

Senate Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

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ACTION CALENDAR

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 210.

An act relating to access to autopsy reports.

H. 545.

An act relating to issuing immunization recommendations.

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 516.

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

Reported favorably by Senator Morley for the Committee on Government Operations.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 157.

An act relating to recovery residence certification.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Benson for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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. 18 V.S.A. § 4802 is amended to read:

§ 4802. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(12) “Recovery residence” means a shared living residence supporting individuals recovering from a substance use disorder that provides residents with peer support, assistance accessing support services, and community resources for individuals recovering from substance use disorder.

(13) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Human Services or designee.

~~(13)~~(14) “Substance abuse crisis team” means an organization approved by the Secretary to provide emergency treatment and transportation services to substance abusers pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

~~(14)~~(15) “Substance abuser” means anyone who drinks alcohol or consumes other drugs to an extent or with a frequency that impairs or endangers ~~his or her~~ the individual’s health or the health and welfare of others.

~~(15)~~(16) “Treatment” means the broad range of medical, detoxification, residential, outpatient, aftercare, and follow-up services ~~which~~ that are needed by substance abusers and may include a variety of other medical, social, vocational, and educational services relevant to the rehabilitation of these persons.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4806 is amended to read:

§ 4806. DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

(a) The Division of Substance Use Programs shall plan, operate, and evaluate a consistent, effective program of substance use programs. All duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Division shall be carried out and exercised by and within the Department of Health.

(b) The Division shall be responsible for the following services:

- (1) prevention and intervention;
- (2) [Repealed.]
- (3) project CRASH schools; ~~and~~
- (4) alcohol and drug treatment; and
- (5) recovery residences.

* * *

Sec. 3. 9 V.S.A. § 4452 is amended to read:

§ 4452. EXCLUSIONS

(a) Unless created to avoid the application of this chapter, this chapter does not apply to any of the following:

* * *

(b)(1) Notwithstanding subsections 4463(b) and 4467(b) and section 4468 of this chapter only, a recovery residence may immediately exit or transfer a resident if all of the following conditions are met:

(A) the recovery residence has developed and adopted a residential agreement:

(i) containing a written exit and transfer policy approved by the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences or another certifying organization approved by the Department of Health that:

(I) addresses the length of time that a bed will be held in the event of a temporary removal;

(II) establishes the criteria by which a resident can return to the recovery residence in the event of a temporary removal; and

(III) ensures a resident's possessions will be held not less than 60 days in the event of permanent removal;

(ii) explaining the recovery residence's program rules and social standards;

(iii) designating alternative housing arrangements for the resident in the event of an exit or transfer, including contingency plans when alternative housing arrangements are not available;

~~(iii)~~(iv) describing the recovery residence's substance use policy, which shall exempt the use of a resident's valid prescription medication when used as prescribed; and

~~(iv)~~(v) indicating that by signing a residential agreement, a resident acknowledges that the recovery residence may cause the resident to be immediately exited or transferred to alternative housing if the resident violates the recovery residence's substance use policy, regularly refuses to engage in services or programming, commits a crime, engages in theft, interferes with the recovery of other residents, or engages in acts of violence that threaten the health or safety of other residents or recovery residence staff;

(B) the recovery residence has obtained the resident's written consent to its residential agreement, reaffirmed after seven days;

(C) the resident violated the substance use policy in the residential agreement, regularly refuses to engage in services or programming, commits a crime, engages in theft, interferes with the recovery of other residents, or engaged in acts of violence that threatened the health or safety of other residents or recovery residence staff or volunteers; and

(D) the recovery residence has provided or arranged for a stabilization bed or other alternative temporary housing.

(2) Relapse of a substance use disorder resulting in exiting a recovery residence shall not be deemed a cause of the resident's own homelessness for purposes of obtaining emergency housing.

(3) As used in this subsection, "recovery residence" ~~means a shared living residence supporting persons recovering from a substance use disorder that:~~

~~(A) provides tenants with peer support and assistance accessing support services and community resources available to persons recovering from substance use disorders; and~~

~~(B) is certified by an organization approved by the Department of Health and that is either a Vermont affiliate of the National Alliance for Recovery Residences or another approved organization has the same meaning as in 18 V.S.A. § 4802.~~

Sec. 4. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 163, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. SUNSET; RECOVERY RESIDENCES; RESIDENTIAL AGREEMENT; REPORTING

(a) ~~9 V.S.A. § 4452(b) is repealed on July 1, 2026. [Repealed.]~~

(b) Sec. 4 (report; recovery residences' exit and transfer data) is repealed on July 1, 2026.

Sec. 5. RULEMAKING; RECOVERY RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

(a) On or before September 1, 2027, the Department of Health shall file an initial proposed rule with the Secretary of State pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 836(a)(2) for the purposes of establishing a voluntary recovery residence certification program. At a minimum the rule shall:

(1) require that a recovery residence seeking certification from the State comply with the certification standards of the Vermont Alliance for Recovery Residences or another organization approved by the Department; and

(2) set forth minimum data collection and reporting requirements for certified recovery residences, including data elements and frequency.

(b) The Department shall complete the rulemaking process and adopt a permanent rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 on or before December 1, 2028.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 173.

An act relating to workers' compensation and the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Weeks for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

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. 21 V.S.A. § 641 is amended to read:

§ 641. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

(a) When as a result of an injury covered by this chapter, an employee is unable to perform work for which the employee has previous training or experience, the employee shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation services, including retraining and job placement, as may be reasonably necessary to restore the employee to suitable employment. Vocational rehabilitation services shall be provided as follows:

(1) The employer shall designate a vocational rehabilitation provider from a list provided by the Commissioner to initially provide services. Thereafter, absent good cause, the employee may have only one opportunity to select another vocational rehabilitation provider from a list provided by the Commissioner upon giving the employer written notice of the employee's reasons for dissatisfaction with the designated provider and the name and address of the provider selected by the employee.

(2) The Department shall provide an injured worker with a form that includes information and employee rights. The form shall clearly and simply explain the worker's rights, including the choice of provider, the right to challenge a determination, the right to request vocational rehabilitation services in the future if the work injury affects the worker's ability to earn the worker's preinjury wage, and reimbursement for related expenses. The worker shall sign the form and return it to the Department.

(3) The Commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure that a worker who requests services or who has been out of work for more than 90 days is timely

~~and cost-effectively screened for benefits under this section referred to a vocational rehabilitation counselor. The rules shall:~~

~~(A) Provide that all vocational rehabilitation work, except for initial screenings, be performed by a Vermont-certified vocational rehabilitation counselor, including counselors currently certified pursuant to the rules of the Department. Initial screenings shall be performed by an individual with sufficient knowledge or experience to perform adequately the vocational rehabilitation screening functions.~~

~~(B) Provide for an initial screening to determine whether a full assessment is appropriate. An injured worker who is determined to be eligible for a full assessment shall be timely assessed and offered appropriate vocational rehabilitation services. [Repealed.]~~

~~(C) Provide a mechanism for a periodic and timely screening of injured workers who are initially found not to be ready or eligible for a full assessment to determine whether a full assessment has become appropriate. [Repealed.]~~

~~(D) Protect against potential conflicts of interest in the assignment and performance of initial screenings. [Repealed.]~~

~~(E) Ensure the injured worker has a choice of a vocational rehabilitation counselor.~~

~~(F) Ensure the injured worker may initiate vocational rehabilitation services with the worker's chosen vocational rehabilitation provider if the employer fails to assign a vocational rehabilitation provider within 90 days following the worker being out of work.~~

* * *

Sec. 2. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP; REPORT

~~(a) Creation. There is created the Vocational Rehabilitation Working Group to provide recommendations to the General Assembly on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system to ensure that it meets the needs of eligible injured workers in a timely and cost-effective manner.~~

~~(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:~~

~~(1) the Director of Workers' Compensation and Safety or designee;~~

~~(2) two representatives on behalf of workers' compensation claimants, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;~~

(3) two representatives on behalf of employers and workers' compensation insurance carriers, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(4) two vocational rehabilitation counselors currently certified in Vermont, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one of whom shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees.

(c) Powers and Duties. The Working Group shall meet over the summer and fall to discuss and develop recommendations on how to improve the current vocational rehabilitation system and prepare recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly. The Working Group shall consider the following questions:

(1) What mechanisms could better identify which claimants are likely to require vocational rehabilitation services?

(2) Could utilization of vocational services be improved by enabling claimants to access vocational rehabilitation benefits while receiving wage replacement benefits?

(3) Could the workers' compensation system take into account the diminished earning capacity of those claimants who are unable to earn a preinjury wage but are not eligible to receive permanent total disability benefits?

(4) Should the average weekly wage be indexed to the cost of living for vocational rehabilitation purposes?

(5) What improvements could be made to ensure that vocational rehabilitation providers who provide services to workers' compensation claimants are familiar with Vermont's workers' compensation system?

(6) Are some of the current requirements for providing vocational rehabilitation services too onerous and administratively unnecessary?

(7) How could the Department of Labor's oversight of vocational rehabilitation be improved?

(8) How could vocational rehabilitation services be provided in a way that is more cost-effective for the workers' compensation system?

(d) Meetings. The Director of Workers' Compensation and Safety shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before August 14, 2026.

(e) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Labor.

(f) Report. On or before December 15, 2026, the Working Group shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. The Working Group shall cease to exist upon submission of the report.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Except for those members regularly employed by the State, members of the Working Group shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than five meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Labor.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to vocational rehabilitation”

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 255.

An act relating to establishing a pilot Law Enforcement Governance Council in Windham County.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Collamore for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, membership, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read:

(a) A municipality within Windham County may join the Council by majority vote of the legislative body of the municipality.

Second: In Sec. 3, membership, subsection (c), by striking out “at an annual or special town meeting” and inserting in lieu thereof “of the legislative body of the municipality”

Third: In Sec. 5, budget and financing, subsection (b), by striking out “on the grand list of member municipalities only.”

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

Report of Committee of Conference

H. 790.

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Committee of Conference to which were referred the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House Bill entitled:

H. 790. An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

Respectfully reports that it has met and considered the same and recommends that the House accede to the Senate proposal of amendment and that the Senate proposal of amendment be further amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 37. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 37. to read as follows:

Sec. 37. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.330 is amended to read:

Sec. B.330 Disabilities, aging, and independent living - advocacy and independent living grants

Grants	<u>24,909,492</u>	<u>25,125,975</u>
Total	24,909,492	25,125,975
Source of funds		
General fund	8,585,909	8,804,020
Federal funds	7,321,114	7,191,114
Global Commitment fund	<u>9,002,469</u>	<u>9,130,841</u>
Total	24,909,492	25,125,975

Second: By striking out Sec. 44. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 44. to read as follows:

Sec. 44. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.347 is amended to read:

Sec. B.347 Total human services

Source of funds		
General fund	1,428,803,059	1,461,126,849
Special funds	231,430,533	232,655,939
Tobacco fund	23,088,208	23,088,208
State health care resources fund	31,074,772	31,074,772
Federal funds	1,946,078,413	1,993,089,108
Global Commitment fund	2,148,606,890	2,213,122,801
Internal service funds	403,853	403,853
Interdepartmental transfers	32,694,090	32,694,090

Permanent trust funds	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	5,842,204,818	5,987,280,620

Third: In Sec. 51., by striking out 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1100(t)(2) and inserting in lieu thereof:

(2) ~~\$500,000~~ \$885,000 General Fund for a grant to Vermont Foodbank for the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Program;

* * *

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 79. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 79. to read as follows:

Sec. 79. HOUSING ASSISTANCE

(a) In fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027, while the General Assembly is not in session the Emergency Board shall have the authority to transfer part of the appropriation in 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. B.1101(b)(2) to the Department for Children and Families for the purpose of assisting a housing authority to avoid termination of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 housing choice vouchers that would otherwise be lost as the result of federal action.

(b) If funds are transferred for this purpose, they may be made available at the request of a housing authority for one of the following purposes:

(1) to maintain a current housing assistance payment in use or to prevent the retirement of a housing assistance payment currently in use by the housing authority; or

(2) with prior written approval from HUD, to provide funding to a housing authority in order to prevent the termination of assistance to current housing choice voucher participants.

(c) If funds are transferred for this purpose, an affirmative vote of the majority of a housing authority's commissioners shall be required prior to a housing authority requesting funds.

(d) A housing authority shall notify the Department for Children and Families of its intent to request funds and submit a report on its financial need, including evidence that the request conforms to applicable HUD requirements and is a necessary and proper expense, to the Department on or before April 15, 2026.

(e) On or before May 1, 2026, the Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall:

(1) establish procedures for validating that such expenditures conform to applicable HUD requirements and are a necessary and proper expense prior to issuing funds; and

(2) establish guidelines to ensure that funds are distributed based upon need.

(f) If funds are transferred for this purpose, the Department for Children and Families shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its September 2026 meeting and submit a written report on or before January 15, 2027, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of the appropriation.

(g) As used in this section, “housing authority” has the same meaning as in 24 V.S.A. § 4002.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 83. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 83. to read as follows:

Sec. 83. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES PAYMENT REFORM; IMPLEMENTATION

(a)(1) In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall adjust the developmental disabilities home- and community-based services payment model to reflect per-member, per-month payments to designated and specialized service agencies that are calculated based on a minimum-assumed utilization rate of 65 percent. Reconciliation shall occur in compliance with the developmental disabilities home- and community-based services payment reform rules and the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.

(2) Each agency currently below the 65 percent threshold and requiring financial stabilization shall prepare and submit a financial stabilization plan to the Department on or before October 1, 2027. The Department shall review the stabilization plan and work with the proposing agencies toward the goal of stabilization and sustainability.

(b) The designated and specialized service agencies shall submit to the Department on or before April 1, 2026, all information deemed necessary by the Department to enable it to perform a comprehensive fiscal analysis and to implement resolutions to address barriers that inhibit an increase in service delivery utilization.

(c)(1) On or before April 15, 2026, the Agency of Human Services and the Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Vermont Health Access shall convene a meeting with the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Human

Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or their designees, and with the designated and specialized service agencies and other key members of the developmental disabilities services delivery system. At the meeting, the parties shall discuss efforts that support the growth of a sustainable developmental disabilities services delivery system in which:

(A) increased service utilization meets the needs and goals of individuals and families and drives the designated and specialized service agencies' success;

(B) Medicaid compliance is assured; and

(C) all State and federal rules are adhered to.

(2) At the meeting, the parties shall also develop and recommend concrete solutions to mitigate short-term financial impacts and Medicaid compliance risks associated with the implementation of developmental disabilities services payment reform, to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

(d) On or before May 1, 2026, the Department shall submit a written progress report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare detailing recommended solutions, anticipated fiscal impacts to the designated and specialized service agencies, implementation timelines, and compliance safeguards, including how measures, such as the transitional utilization methodology, shall ensure continuity of care, prevent service disruption, and mitigate Medicaid compliance risks for providers and the State during the first year of payment reform implementation, to the extent permitted under federal Medicaid rules.

(e) If funds previously appropriated to the Agency of Human Services are insufficient to provide the State match needed to make the payment adjustment in subsection (a) of this section, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 308b, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall unreserve an amount of funds equal to the deficiency from the Human Services Caseload Reserve and, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 706, transfer an amount of funds equal to the deficiency to the Agency of Human Services.

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 86. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 86. to read as follows:

Sec. 86. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.330 is added to read:

Sec. E.330 DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING AND
INDEPENDENT LIVING; VERMONT CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING; FUNDING

(a) Of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.330 of this act, \$55,000 shall be granted to the Vermont Center for Independent Living to provide home-delivered meals to individuals with disabilities under 60 years of age.

*ANDREW J. PERCHLIK
VIRGINIA V. LYONS
RICHARD A. WESTMAN*

Committee on the part of the Senate

*ROBIN P. SCHEU
TIFFANY BLUEMLE
MARTHA A. FELTUS*

Committee on the part of the House

Proposed Amendments to the Vermont Constitution

Pursuant to Rule 83 of the Senate Rules, notice is hereby given that proposed amendments to the Constitution, set forth below, will be read the third time and acted upon, on the seventh legislative day commencing February 20, 2026. At that time, the following question shall be presented: “Shall the Senate concur in the proposal and request the concurrence of the House?”

PROPOSAL 4

(Second day on Notice Calendar pursuant to Rule 83)

Subject: Declaration of rights; government for the people; equality of rights

PENDING ACTION: Third reading of the proposal (second biennium)

PROPOSAL 4

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person’s race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. The Constitution is our founding legal document stating the overarching values of our society. This amendment is in keeping with the values espoused by the current Vermont Constitution. Chapter I, Article 1 declares “That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights.” Chapter I, Article 7 states “That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people.” The core value reflected in Article 7 is that all people should be afforded all the benefits and protections bestowed by the government, and that

the government should not confer special advantages upon the privileged. This amendment would expand upon the principles of equality and liberty by ensuring that the government does not create or perpetuate the legal, social, or economic inferiority of any class of people. This proposed constitutional amendment is not intended to limit the scope of rights and protections afforded by any other provision in the Vermont Constitution.

(b) Providing for equality of rights as a fundamental principle in the Constitution would serve as a foundation for protecting the rights and dignity of historically marginalized populations and addressing existing inequalities. This amendment would reassert the broad principles of personal liberty and equality reflected in the Constitution of the State of Vermont with authoritative force, longevity, and symbolic importance.

Sec. 2. Article 23 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 23. [Equality of rights]

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation of measures intended to provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

PUBLIC HEARING

Announcement: Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles' Inspection Manual and [S.211](#)

Room 10, [Broadcast via YouTube](#)

The Vermont Senate Committee on Transportation will hold a **public hearing on February 24 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in Room 10 of the State House. Interested parties may attend the hearing in person or virtually.

The Committee will take testimony on the proposed changes to the Department of Motor Vehicles' Inspection Manual and [S.211](#), a bill that

proposes to require that motor vehicles be inspected every two years. [Proposed changes to the Inspection Manual](#) can be reviewed on the Committee's website. **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 February 18.** For those planning to testify, instructions on how to access and participate in the hearing will be sent the morning of the hearing.

Online sign-up form: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/s211-public-hearing>

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

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-transportation>.

Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted through email at testimony@leg.state.vt.us or mailed to the Senate Committee on Transportation, 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.

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).

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The 2025-2026 Biennium is the Third Reading of a proposal of amendment. They were read the second time during the 2023-2024 Biennium.

The proposal is on the Notice Calendar for six (6) days and will be up for action for Third Reading on the seventh day.

Each proposal is acted upon separately. Senate Rule 83.

At Third Reading:

1. The vote on any constitutional proposal is by roll call. Senate Rule 83.
2. The questions is: “Shall the Senate concur in Proposal 3, and request the concurrence of the House? Senate Rule 83.
3. For this question to pass, 16 members of the Senate must vote in the affirmative. The Vermont Constitution requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Senate. Vermont Constitution §72.

There are no amendments at Third Reading of a constitutional amendment.