

# Senate Calendar

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Third Reading**

**S. 157.**

An act relating to recovery residence certification.

**S. 163.**

An act relating to the role of advanced practice registered nurses in hospital care.

**S. 255.**

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

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 243.**

An act relating to distributing funds to the Vermont Language Justice Project.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Gulick 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. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Vermont ranks sixth per capita in refugee resettlement;
- (2) the Governor has recognized the important role immigrants play in Vermont's economy;
- (3) when health information is available in only one language and only in written format, it creates barriers that lead to confusion;
- (4) the Vermont Language Justice Project's videos fill a critical gap in patient education, particularly for families with limited English proficiency;

(5) the Vermont Language Justice Project has created and distributed videos pertaining to COVID-19 and COVID-19 testing; the importance of immunizations and how immunizations work; Mpox; preventing mosquito and tick bites; and safety during flood events, hot and cold weather, cyanobacteria outbreaks, wildfires, and more;

(6) the Vermont Language Justice Project's videos are made in 10 to 21 of the languages commonly spoken in Vermont and in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health;

(7) the Vermont Language Justice Project is usually able to respond to a crisis within 24 hours with information in multiple languages and in multiple formats, such as written translations, audio files, and videos; and

(8) in January 2025, the Vermont Language Justice Project's grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention abruptly ended, leaving it to be funded solely through donations from individuals and foundations and through fee-for-service work.

#### Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; VERMONT LANGUAGE JUSTICE PROJECT

In fiscal year 2027, \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health for distribution to the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials for Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak or other public health emergency, including ongoing personal and public health information.

#### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare, with the following amendment thereto by striking out Sec. 2, appropriation; Vermont Language Justice Project, in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

#### Sec. 2. VERMONT LANGUAGE JUSTICE PROJECT

In fiscal year 2027, to the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the Department of Health shall distribute \$150,000.00 to the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials for Vermonters who speak

languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak or other public health emergency, including ongoing personal and public health information.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## NOTICE CALENDAR

### Second Reading

#### Favorable

#### H. 649.

An act relating to captive insurance companies.

**Reported favorably by Senator Chittenden for the Committee on Finance.**

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of January 15, 2026, page 2794)

#### Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

#### S. 183.

An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud.

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

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

In Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 2029, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) A person commits the offense of home improvement or land improvement fraud when the person knowingly enters into a contract, ~~or~~ agreement, or change order, written or oral, for \$1,000.00 or more, with an owner for home improvement or land improvement, or into several contracts, ~~or~~ agreements, or change orders for \$2,500.00 or more in the aggregate, with more than one owner for home improvement or land improvement, and the person knowingly:

~~(1)(A) fails to perform the contract or agreement, in whole or in part;~~  
~~and~~

~~(B) when the owner requests performance, payment, or a refund of payment made, the person fails to either:~~

~~(i) refund the payment;~~

~~(ii) make and comply with a definite plan for completion of the work that is agreed to by the owner; or~~

~~(iii) make the payment promises performance that the person does not intend to perform or knows will not be performed, in whole or in part;~~

(2) misrepresents a material fact relating to the terms of the contract, ~~or agreement, or change order~~ or to the condition of any portion of the property involved;

(3) uses or employs any unfair or deceptive act or practice in order to induce, encourage, or solicit such person to enter into any contract, ~~or agreement, or change order~~ or to modify the terms of the original contract, ~~or agreement, or change order~~; or

(4) when there is a declared state of emergency, charges for goods or services related to the emergency a price that exceeds two times the average price for the goods or services and the increase is not attributable to the additional costs incurred in connection with providing those goods or services.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

#### **S. 230.**

An act relating to flexible working arrangements.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Chittenden 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. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

(5) “Employee” means a person who, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of one year for an average of at least 30 hours per week or meets the service requirement set forth in 29 C.F.R. § 825.801 (airline flight crew employees) or 29 C.F.R. § 825.110(c)(3) (full-time teachers, as defined in 29 C.F.R. § 825.102, of an elementary or secondary school system or institution of higher education).

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

§ 495d. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

\* \* \*

(15) “Crime victim” means any of the following:

(A) a person who has obtained a relief from abuse order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(B) a person who has obtained an order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. chapter 178;

(C) a person who has obtained an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. chapter 69; or

(D)(i) a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301, provided that the victim is identified as a crime victim in an affidavit filed by a law enforcement official with a prosecuting attorney of competent state or federal jurisdiction; and

(ii) shall include the victim’s child, foster child, parent, spouse, stepchild or ward of the victim who lives with the victim, or a parent of the victim’s spouse, provided that the individual is not identified in the affidavit as the defendant; or

(E) a person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and who has supporting documentation from any one of the following sources:

(i) a court or law enforcement or other government agency;

(ii) a domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking assistance program;

(iii) a legal, clerical, medical, or other professional from whom the person has received counseling or other assistance concerning domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or

(iv) a self-attestation by the person describing the circumstances supporting the person’s status as a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking for which no further corroboration shall be required unless otherwise mandated by law. A self-attestation shall include the following language above the person’s signature and date: “I declare that the above statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge or belief. I

understand that if the above statement is false, I will be subject to the penalty of perjury or other sanctions in the discretion of the court.”

\* \* \*

(18) “Domestic violence” has the same meaning as in 15 V.S.A. § 1151 and includes the definition of “abuse” in 15 V.S.A. § 1101.

(19) “Sexual assault” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

(20) “Stalking” has the same meaning as in 12 V.S.A. § 5131.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 495g is amended to read:

§ 495g. ~~PROVISION APPLICABLE TO COLLEGE PROFESSORS~~

~~Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to prohibit any institution of higher education as defined by section 1201(a) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 from retiring any employee who is serving under a contract of unlimited tenure, who attains 70 years of age. Any employee whose tenure contract is terminated may, in the discretion of the institution, be allowed to continue in the employ of the institution on a nontenured basis. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to fair employment practices”

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

### **Favorable with Proposal of Amendment**

#### **H. 237.**

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists.

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

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:

Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3001 is amended to read:

§ 3001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Practice of psychology” means rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, or organizations, for a consideration, any service

involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures of understanding, predicting, and influencing behavior that are primarily drawn from the science of psychology. The science of psychology includes assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and amelioration of adjustment problems and emotional and mental disorders of individuals and groups.

(2) “Psychologist” or “practicing psychologist” means a person who is licensed to practice psychology under this chapter.

(3) “Psychologist-doctorate” means a person who is so licensed under this chapter.

(4) “Psychologist-master” means a person who is so licensed under this chapter.

(5) “Board” means the Board of Psychological Examiners established under this chapter.

\* \* \*

(12) “Collaborating practitioner” means a physician licensed to practice medicine pursuant to chapter 23 or 33 of this title with a specialty in psychiatry.

(13) “Drug” has the same meaning as in section 2022 of this title.

(14) “DSM” means the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders current at the time of practice.

(15) “Prescribing psychologist” means a licensed, doctoral-level psychologist who has undergone specialized training, has passed an examination as determined by rule, and has received a current prescribing specialty under section 3019 of this title that has not been revoked or suspended by the Board.

(16) “Prescription drug” has the same meaning as in section 2022 of this title.

(17) “Prescriptive authority” means the authority to prescribe or discontinue prescription drugs solely for the purpose of diagnosing, treating, or managing a condition recognized in the DSM. Prescriptive authority excludes the authority to:

(A) dispense, administer, or distribute prescription drugs; and

(B) prescribe or discontinue prescription drugs for patients who are less than 18 years of age, over 80 years of age, or pregnant.

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3009a is amended to read:

§ 3009a. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD

(a) The Board shall adopt rules necessary to perform its duties under this chapter, including rules that:

- (1) specify educational and other prerequisites for obtaining licensure;
- (2) ~~explain complaint and appeal procedures to licensees, applicants, and the public;~~
- (3) explain continuing education requirements; ~~and~~
  - (3) regulate prescribing psychologist licensees pursuant to section 3019 of this title, including:
    - (A) the settings of clinical rotations;
    - (B) the minimum requirements for the curriculum of a postdoctoral psychopharmacology program; and
    - (C) prescriptive authority, including the designation of conditions and drugs excluded from that authority, as well as requirements for the prescribing of particular drugs; and
  - (4) ~~explain how the Board shall investigate suspected unprofessional conduct~~ regulate collaborative practice agreements pursuant to section 3019 of this title, including collaborating practitioner qualifications and annual competency evaluations.

\* \* \*

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3019 is added to read:

§ 3019. PRESCRIBING BY DOCTORAL-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS  
SPECIALTY

(a) Prescribing psychologist specialty. A psychologist-doctorate may apply to the Board for a prescribing psychologist specialty. The application shall be made in a manner approved by the Board and include the payment of any required fees.

(b) Specialty by examination. A psychologist-doctorate shall be eligible for the prescribing specialty if the psychologist-doctorate:

- (1) holds a current license to practice psychology at the doctoral level in the State;

(2) has successfully completed a postdoctoral training program in psychopharmacology designated by the American Psychological Association or its successor;

(3) has completed clinical rotations over a total of not less than 14 months in not less than five practice settings, to include psychiatry, geriatrics, family or internal medicine, emergency medicine, and neurology;

(4) has completed a national certifying exam, as determined by rule; and

(5) meets all other requirements for obtaining a prescribing psychologist specialty, as determined by rule.

(c) Criteria for prescribing medication.

(1) A written collaborative agreement is required for all prescribing psychologists practicing under a prescribing psychologist specialty issued pursuant to this section.

(2) The issuance of prescriptive authority by a collaborating practitioner to a prescribing psychologist shall only include prescription drugs for the treatment of mental health conditions that the collaborating practitioner generally provides to patients in the normal course of practice.

(3) The collaborating practitioner shall file the collaborative agreement with the Board and notice of any termination of the agreement.

(4) Issuance of prescribing authority for Schedule II–V controlled substances shall identify the specific controlled substance by brand name or generic name. Prescription or administration of a controlled substance by injection shall not be allowed.

(d) Specialty by endorsement. The Director of the Board may, upon payment of any required fee, grant a prescribing specialty without examination if:

(1) the applicant holds active psychologist prescribing authority in another U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction; and

(2) the requirements for psychologist prescribing authority in that jurisdiction are, in the judgment of the Director, substantially equivalent to the requirements of this section.

#### Sec. 4. REPORT; PRESCRIBING PSYCHOLOGISTS

On or before November 15, 2032, the Office of Professional Regulation shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding:

(1) the number of psychologists with a prescribing specialty pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 3019;

(2) the status of available collaborative practitioners; and

(3) whether any updates to the qualifications of prescribing psychologists are necessary to expand access to care while also ensuring public protection.

#### Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 2 (power and duties of the Board) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2029.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 26, 2025, pages 745-748)

### **Senate Resolution for Notice**

#### **S.R. 22.**

Senate resolution relating to concurrently conducted electronic committee meetings.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal for Thursday, February 26, 2026, page 211)

#### **S.R. 23.**

Senate resolution relating to electronic participation in Senate Sessions.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the resolution be adopted?

(For text of resolution, see Senate Journal for Thursday, February 26, 2026, page 211)

### **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

### (Fifth 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.

## 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. 212-216** (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for February 26, 2026)

## CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments 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 and the Cannabis Control Board, underlined below, shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Mike Donohue of Shelburne, VT – Member of the Vermont Economic Progress Council – By Senator Mattos for the Committee on Finance (February 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.