. § 2904.” The

authorized person shall note on the affidavit the date and time that the oath was administered.

(D) The authorized person shall communicate the contents of the complaint and affidavit to a judicial officer telephonically or by reliable electronic means. The judicial officer shall decide whether to grant or deny the complaint and issue the order solely on the basis of the contents of the affidavit or affidavits provided. The judicial officer shall communicate the decision to the authorized person, who shall communicate it to the applicant. If the order is issued, it shall be delivered to the appropriate law enforcement agency for service and to the holding station.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable

S. 30.

An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

Reported favorably by Senator Hardy for the Committee on Finance.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

H. 35.

An act relating to unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets.

Reported favorably by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee on Finance recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(No House Amendments)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary's Office.

H.C.R. 19-27 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar of February 6, 2025)

CONFIRMATION

The following appointment will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission, underlined below, shall be fully and separately act

Kerrick L. Johnson of Middlesex - Commissioner of the Department of Public Service - By Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance (February 11, 2025)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Announcement: Joint Public Hearing on the Governor's Recommended FY 2026 Budget

The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations will hold two **joint public hearings on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 1:45 p.m. and Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** via in person or videoconference.

The Committee will take testimony on the Governor's recommended budget adjustments at the above date and time. **Anyone interested in testifying should sign up in advance of the hearing through the following online form: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/links/joint-public-hearings-on-the-fy26-budget> not later than 10:00 a.m. on February 12, 2025, for the first hearing, and 10:00 a.m. on February 19, 2025, for the second hearing.** Instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent once you have signed up for the hearing.

The hearing will be available to watch live on YouTube at the following link:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-appropriations>

For more information about the format of these events, contact Erin Pedley at epedley@leg.state.vt.us or Elle Oille-Stanforth at eoille-stanforth@leg.state.vt.us. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted electronically through email at testimony2025@leg.state.vt.us or mailed to the House Committee on Appropriations, c/o Erin Pedley, 115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover deadlines:

(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.

Note: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

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)