

Journal of the House

Thursday, February 13, 2025

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Brenda Steady of Milton.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 13th day of February 2025, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 78 An act relating to the use of the Australian ballot system in local elections

Message from the Senate No. 17

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 passed Senate bill of the following title:

S. 30. An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

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

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 35. An act relating to unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 214

By Rep. Bluemle of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Safe Harbor Award Program for expenses related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care services

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 215

By Rep. Nugent of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the compensation of members of the General Assembly and the Governor

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 216

By Rep. Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to authorizing the Clean Heat Standard rules

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 217

By Reps. Burt of Cabot, Branagan of Georgia, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Goslant of Northfield, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tagliavia of Corinth, Wells of Brownington, and Winter of Ludlow,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting geoengineering

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 218

By Rep. Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 219

By Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, LaLonde of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Winter of Ludlow,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a family support pilot program for incarcerated parents and guardians

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 220

By Reps. Christie of Hartford and LaLonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a task force to update Vermont's CHINS laws

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 30**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 23**

Offered by Representative Cordes of Bristol

House concurrent resolution designating February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House

Whereas, now more than ever, youth need supportive and committed mentors in their lives, who see, hear, and champion them, and

Whereas, caring and committed mentors offer support for youth, providing them a consistent friend, helping to ignite a young person's curiosities, solidifying their passions, and leveraging their talents, and

Whereas, mentored youths exhibit improved resiliency and better relationships with peers, family, schools, and community, and

Whereas, 96 percent of mentored youths agree or strongly agree that "my mentor makes me feel like I matter," and 92 percent agree or strongly agree that "having a mentor has made a positive difference in my life," and

Whereas, mentoring relationships provide individualized attention and support, which were primary components of personal rebounding from the pandemic, and

Whereas, Vermont mentoring agencies, including MENTOR Vermont and other public and private organizations throughout the State, are committed to working collaboratively to empower youth, advance the Vermont mentoring field, and broaden the reach of mentoring relationships in our communities, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House, *and be it further*

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

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

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 41**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a felony penalty for abuse of a corpse

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

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 98

House bill, entitled

An act relating to confirmatory adoptions

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington**, action on the bill was postponed until February 18, 2025.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 12

Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, and three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 13

Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2025

Was taken up and adopted in concurrence.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and twenty-five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.