

Journal of the House

Friday, February 28, 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. Will Greer of Bennington.

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

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

H. 426

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro, Lalley of Shelburne, Pouech of Hinesburg, Tomlinson of Winooski, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Duke of Burlington, Graning of Jericho, Holcombe of Norwich, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, and White of Waitsfield,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 427

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to medical malpractice actions

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 428

By Reps. Cina of Burlington and Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to training requirements for guardians

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 429

By Reps. Burrows of West Windsor, Berbeco of Winooski, Branagan of Georgia, Burke of Brattleboro, Donahue of Northfield, Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, and Mrowicki of Putney,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 430

By Reps. Galfetti of Barre Town and Waszazak of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to allowing health insurance premiums to vary based on age and tobacco usage

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 431

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding access to catastrophic health plans

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 432

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro, Cina of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Lalley of Shelburne, Masland of Thetford, Morgan, L. of Milton, and Ode of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance coverage for prosthetic and orthotic devices

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 433

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Christie of Hartford, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Duke of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to incremental implementation of Green Mountain Care

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 434

By Reps. Greer of Bennington, Coffin of Cavendish, Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 435

By Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing penalties for keeping or maintaining a common nuisance

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 436

By Rep. Headrick of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing reentry facilities for persons under the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 437

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a study committee to examine universal design standards for residential buildings

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 438

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exempting sales of building materials and supplies from sales and use tax for priority housing projects

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 439

By Rep. Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Whole Home Repairs Program

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 440

By Reps. LaMont of Morrystown, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Cordes of Bristol, Dodge of Essex, Headrick of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to providing protections against no-cause eviction

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 441

By Rep. Christie of Hartford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to amending the prohibitions against harassment in schools

To the Committee on Education.

H. 442

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the expedited issuance of professional licenses for practicing, qualified out-of-state applicants

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 443

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Waszazak of Barre City, and Holcombe of Norwich,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a tax on vacant properties

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 444

By Rep. Marcotte of Coventry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to unemployment compensation and workers' compensation

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 445

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Christie of Hartford, Cole of Hartford, LaMont of Morristown, and Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating the Land Access and Opportunity Revolving Fund

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 446

By Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to requiring municipal corporations to set equalized water and sewer rates throughout the service area

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 447

By Rep. Durfee of Shaftsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to rabies vaccination certificate requirements for domestic pet or wolf-hybrid licensure

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

H. 448

By Reps. Morris of Springfield, Cina of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Hooper of Randolph, Krasnow of South Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Oliver of Sheldon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the Vermont State Employees' Retirement System

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 449

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to setting the date of biennial party caucuses

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 450

By Reps. Emmons of Springfield and Morris of Springfield,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting the appointment of interested parties to a recount committee

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 451

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to promoting racial and economic justice

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 452

By Rep. Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to decriminalization of psilocybin-containing mushrooms and the establishment of the Psilocybin Therapeutic Consultation Program

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 453

By Rep. Lalley of Shelburne,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to amending stormwater management to facilitate high-density development

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 454

By Reps. Toof of St. Albans Town, McCoy of Poultney, Taylor of Milton, Dobrovich of Williamstown, and Quimby of Lyndon,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality, and finance systems

To the Committee on Education.

H. 455

By Rep. Christie of Hartford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to State observance of Juneteenth

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 48**

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington

Whereas, Curt McCormack was a passionate environmental advocate who worked diligently to reduce sources of air pollution and encourage Vermonters' transportation choices in a direction eschewing cars and airplanes, and

Whereas, a licensed electrician by profession, Curt McCormack's desire to serve his fellow citizens in the legislative arena, and contribute an enduring beneficial impact on both environmental and transportation policy, twice sparked him to stand for a seat in the General Assembly, and

Whereas, in 1982, he won election to the House of Representatives as a member from Rutland City, and during this first legislative foray, which extended to late 1995, he chaired the House committee with environmental jurisdiction and was a national pioneer in leading a State effort to limit the use of chlorofluorocarbons, and

Whereas, he departed from the General Assembly to serve as the Vermont Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator at the Department of Transportation, a role that enabled him to implement facilities for human-powered transportation, and

Whereas, in 2012, having relocated to Burlington, Curt McCormack won election from the city's downtown-Old North End district, starting a new five-term legislative tenure that featured his service as the unusually carless House Committee on Transportation Chair; coincided with the extension to Burlington of the Ethan Allen Express Amtrak rail service, which he was instrumental in establishing years earlier; and included his election as a University of Vermont trustee, and

Whereas, he was a Peace Corps volunteer, who established a recycling facility in Joal, Senegal; a cyclist, who bicycled extensively in North America and Europe; a painter; and a music fan, whose diverse melodic pleasures ranged from Bob Dylan to opera, and

Whereas, Curt McCormack died of cancer on September 16, 2024 at 72 years of age, and his survivors include his partner, Lisa Scofield, and his children, grandchildren, and siblings, including former Senator Richard McCormack, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the members of Curt McCormack's family.

At the direction of the Speaker, was read.

Remarks Journalized

On motion of **Rep. Emmons of Springfield**, the following remarks by **Rep. Burke of Brattleboro** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

We just heard the reading of the resolution honoring former member Curt McCormack. The outlines of his life and service are impressive. Let me fill in some of the space between the lines.

Many members here remember Curt fondly. He was a kind and gentle soul, a rare individual, a committed environmentalist who lived his values rather than talked about them.

As we heard in the resolution, Curt did not own a car. This made headlines when he was appointed Chair of House Transportation. At one point in his tenure as Chair, Curt traveled around the State by bicycle, train, and public transit to visit each member of the committee, staying at our homes.

He went from Burlington to Fairfax, to Swanton, to St. Johnsbury, to Concord, to White River, to Brattleboro, Bennington, Clarendon, Poultney, and back to Burlington. All on his bike, bus, and Amtrak train. It was a lovely gesture, one that honored each member of our committee, and also set an example for sustainable transportation options.

The rest of the McCormack family has made an equally impressive contribution to our State. Curt's daughter Blythe was a legislative page, his former wife Virginia served in the House, and brother Dick just retired after 36 years in the Vermont Senate.

A number of family members are here with us today. Curt's beloved companion and partner Lisa Scofield, brother and former Senator Dick McCormack, daughter Blythe McCormack, son James McCormack, daughter-in-law Amanda McCormack, former wife and mother of their children, Virginia McCormack, grandchildren Mason and Leah McCormack, and nephews Aaron and Noah McCormack.

Today also happens to be Curt's birthday, and I just found out that it is his grandson Mason's birthday as well.

Curt had a joyous spirit. He was a fabulous role model, friend to many, and my dear friend.

Please join me in welcoming the McCormack family."

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 339

House bill, entitled

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

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

Message from the Senate No. 23

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. 3. An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust.

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

The Senate has considered the report of the Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House bill of the following title:

H. 141. An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 41. House concurrent resolution congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership.

H.C.R. 42. House concurrent resolution honoring Oxbow Union High School CoPrincipal and Gather author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich.

H.C.R. 43. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II boys' championship indoor track and field team.

H.C.R. 44. House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2025 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 18, 2025 as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 45. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets Division I boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship.

H.C.R. 46. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball program on winning a fourth consecutive State championship.

H.C.R. 47. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 48. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington.

Adjournment

At nine o'clock and fifty-three minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 4.

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. 41

House concurrent resolution congratulating Keeler's Bay Variety Store of South Hero on the 50th anniversary of the Horne family's ownership

H.C.R. 42

House concurrent resolution honoring Oxbow Union High School CoPrincipal and Gather author Kenneth M. Cadow of Norwich

H.C.R. 43

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy Panthers Division II boys' championship indoor track and field team

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House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Senior Nutrition Program Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 48

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative Curt McCormack of Burlington

[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.]