

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by David Robinson, Army veteran with K-9 Unit, Brattleboro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Dean Roy of Stowe led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Senate No. 15

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Bloomer, its 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. 11. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 14, 2025.

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

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of House bills, on motion of **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee as follows:

H. 172

By Reps. Krasnow of South Burlington, Torre of Moretown, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Hooper of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, and Pezzo of Colchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a Common Interest Community Resource Center

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 173

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to granting public higher education employees the right to strike

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 174

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Labor Relations Board

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 175

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier and Headrick of Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to clarifying the right of adjunct faculty to receive unemployment insurance benefits

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 176

By Reps. Burditt of West Rutland, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goodnow of Brattleboro, LaLonde of South Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, Oliver of Sheldon, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to developing the Department of Corrections' community restitution program

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 177

By Reps. Cordes of Bristol and Kleppner of Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to income-based education funding

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 178

By Reps. Boutin of Barre City, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Steady of Milton, Taylor of Milton, and Waszazak of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to refunding property tax overpayments to the City of Barre and to the Town of Milton

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 179

By Rep. McCann of Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the membership of the State Board of Education and the reestablishment of the Vermont Department of Education

To the Committee on Education.

H. 180

By Reps. Olson of Starksboro, Boyden of Cambridge, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Charlton of Chester, Cordes of Bristol, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Masland of Thetford, Mrowicki of Putney, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the closure of an elementary school

To the Committee on Education.

H. 181

By Reps. Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Austin of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Dodge of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, Ode of Burlington, Pouech of Hinesburg, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Residential and Commercial Building Energy Standards

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 182

By Reps. Birong of Vergennes, Boyden of Cambridge, Noyes of Wolcott, and Nugent of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 183

By Rep. Dobrovich of Williamstown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to strict liability for damages caused by domestic dogs

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 184

By Reps. Donahue of Northfield, Burrows of West Windsor, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, and LaMont of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a community health center pilot program

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 185

By Reps. Olson of Starksboro, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to developing and implementing a universal primary care program

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 186

By Rep. Taylor of Milton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to removal of court discretion in sentencing a defendant for selling or dispensing a regulated drug with death resulting

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 187

By Rep. Garofano of Essex,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring the use of personal flotation devices during cold weather

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 188

By Reps. Nugent of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, and LaLonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to cancellation of motor vehicle purchases

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 189

By Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 190

By Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Priestley of Bradford, and Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to voluntary engagement in sex work

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 44

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing impaired driving

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 25

Offered by House Committee on Human Services

House concurrent resolution recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont

Whereas, United Ways of Vermont operates Vermont 211, a nationally accredited health and human services helpline that provides a 24-7 statewide information and referral service, and

Whereas, Vermont 211 provides streamlined easy access to over 1,000 community-based agencies, offering 2,900 programs and 10,800 services via phone, text, email, and website, and

Whereas, a team of 11 trained, empathetic Community Resource Specialists is employed at Vermont 211, and it is available to help Vermonters assess their needs in a safe and confidential manner, and

Whereas, Vermont 211 received over 57,000 contacts via phone calls, texts, and emails in 2024, resulting in over 12,500 referrals for programs and services, and

Whereas, the most commonly requested services were for basic needs such as access to housing, food, and utilities, and Vermont 211 helps to maintain the integrity of the 911 system as a responder to nonemergency calls, and

Whereas, the Department for Children and Families receives invaluable support from Vermont 211 through the management of after-hours general assistance calls, and

Whereas, Vermont 211 works with Vermont Emergency Management Services in the course of regional, statewide, and national emergencies such as flooding and pandemics, and

Whereas, the member organizations of the Food Security Roadmap Coalition value Vermont 211 as an essential partner and an essential tool for the provision of robust services, and

Whereas, Vermont 211 is celebrating 20 years of service as an essential community resource, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizes February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont 211.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 7, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 118**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding the scope of hate-motivated crimes

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and eighteen 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.