

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 208** An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification
Judiciary Report - Sen. Hashim 85

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 209** An act relating to prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations
Judiciary Report - Sen. Vyhovsky 87

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

- H. 790** An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments
Appropriations Report - Sen. Perchlik 90

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

- H. 50** An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land
House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment 91

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 208.

An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Hashim 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. 20 V.S.A. § 2373 is added to read:

§ 2373. STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION

(a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to exercise the power of Vermont, as recognized by the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and law enforcement officers present in the State by codifying standards for law enforcement identification.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Law enforcement agency” has the same meaning as in section 2351a of this title.

(2) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in section 2351a of this title and includes any officer of a federal law enforcement agency or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

(c) Identification requirements.

(1) A law enforcement officer shall be clearly identified by:

(A) the officer’s name or the officer’s unique radio or badge number visibly displayed on the officer’s person; and

(B) the officer’s agency visibly displayed on the officer’s person.

(2) A law enforcement officer shall not wear any mask or personal disguise while interacting in person with the public in the performance of the officer's duties.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, a law enforcement officer may wear:

(A) an N95 respirator or medical grade mask worn with the intent to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases;

(B) a mask designed to protect against exposure to smoke during a fire-involved situation;

(C) a mask necessary to perform duties during a water rescue operation;

(D) a mask related to protection against exposure to biological or chemical agents during an incident where these agents may be present; or

(E) a mask designed to protect against exposure to cold between December 1 and April 1 when the National Weather Service is forecasting a duration of cold weather at or below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, which includes wind chill.

(4) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the following is permitted:

(A) Tactical Services Unit (TSU) team officers may use gear necessary to protect their faces from physical harm while performing TSU responsibilities.

(B) Law enforcement officers working with or in conjunction with the Vermont Drug Task Force who participate in active undercover drug-related operations or assignments may use a personal disguise when necessary to perform such operations or assignments.

(C) Law enforcement officers who participate in active undercover investigations relating to child sexual exploitation may use a personal disguise when necessary to perform such investigations.

(d) Statewide policy. On or before January 1, 2027, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council shall establish a statewide policy governing the standards for law enforcement identification applicable to Vermont law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent statewide application of the standards.

(e) Penalty. A law enforcement officer who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be:

(1) for a first offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00;

(2) for a second offense and subsequent offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500.00.

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(37) Violations of 20 V.S.A. § 2373(c)(1) and (2), relating to standards for law enforcement identification.

* * *

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 209.

An act relating to prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Vyhovsky 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. § 3577 is amended to read:

§ 3577. PRIVILEGE FROM ARREST

(a) The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Attorney General, and members of the General Assembly and officers and witnesses whose duty it is to attend thereon, in all cases except treason, felony, and breach of the peace, shall be privileged from

arrest and imprisonment during their necessary attendance on and in going to and returning from the General Assembly.

(b) A party or witness in a cause pending in any court in the State or before special masters, auditors, referees, or commissioners, and a witness in a criminal cause pending in any such court, shall not be arrested, imprisoned, or detained by virtue of civil process. Any witness summoned from outside the State in a criminal cause, pending in any court within the State, shall be privileged from the service of papers of any kind whatsoever, and from arrest for any cause while going to, attending at, or returning from such court or trial of such cause.

(c)(1) Prohibition. A person shall not be subject to civil arrest while traveling to, entering, remaining at, or returning from a:

(A) court proceeding;

(B) polling place;

(C) educational institution;

(D) social services establishment, which includes a crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victim services center, child advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center, facility that serves disabled persons, homeless shelter, substance use disorder counseling and treatment facility, and an establishment distributing food or other essentials of life to people in need;

(E) place of worship;

(F) facility:

(i) regulated by the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families; or

(ii) licensed as a children's camp pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4301 or that serves as a day camp; or

(G) health care facility, as that term is defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9402(6).

(2) Exceptions. Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to:

(A) an arrest pursuant to a judicially issued warrant or a court order;

(B) an arrest for contempt of the court where the proceeding is occurring; or

(C) an arrest to maintain order or safety in the court where the proceeding is occurring.

(3) Remedies.

(A) A person who violates this subsection (c) by knowingly and willfully executing or assisting with an arrest prohibited by subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) ~~shall be subject to contempt proceedings and:~~

(i) may be liable in a civil action for false imprisonment; and

(ii) shall be subject to contempt proceedings, if the arrest is pursuant to subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (c).

(B) A person who is arrested in violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) may bring a civil action against the violator for damages; injunctive, equitable, or declaratory relief; punitive damages; and reasonable costs and attorney's fees.

(C) The Office of the Attorney General may bring a civil action on behalf of the State of Vermont for appropriate injunctive, equitable, or declaratory relief if there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) has occurred or will occur.

(D) No action under this subsection (c) shall be brought against the Judiciary or any of its members or employees for actions taken to maintain order or safety in the courts.

(E) This section shall not be construed to limit or infringe upon any right, privilege, or remedy available under common law or any other provision of law or rule.

(F) Notwithstanding section 3578 of this title, the protections and remedies afforded by this subsection (c) apply irrespective of when the privilege against civil arrest is invoked.

(4) ~~Definition~~ Definitions. As used in this subsection;

(A)(i) ~~“civil~~ Civil arrest” means an arrest for purposes of obtaining a person's presence or attendance at a civil proceeding, including an immigration proceeding.

(ii) “Civil arrest” does not include:

(I) temporary custody of a person pending a warrant pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7505(b); or

(II) holding a person for admission to a hospital for an emergency examination pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 7504.

(B)(i) “Educational institution” means:

(I) a public school, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(7);

(II) an independent school, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(8);

(III) a regional CTE center, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1522(4);

(IV) an approved education program, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(34);

(V) a prequalified private prekindergarten provider, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 829(a)(3);

(VI) a postsecondary school, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 176(b)(1);

(VII) an educational program operated by a Board of Cooperative Education Services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 10;

(VIII) a tutorial program, as that term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(27); and

(IX) an adult education and secondary credential program operated pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 945.

(ii) “Educational institution” also extends to grounds operated by, activities sponsored by, transportation provided by, and programs related to educational institutions.

(C) “Polling place” means a place that a municipality has designated to the Secretary of State as a polling place pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2502(f).

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 790.

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Perchlik for the Committee on Appropriations.

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

(For text of Report of Committee on Appropriations see Addendum to Senate Calendar for February 11, 2026.)

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 29, 2026, page 2899 and January 30, 2026, pages 2959-2960.)

House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 50

An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land

The House concurs in the Senate proposal of amendment with further proposal of amendment thereto by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

§ 165. SPACE ALLOCATION, INVENTORY, AND USE; LEASING PROPERTY; COMMISSIONER'S PREAPPROVAL REQUIRED

* * *

(e) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall maintain an inventory of all State-owned buildings and land and shall ~~biannually~~ annually compile and update the information received under subsection (g) of this section, which shall be considered once available in making spacing allocations and designating uses under subsection (c) of this section.

* * *

(g) The head of each agency shall prepare and forward to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services ~~when requested by the Commissioner~~ annually in a format prescribed by the Commissioner an inventory of: square footage available for use; square footage in actual use; square footage not in use; square footage used for storage; square footage that is unfinished; cost per square foot for rent; cost per square foot for operation and maintenance; and the source of funds for rent, operation, and maintenance, including the act and section numbers of a legislative directive if applicable. The head of each agency shall additionally indicate in its inventory in a format prescribed by the Commissioner whether any building is vacant and whether any land is unnecessary for State purposes.

* * *

(j) On or before January 15 of each new legislative biennium, the Commissioner shall submit to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions the inventory maintained under subsection (e) of this section.

Sec. 2. INVENTORY OF PARCELS FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT;
2026–2030; REPORT

(a) As part of the inventory that a head of an agency conducts pursuant to 29 V.S.A. § 165(g) through calendar year 2030, the head of the agency shall identify and report to the Department of Housing and Community Development each parcel under its ownership that meets all of the screening criteria developed by the Department for Executive Order No. 06-25 (3 App. V.S.A. ch. 10, § 51).

(b) On or before January 15 of each legislative session through calendar year 2031, the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development shall provide to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions the inventory of properties identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a list of those inventoried properties the Commissioner determines may be suitable for housing development, and an explanation of the Commissioner’s determination.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

**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

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.

JFO NOTICE

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3):

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]

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 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.

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).