

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pages Hayley Sherman of East Montpelier and Daphne Krohn of South Burlington led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Senate No. 12

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 7, 2025.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

H. 132

By Reps. Satcowitz of Randolph, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the taking of furbearers

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 133

By Reps. Stevens of Waterbury, Headrick of Burlington, and Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to repealing the statutes that authorize the State Lottery and sports wagering

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 134

By Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, and Waszazak of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to calculating land use change tax and creating a new land use change tax exemption for developing affordable housing

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 135

By Rep. Canfield of Fair Haven,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to administrative and policy changes to Vermont tax laws and extending reimbursement to municipalities for tax abatement due to flooding

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 136

By Reps. McCann of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Hango of Berkshire, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Krasnow of South Burlington, Labor of Morgan, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, L. of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, and Taylor of Milton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for biomarker testing

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 137

By Reps. Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 138

By Reps. LaLonde of South Burlington and Goodnow of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to maximum liability of municipalities for tort claims

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 139

By Reps. Hango of Berkshire, Branagan of Georgia, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, M. of Milton, Noyes of Wolcott, Oliver of Sheldon, Page of Newport City, Pinsonault of Dorset, Walker of Swanton, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring licensed athletic trainers at secondary school athletic events and practices

To the Committee on Education.

H. 140

By Reps. Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the provision of grants for community nurses and community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 141

By the Committee on Appropriations,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 18**

Offered by Representatives Sabilia of Dover, Cooper of Pownal, and Greer of Bennington

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world-class fiber-optic service to rural communities

Whereas, reliable broadband is a critical utility that enhances economic development, supports educational opportunities, facilitates telehealth services, enables remote work, and strengthens communities, and

Whereas, in order to solve the rural broadband crisis in Vermont, in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 41, codified as 30 V.S.A. chapter 82, the General Assembly established the process for the formation and operation of a communications union district (CUD), and

Whereas, the CUD structure places long-term control of fiber-broadband assets in the hands of Vermonters through a governing board consisting of one representative from each town in the CUD, and

Whereas, these unique municipal subdivisions, currently nine in number, serve a pivotal role in addressing Vermont's digital divide, and their financing is acquired through the leveraging of municipal revenue bonds, securing grants from the Vermont Community Broadband Fund, entering into public-private partnerships, and using other financial resources, all without triggering financial liability for CUD member communities or individuals, and

Whereas, the leadership, staff, and volunteers of the CUDs have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and collaboration in their establishment of fiber-optic infrastructure in rural and remote areas of Vermont, resulting in a reduction from 100,000 to 20,000 of internet addresses with no or subpar broadband service, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world-class fiber-optic service to rural communities, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each CUD, the Vermont Community Development Board, and Governor Philip B. Scott.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 31, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 31**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules Appointments

Pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 3, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules:

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington

Rep. Burditt of West Rutland

Rep. Rachelson of Burlington

Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and nineteen minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon.