

Journal of the House

Friday, February 21, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Saudia LaMont of Morristown.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 301

By Rep. Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to age verification in social media

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 302

By Reps. Bartley of Fairfax, Boyden of Cambridge, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Dodge of Essex, Hooper of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Micklus of Milton, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, and Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility care

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 303

By Reps. Burt of Cabot, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Branagan of Georgia, Burditt of West Rutland, Charlton of Chester, Cole of Hartford, Dolgin of St. Johnsbury, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Lipsky of Stowe, McGill of Bridport, Morgan, L. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of septage, sludge, and biosolids

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 304

By Reps. Morgan, L. of Milton and Morgan, M. of Milton

House bill, entitled

An act relating to traffic cameras and traffic violations for illegally passing a school bus

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 305

By Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Goldman of Rockingham, Kleppner of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Page of Newport City, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prescriptions for psychotropic medications used by children and youth in the Dr. Dynasaur program

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 306

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

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting deed restrictions or covenants that prohibit use of property for commercial or industrial purposes

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 307

By Rep. Hooper of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the establishment of the Vermont Community Radio Grant Program

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 308

By Reps. Bartley of Fairfax, Charlton of Chester, Krasnow of South Burlington, Parsons of Newbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Toof of St. Albans Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 309

By Rep. Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a Housing and Conservation Trust Fund checkoff on the Vermont personal income tax return

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 310

By Reps. Toof of St. Albans Town, Birong of Vergennes, Austin of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bosch of Clarendon, Burditt of West Rutland, Burt of Cabot, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Emmons of Springfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Kascenska of Burke, Krasnow of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Nielsen of Brandon, North of Ferrisburgh, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to education on the evolving nature of antisemitism

To the Committee on Education.

House Resolution Referred to Committee**H.R. 6**

Offered by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Ode of Burlington, and Taylor of Milton

House resolution amending House Rules relating to the House Ethics Panel

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body amends Rule 90(b) of the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives as follows:

(b) Ethics.

(1) Standards of ethical conduct. The House of Representatives, without qualification, is opposed to and prohibits violations of the Vermont Constitution and House Rules standards of ethical conduct. This policy covers the conduct of Representatives and persons employed in the Speaker's Office and House Clerk's Office.

(A) A member shall respect and comply with the law, these Rules, and any other standard of conduct applicable to the member in the performance of the member's duties in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity of the House.

(B) A member shall comply with 17 V.S.A. § 2414 (legislative candidate disclosure form).

(C) On or before the 10th day of the beginning of the biennium, each member shall submit to the Clerk a disclosure form prepared by the Clerk. The form shall be signed by the member, be publicly available on the official webpages of the House of Representatives and of the Clerk of the House, and may be updated. The form shall set forth, to the best of the member's ability, the following information applicable as of the date of submission:

(i) any boards, commissions, or similar entities that are regulated by law or that receive funding from the State on which the member serves; the member's position on the board, commission, or similar entity; and, except in the case of legislative appointments, whether the member receives any form of remuneration for that position; and

(ii) the member's employer.

(2) House Ethics Panel. The House Rules Committee shall, at the beginning of the biennium, appoint an Ethics Panel composed of five members of the House who shall serve until successors are appointed.

(A)(i) The Panel shall elect a chair, adopt procedures to conduct its business to implement the provisions of this ethics rule, and provide copies of the adopted procedures to all members of the House and persons employed in the Speaker's Office and House Clerk's Office.

(ii) The Panel may meet remotely during adjournment to consider complaints as set forth in the Procedure of the Panel ~~Procedure for Handling Ethics Complaints~~. However, if the Panel conducts a hearing at which arguments are presented, evidence is presented, or witnesses are questioned, at least a quorum of the members of the Panel shall be physically present at the hearing. The Panel, at the discretion of the Panel Chair, may allow members, witnesses, or other necessary participants to participate using contemporaneous video or audio conference transmission from one or more different remote locations.

(B) The Panel shall advise individual members and provide training to all members on House member standards of ethical conduct, including compliance with House Rule 75.

(C) The Panel shall receive and investigate complaints of alleged violations of House member standards of ethical conduct made against members of the House, and may investigate such alleged violations on its own initiative.

(i) The Panel, by a vote of at least four of its members, may subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documents and other items as it deems necessary to conduct an investigation.

(ii) In the case of a Panel member's recusal or other absence during the Panel's review of a complaint, the House Rules Committee may appoint an ad hoc member to the Panel for that matter, upon request of the Chair of the Panel.

(D) If a complaint before the Panel or the pendency of an investigation by the Panel is generally known to the public, through independent sources, and the subject matter of the complaint is of broad public interest or speculation, and public confidence in the Panel's administration of these Rules or the Procedure of the Panel may be threatened because of lack of information concerning the status of the investigation, the Panel may issue a brief statement as it may deem appropriate to confirm the existence of the investigation, to clarify the procedural aspects of the investigation, and to explain that the respondent is entitled to due process.

(E) The Panel may recommend to the House any disciplinary action against a member for an ethical violation.

(F) The Panel shall issue a closure report regarding the final disposition of each complaint submitted to the Panel. The closure report shall not identify the complainant, respondent, or any other person by name, but shall contain a summary of the complaint allegations, the final disposition of the complaint, and the basis therefor. The Panel shall maintain its closure reports in a registry on its webpage.

(G) Except as provided in these Rules and in the Procedure of the Panel:

(i) Members of the Panel and Panel staff shall keep confidential any information received and any records produced or acquired in accordance with these Rules or the Procedure of the Panel, provided that the Panel may disclose information and records received under these Rules and the Procedure of the Panel as follows:

(I) to a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to a court order;

(II) to a State or federal law enforcement agency in the course of the agency's investigation, provided that the agency agrees to maintain the confidentiality of the information or records provided;

(III) to the members or staff of the Discrimination Prevention Panel or the members or staff of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Panel to inform an investigation under these Rules by either Panel, provided that the members agree to maintain the confidentiality of the information or records provided.

(ii) All records produced or acquired in accordance with these Rules and in the Procedure of the Panel are not subject to the Public Records Act.

~~(E)~~(H) Annually, on or before December 31, the Panel shall report to the House the number of complaints filed, a general description of the topic of each complaint, the disposition of those complaints, and the number of member requests for ethical advice.

(3) Retaliation prohibited. These Rules prohibit retaliation against a person who complains, reports, or cooperates in an investigation of an ethics violation.

Was read by title, treated as a bill, and referred to the Committee on Rules pursuant to House Rule 52.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 6**

Offered by Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Steady of Milton, and Taylor of Milton

Offered by Senator Mattos

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Milton High School Yellowjackets girls' soccer team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship

Whereas, the vibrancy of Milton High School's girls' soccer program was convincingly renewed during the fall 2024 season, as the top-ranked Yellowjackets (17–1) proved their command of the pitch, and

Whereas, at the 2024 Division II championship game, played at Burlington's Buck Hard Field, the Yellowjackets exhibited commanding soccer prowess against the seventh-seeded Mt. Abraham Union High School Eagles, scoring goals in the 15th minute of play and then again with 17:36 remaining in regulation time to tally both the school's 18th divisional championship and 11th shutout this season, and

Whereas, the victorious Yellowjackets were Samantha Provost, Dasie May Gabree, Sydney Greenfield, Cianna Tomasi, Kaitlyn Bombard, Molly St. Amand, Madison Rose, Grace Dowling, Holley MacLellan, Callie Fougere, Lucy Spaulding, Taylor Shappy, Savannah Monahan, Caitlyn Fortier, Antoinette Brynga, Emily Banacos, Avery Turner, Hannah Smiley, Alessandra Hoffman, Lajla Pasic, Catherine Preuss, Marlie Bushey, Logan Freeman, Lila Martin, and Lily Daunais, and

Whereas, Head Coach Caitlyn Fogel, assistant coaches Scott Tomasi and Rebecca Brygna, and Team Manger Meghan Abare were all proud of Milton's 2024 outstanding girls' soccer season, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Milton High School Yellowjackets girls' soccer team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Milton High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 17, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and fifty minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 14.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 34

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Union High School Chieftains Division III championship boys soccer team

H.C.R. 35

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the March 13, 1775 Westminster Massacre

H.C.R. 36

House concurrent resolution honoring Charlotte Board of Civil Authority Chair, and Ski and Ride Program Coordinator Michael Krasnow

H.C.R. 37

House concurrent resolution congratulating Meara Seery of Brattleboro on being named Miss Vermont 2024

H.C.R. 38

House concurrent resolution honoring dedicated Jamaica community leader and volunteer Clara Robinson

H.C.R. 39

House concurrent resolution designating February 19, 2025 as Recovery Day at the State House

H.C.R. 40

House concurrent resolution designating February 20, 2025 as NEK Day at the State House

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2025 Biennial Session.]