

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Kris Brown, voice actor and podcast host, Colchester.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Manny Van Fleet of Worcester led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 or placed on the Notice Calendar as follows:

H. 311

By Reps. Boutin of Barre City, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Harrison of Chittenden, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, McFaun of Barre Town, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Page of Newport City, Pritchard of Pawlet, Taylor of Milton, and Waszazak of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the retirement allowance for interim educators

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 312

By Reps. Graning of Jericho, Arsenault of Williston, Burrows of West Windsor, and Sibilgia of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the appointment of members of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education

To the Committee on Education.

H. 313

By Reps. Sibilias of Dover and Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to ranked-choice voting for presidential primary elections

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 314

By Reps. Sibilias of Dover and Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a top-four nonpartisan primary election system

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 315

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier and Krasnow of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to nondiscrimination concerning a parent with a disability

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 316

By Rep. Casey of Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the governance of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and the University of Vermont

To the Committee on Education.

H. 317

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier, Birong of Vergennes, Cooper of Pownal, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Greer of Bennington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Maguire of Rutland City, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Springfield, Ode of Burlington, Pinsonault of Dorset, Sibilias of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Toof of St. Albans Town, Waszazak of Barre City, and Yacovone of Morristown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to credit card fees on taxes and gratuities

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 318

By Rep. Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to computer science in Vermont's public schools

To the Committee on Education.

H. 319

By Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 320

By Reps. Labor of Morgan, Demar of Enosburgh, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Nelson of Derby, North of Ferrisburgh, Page of Newport City, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to stabilizing Vermont's rural hospitals

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 321

By Reps. Birong of Vergennes and Boyden of Cambridge,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 322

By Reps. Rachelson of Burlington and Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to social worker licensure requirements

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 323

By Reps. Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, and McFaun of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to mental health programming funded by the Mental Health Innovation Special Fund

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 324

By Rep. Burditt of West Rutland,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to mandatory retirement age of the Vermont State Retirement System

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 325

By Rep. Berbeco of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 326

By Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of the use of rodenticides

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 327

By Rep. Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to labor requirements for certain energy projects

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 328

By Rep. Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to compliance with the environmental justice State policy

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 329

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 330

By Reps. Boyden of Cambridge and Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to authorizing the use of electronic and remote voting for annual meetings of municipal corporations

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 331

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a victim's right to be heard at an appeal or postconviction remedy hearing

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 332

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Bishop of Colchester, Boyden of Cambridge, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, and Sibia of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Small Business Technical Assistance Exchange

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 333

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to collective bargaining for agricultural workers

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 334

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting employer restrictions on individuals separating from employment

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 335

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to payroll records of workers on State construction projects

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 336

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to enhancing enforcement of employment laws

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 337

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to duties of the Commissioner of Labor

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 338

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to unemployment compensation

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 339

By the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230

Pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 340

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Sibia of Dover, and White of Waitsfield,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to regulating developers and deployers of certain automated decision systems

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 341

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Cole of Hartford, Logan of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McGill of Bridport, Sibia of Dover, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating oversight and safety standards for developers and deployers of inherently dangerous artificial intelligence systems

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 342

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Casey of Montpelier, Coffin of Cavendish, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, and White of Bethel,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 343

By Rep. O'Brien of Tunbridge,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making State lands available for farming by citizens of State-recognized Native American Indian tribes

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 344

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating a good cause standard for termination of employment

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 345

By Rep. O'Brien of Tunbridge,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting the sale or distribution of glitter containing intentionally added synthetic polymers

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 346

By Reps. Rachelson of Burlington and LaLonde of South Burlington,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to charges for towing and storage of motor vehicles
belonging to crime victims

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 347

By Reps. Logan of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford,
Cordes of Bristol, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, McCann of
Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Priestley of Bradford, and Tomlinson of
Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding coverage of the minimum wage and overtime
laws and maintaining the authority of the Attorney General to enforce
complaints of employee misclassification

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 348

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

An act relating to protecting workers from extreme temperatures in the
workplace

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 349

By Rep. Howard of Rutland City,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont State Building Security Board
To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 350

By Rep. Noyes of Wolcott,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to automatic opening knives

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 3**

Offered by Representatives Demar of Enosburgh, Hango of Berkshire, Gregoire of Fairfield, Laroche of Franklin, Oliver of Sheldon, and Walker of Swanton

Offered by Senators Brock and Norris

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Enosburg Falls High School Hornets Division II championship softball team

Whereas, the matchup in Castleton of the first-seeded Enosburg Falls High School Hornets and the second-seeded Lyndon Institute Vikings for the 2024 Division II softball honors was hardly surprising, but what transpired on the diamond was the Hornets' amazing saga of perseverance, and

Whereas, after a scoreless first inning, in the top of the second, the Vikings powerfully scored eight runs, potentially sealing the game's outcome, and

Whereas, in their subsequent trips to the batter's box, the talented Hornets proved worthy of their top-tier ranking as they stopped additional Vikings from scoring and tallied two runs in the bottom of the second, three in the third, one in the fourth, two in the fifth, and two more in the sixth to cap an amazing comeback and secure a stunning 10–8 triumph, and

Whereas, the impressive Hornets were Camryn Benoit, Cassidy Blaney, Ava Burns, Miley Decker, Annabelle Elwood, Leah Gervais, Erica Goodhue, Addyson Longe, Makenna Lovelette, Kailie Morrill, Annalise Robtoy, Lillian Robtoy, Rory Schreindorfer, Gretchen Stiebris, and Allie Wells, and

Whereas, Head Coach Randy Wells; assistant coaches Brad Lovelette, Shawna Lovelette, and Ryan Wells; and student manager Natalie Lovelette were proud of their team's athletic accomplishment, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Enosburg Falls High School Hornets Division II championship softball team, *and be it further*

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

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

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 26**

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal

Whereas, rugby is not the most commonly played team sport in the United States, but none is more exhilarating or exciting, and no Vermonter or American is more adept on the rugby field than Ilona Maher, and

Whereas, Ilona Maher graduated in 2014 from Burlington High School, where she enthusiastically played basketball, field hockey, soccer, and softball, and she started her love affair with rugby as a member of the South Burlington High School's rugby football club, and

Whereas, initially attending Norwich University, the Quinnipiac University Bobcats rugby coach recruited her, and for the next three years, she excelled as the Bobcats won three National Intercollegiate Rugby Association (NIRA) women's championships; in each of these years, the NIRA named her to its All-American women's team, and in 2017, the NIRA honored Ilona Maher as the nation's top collegiate women's rugby player, and

Whereas, this Quinnipiac University nursing graduate and master's degree graduate of DeVry University debuted as a women's USA Rugby World Cup Sevens team member in 2018 and represented the United States in 2021 at the Tokyo Olympics, and even more exciting was her 2024 Paris Olympics appearance, where the U.S. women's rugby sevens team won its first-ever Olympic medal—a bronze—upon defeating Australia 14–12, and

Whereas, following her return from France, Ilona Maher was honored at an ebullient welcome home ceremony in Burlington's Battery Park, and she has used her rugby fame to promote women's sports and body positivity, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal, *and be it further*

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

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

Message from the Senate No. 20

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 concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

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.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and twenty-one 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.