

Senate Calendar

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

Second Reading

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as determined by rule, and has received a current prescribing specialty under section 3019 of this title that has not been revoked or suspended by the Board.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)

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Brock for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare, with further recommendation of proposal of amendment thereto:

In Sec. 1, 26 V.S.A. § 3001, in subdivision (17)(B), by striking out the following: “, over 80 years of age,”

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 733.

An act relating to designating a franchise relationship.

Reported favorably by Senator Mattos for the Committee on Finance.

(Committee vote: 5-0-2)

(No House Amendments)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 508.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington.

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3, in section 2, following the end of the struck language, by striking out the underlined sentences and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The election area boundaries established pursuant to 2023 Acts and Resolves No. M-7 shall remain in effect until changed by the City Council, which is authorized to make changes to the boundaries of the election areas pursuant to this section in order to provide an equal division of population among them in accordance with data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. The City Council may change election area boundaries following the taking of the decennial census and whenever necessary to correct an unconstitutional division of population among City districts or wards. Changes shall be

approved by the voters at an annual or special meeting of the City and shall become effective immediately upon approval unless a later date is established by the City meeting vote.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of January 23, 2026, pages 2859-2865)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 549.

An act relating to eligibility of sentenced or detained individuals to obtain a State-issued nondriver identification card, replacement operator's license, or replacement learner's permit.

Reported favorably by Senator Plunkett for the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of March 13, 2026, pages 3208-3214)

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 210

An act relating to access to autopsy reports

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

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 refileing a petition for a copy of an autopsy report upon a material change in information.

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 26.

An act relating to prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school.

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 #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]

JFO #3276: Twelve (12) limited-service positions to the Agency of Human Services, various departments, to staff the Rural Health Transformation Initiative. The Rural Health Transformation grant, JFO #3272 was approved at the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting on February 6, 2026. All limited-service positions are expected to be funded through 9/30/2031.
[Received March 31, 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).