

# Journal of the House

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

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

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Cameron Ainsworth, Pastor, Rock of Greater Burlington Church.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Page Skyler Barnard of Montpelier led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **House Bills Introduced**

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

### **H. 480**

By the Committee on Education,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

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

### **H. 481**

By the Committee on Environment,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to stormwater management

Pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

### **H. 482**

By the Committee on Health Care,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer

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

**H. 483**

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the expansion of existing income tax credits

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

**H. 484**

By the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

Pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

**H. 485**

By Rep. Casey of Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to granting State employees in the Executive Branch and Judiciary the right to strike

To the Committee on General and Housing.

**Senate Bills Referred**

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

**S. 28**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services

To the Committee on Health Care.

**S. 50**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

**S. 69**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to an age-appropriate design code

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

**Bills Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, affecting the revenue of the State, pursuant to House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

**H. 237**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

**H. 319**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects

**H. 397**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response

**H. 401**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

**Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations**

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, carrying appropriations, under House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

**H. 167**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Vermonters Feeding Vermonters Grant at the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

**H. 321**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

**Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar****J.R.H. 3**

Offered by Representatives Marcotte of Coventry and Bos-Lun of Westminster

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State and Green Mountain Girls State educational programs to use the State House facilities on June 26, 2025

*Whereas*, the American Legion Department of Vermont and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont respectively sponsor the Green Mountain Boys State and Green Mountain Girls State educational programs, providing groups of boys and girls entering the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government, including conducting a mock legislative session at the State House, and

*Whereas*, this special experience is a unique civic lesson of lasting value for the participants, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That subject to the determination of and limitations established by the Sergeant at Arms, the Green Mountain Boys State and Girls State educational programs are authorized to use the chambers and committee rooms of the State House on Thursday, June 26, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

**Third Reading; Bills Passed**

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

**H. 137**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of insurance products and services

**H. 266**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to protections for 340B covered entities and 340B contract pharmacies

**H. 463**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections for the 2025 legislative session

**Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 125**

**Rep. Sibilia of Dover**, for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to reporting on the energy transition

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. ENERGY TRANSITION ECONOMIC IMPACTS REPORT

(a) On or before December 15, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the relevant State agencies, including the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Department of Public Service, the Agency of Transportation, the Department of Labor, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Department of Taxes, shall publish a report that highlights existing data sources and indicators relevant to the impacts of the changing energy landscape on Vermonters and relevant to understanding the distribution of benefits and burdens by region.

(b) The report shall provide data for the previous five years. The report shall include:

(1) current and forecasted electric rates and the number of customers with electric vehicle rates;

(2) the total megawatts of distributed solar generation facilities, including the amount installed, by county and any active certificate of public good applications;

(3) the number of sellers and volume of heating fuel sales;

(4) the number of homes receiving incentivized weatherization services, by income level and county;

(5) firms and workers in thermal and renewable energy sector trades;

(6) gasoline and diesel transportation fuel sales;

(7) the number and location of retail gasoline and diesel outlets as indicated by metered pumps;

(8) progress in electric vehicle supply equipment installation, both fast charging and Level 2, to meet recommendations in the Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Action Plan and their locations;

(9) vehicle registrations by fuel type for light, medium, and heavy-duty vehicles; and

(10) fossil fuel and electricity consumption per unit of economic output.

(c) The report shall also include:

(1) regional distribution and graphic displays of the data compiled;

(2) an analysis of the data and recommendations of any additional data necessary to illustrate the impacts of the changing energy landscape by region;

(3) an identification of existing reports and requirements that may support the reporting of relevant indicators;

(4) consideration of equity and just transition indicators, with the goal of better understanding the benefits and burdens of the changing energy landscape by region; and

(5) any recommendations for future reporting requirements, including how and when all relevant data can be mapped.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure?, **Rep. McCoy of Poultney** requested the vote be by division.

Pending the results of the vote by division, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 84. Nays, 59.

## Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Duke of Burlington	Mihaly of Calais
Austin of Colchester	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morrow of Weston
Bartholomew of Hartland	Eastes of Guilford	Mrowicki of Putney
Berbeco of Winooski	Emmons of Springfield	Nigro of Bennington
Birong of Vergennes	Garofano of Essex	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bishop of Colchester	Goldman of Rockingham	Ode of Burlington
Black of Essex	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Olson of Starksboro
Bluemle of Burlington	Graning of Jericho	Pezzo of Colchester
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Harple of Glover	Pouech of Hinesburg
Boyden of Cambridge	Headrick of Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Brady of Williston	Holcombe of Norwich	Rachelson of Burlington
Brown of Richmond	Hooper of Randolph	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burke of Brattleboro	Hooper of Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Houghton of Essex Junction	Sheldon of Middlebury
Burrows of West Windsor	Howard of Rutland City	Sibilia of Dover
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Hunter of Manchester	Squirrell of Underhill
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham	James of Manchester *	Stevens of Waterbury
Casey of Montpelier	Kimbell of Woodstock	Stone of Burlington
Chapin of East Montpelier	Kleppner of Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard
Cole of Hartford	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sweeney of Shelburne
Conlon of Cornwall	Krasnow of South Burlington	Tomlinson of Winooski
Cooper of Pownal	Lalley of Shelburne	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	LaLonde of South Burlington	Waszazak of Barre City
Cordes of Bristol	Logan of Burlington	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Critchlow of Colchester	Long of Newfane	White of Waitsfield
Dodge of Essex	Masland of Thetford	White of Bethel
Dolan of Essex Junction	McCann of Montpelier	Wood of Waterbury
Donahue of Northfield	McGill of Bridport	Yacovone of Morristown

## Those who voted in the negative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park	Hango of Berkshire	Morrissey of Bennington
Bartley of Fairfax	Harrison of Chittenden	Nelson of Derby
Bosch of Clarendon	Harvey of Castleton	Nielsen of Brandon
Boutin of Barre City	Higley of Lowell	North of Ferrisburgh
Branagan of Georgia	Howland of Rutland Town	Noyes of Wolcott
Burditt of West Rutland	Kascenska of Burke	Oliver of Sheldon
Canfield of Fair Haven	Keyser of Rutland City	Page of Newport City
Casey of Hubbardton	Labor of Morgan	Parsons of Newbury
Charlton of Chester	Laroche of Franklin	Pinsonault of Dorset
Coffin of Cavendish	Lipsky of Stowe	Powers of Waterford
Demar of Enosburgh	Luneau of St. Albans City	Pritchard of Pawlet
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Maguire of Rutland City	Quimby of Lyndon
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Marcotte of Coventry	Southworth of Walden
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCoy of Poultney	Steady of Milton
Feltus of Lyndon	McFaun of Barre Town	Tagliavia of Corinth
	Micklus of Milton	Taylor of Milton

Galfetti of Barre Town *	Minier of South Burlington	Toof of St. Albans Town
Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton	Walker of Swanton
Greer of Bennington	Morgan, M. of Milton	Wells of Brownington
Gregoire of Fairfield	Morris of Springfield	Winter of Ludlow

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Burt of Cabot	Cina of Burlington	Malay of Pittsford
Christie of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Nugent of South Burlington

**Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

This bill represents more government waste. Waste that our constituents sent us here to curtail.”

**Rep. James of Manchester** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I support H.125 because good policy requires good data. At a time when climate energy policy is clouded by politics, it’s more important than ever that we partner with State Government to start with the same set of facts.”

Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

### **Action on Bill Postponed**

#### **H. 222**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to participation in a domestic violence accountability program as a condition of a final relief from abuse prevention order

Was taken up and, pending second reading, on motion of **Rep. Arsenault of Williston**, action on the bill was postponed until March 19, 2025.

### **Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**

#### **H. 231**

**Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph**, for the Committee on Environment, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 4001 is amended to read:

§ 4001. DEFINITIONS

Words and phrases used in this part, unless otherwise provided, shall be construed to mean as follows:

\* \* \*

(6) ~~Pickereel: the great northern pike, chain pickerel, or muskellunge.~~  
[Repealed.]

(7) ~~Pike perch: walleyed or yellow pike.~~ [Repealed.]

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 4905 is amended to read:

§ 4905. BIRDS' NESTS AND EGGS; DESTROYING OR ROBBING

A person shall not take or ~~wilfully~~ willfully destroy the nests or eggs of wild birds, other than rock pigeons, the English sparrow, starling, or purple grackle house sparrows, or European starlings, except when necessary to protect buildings and the nests to be removed contain no eggs or chicks and are no longer being used by birds for feeding, or when taken as provided in section 4152 of this title.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4502 is amended to read:

§ 4502. UNIFORM POINT SYSTEM; REVOCATION OF LICENSE

(a) A uniform point system that assigns points to those convicted of a violation of a provision of this part is established. The conviction report from the court shall be prima facie evidence of the points assessed. In addition to other penalties assessed for violation of fish and wildlife statutes, the Commissioner shall suspend licenses issued under this part that are held by a person who has accumulated 10 or more points in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) A person violating provisions of this part shall receive points for convictions in accordance with the following schedule (all sections are in this title of the Vermont Statutes Annotated):

(1) Except for biological collection violations determined to be nonpoint violations under the rules of the Board, five points shall be assessed for any violation of statutes or rules adopted under this part except those listed in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection.

(2) Ten points shall be assessed for:

\* \* \*

(I) ~~§ 4706. Snaring animals [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

(Y) ~~Appendix § 2; Appendix § 33, section 14.3. Reporting of big game~~

\* \* \*

(II) ~~Appendix § 37, as it applies to annual deer limits section 10. Novice season~~

(JJ) § 4742a. Youth deer hunting weekend. The points shall be assessed solely against the adult who is accompanying the youth hunter.

(KK) § 4908. Youth turkey hunting weekend. The points assessed against the adult accompanying the youth hunter.

(LL) § 4256. Mentored hunting license. The points shall be assessed against the licensed adult who is accompanying the individual holding the mentored hunting license.

(MM) § 4827a. Feeding a black bear

(NN) § 4826. Taking deer doing damage

(OO) § 22a. Taking turkey doing damage

(PP) § 35. Taking moose doing damage

(QQ) ~~Appendix § 22, section 6.7; Appendix § 33, section 13.1(g); Appendix § 37, section 7.7. Possession or transport of a cocked crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle [Repealed.]~~

(RR) ~~Appendix § 7, section 6.3(b). Hunting bear with any dog not listed on the permit [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

(3) Twenty points shall be assessed for:

(A) ~~§ 4192. General powers and duties; failure to obey warden [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

(I) § 4745. Taking deer big game out of season prohibited

\* \* \*

(O) Appendix § 7, sections 4.2, ~~5.1, 5.2,~~ 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(b), 6.3(d), 6.3(e), ~~6.4, 6.5(c), 6.5(d),~~ 7.1, and 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4. Bear, unauthorized taking

(P) Appendix § 22. Turkey season, excluding: requirements for youth turkey hunting season; ~~section 6.2, and~~ size of shot used or possessed; ~~and section 6.7, transport of cocked crossbow~~

\* \* \*

(U) Appendix § 37. Deer management rule, excluding requirements for youth deer hunting weekend; requirements for novice season; limitations on feeding of deer; ~~section 7.7, transport of cocked crossbow~~; reporting big game; and section 11.0, ban of urine and other natural lures

\* \* \*

(W) ~~§ 4711. Crossbow hunting~~ [Repealed.]

(X) ~~Appendix § 4. Hunting with a crossbow without a permit or license~~ [Repealed.]

\* \* \*

(Z) Appendix § 44, ~~section 4.6~~. Use of tooth jawed traps

(AA) Appendix § 44, ~~section 4.11~~. Taking furbearers with poison

(BB) Appendix § 44, ~~section 4.12~~. Taking furbearers from a den

(CC) § 4716. Holding or conducting a coyote-hunting competition

(DD) § 4706. Snaring animals

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 4705 is amended to read:

§ 4705. SHOOTING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES OR AIRCRAFT;  
SHOOTING FROM OR ACROSS HIGHWAY; PERMIT

(a) A person shall not take or attempt to take a wild animal by shooting from a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection (e) of this section.

(b) A person shall not carry or possess while in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within the right-of-way of a public highway any of the following:

(1) a rifle or, ~~airgun,~~ shotgun, or other projectile implement containing a loaded cartridge or shell in the chamber, mechanism, or in a magazine, or clip within a rifle or shotgun, ~~or;~~

(2) a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun that has been charged with powder and projectile and the ignition system of which has been enabled by having an affixed or attached percussion cap, primer, battery, or priming powder, except as permitted under subsections (d) and (e) of this section-;

(3) unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled craft or any vehicle drawn by a motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted under subsection 47059e); and

(4) a person who possesses a rifle, crossbow, or shotgun, including a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading shotgun, in or on a vehicle propelled by mechanical power, or drawn by a vehicle propelled by mechanical power within a right-of-way of a public highway shall upon demand of an enforcement officer exhibit the firearm for examination to determine compliance with this section.

(c) A person while on or within 25 feet of the traveled portion of a public highway, except a public highway designated Class 4 on a town highway map, shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, a muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow. A person while on or within the traveled portion of a public highway designated Class 4 on a town highway map shall not take or attempt to take any wild animal by shooting a firearm, a muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow. A person shall not shoot a firearm, a muzzle loader, a bow and arrow, or a crossbow over or across the traveled portion of a public highway, except for a person shooting over or across the traveled portion of a public highway from a sport shooting range, as that term is defined in section 5227 of this title, provided that:

(1) the sport shooting range was established before January 1, 2014; and

(2) the operators of the sport shooting range post signage warning users of the public highway of the potential danger from the sport shooting range.

(d) This section shall not restrict the possession or use of a loaded firearm by an enforcement officer in performance of ~~his or her~~ the officer's duty.

(e) Subsections (a) and (c) of this section shall not apply to a licensed hunter with paraplegia or who is certified by a physician to be unable to pursue game because of permanent severe physical disability, if ~~he or she~~ the licensed hunter obtains a permit as provided in this subsection. The Commissioner on receipt of satisfactory proof of the disability of an applicant may issue a permit under this subsection. This permit shall be attached to the license and shall remain in effect until the death of the holder, unless the Commissioner has reason to believe the permit is misused. The holder of the permit shall carry it

at all times while hunting and shall produce it on demand for inspection by any game warden or other law enforcement officer authorized to make arrests. The holder of the permit may take game from a vehicle or boat but only if it is stationary and is not within 10 feet of the traveled portion of a public highway. In no event shall the holder of a permit shoot across the traveled portion of a public highway.

(f) The phrase “public highway,” as used in this section, means roads, including Class 4 roads, shown on the highway maps of the respective towns, made by the Agency of Transportation, but does not include foot trails or private roads.

Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 3317(b) is amended to read:

(b) Penalty or fine; \$300.00 or \$1,000.00 maximum. A person who violates a requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 1454 shall be subject to enforcement under 10 V.S.A. § 8007 or 8008 or a fine under this chapter, provided that the person shall be assessed a penalty or fine of not more than \$1,000.00 for each violation. A person who violates a rule adopted under 10 V.S.A. § 1424 shall be subject to enforcement under 10 V.S.A. chapter 201 or a fine under this chapter, provided that the person shall be assessed a penalty of not more than \$300.00 for each violation. A person who violates any of the following sections of this title shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$300.00 for each violation:

\* \* \*

Sec. 6. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

\* \* \*

(19) Violations of rules adopted under 10 V.S.A. § 1424, relating to the use of public waters.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

**Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** presiding.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Environment agreed to, and third reading ordered.

**Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 259**

**Rep. Cordes of Bristol**, for the Committee on Health Care, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to preventing workplace violence in hospitals

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1911b is added to read:

§ 1911b. WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLANNING

(a)(1) A hospital licensed pursuant to this chapter shall establish and implement a security plan for preventing workplace violence and managing aggressive behaviors. Each hospital shall establish a team for the purpose of providing advice during the development of the hospital's security plan. The hospital shall select individuals from the following groups to serve on its security plan development team:

(A) health care employees providing direct patient care at the hospital;

(B) representatives from the designated agency serving the region where the hospital is located; and

(C) representatives of relevant law enforcement agencies.

(2) The security plan shall be based on the results of a security risk assessment that addresses all high-risk areas of the hospital, including the emergency department, and all patient care areas. The security risk assessment shall be conducted in consultation with the medical and nursing directors of each department and those hospital employees supervising other high-risk areas of the hospital. The security risk assessment shall consider overall patient volume, crime rates in the community, and the availability of law enforcement to respond to violent incidents at the hospital.

(3) The security plan shall include an option for health care employees who provide direct patient care to request an identification badge containing only their first name or their first name and last initial.

(4)(A) The security plan shall require at least one hospital employee trained in de-escalation strategies to be present at all time in the hospital's emergency department and all other patient care areas.

(B) The security plan shall require that a hospital employee trained in trauma-informed care and victim support serve as a liaison to law enforcement, support victims through the legal process, and ensure that the response to incidents of violence at the hospital prioritize the safety and retention of hospital employees providing health care services.

(5) The security plan shall establish training requirements for appropriate hospital employees on the following:

(A) the culture of safety as determined by the hospital;

(B) response to the presence or use of weapons;

(C) defensive tactics;

(D) de-escalation techniques;

(E) appropriate physical restraint and seclusion techniques;

(F) crisis intervention;

(G) trauma-informed care and strategies;

(H) clinician well-being practices;

(I) presence and intervention of law enforcement; and

(J) safely addressing situations involving patients, family members, or other individuals who pose a risk of self-harm or harm to others.

(6) The security plan shall include guidelines indicating when a law enforcement officer should remain with a patient who has demonstrated violence or harm to others pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1883. The guidelines shall be developed jointly by a health care provider representative and law enforcement.

(7)(A) A hospital shall review and evaluate the security plan developed pursuant to this subsection annually in conjunction with the data collected pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section. If necessary, the hospital shall revise the security plan.

(B) The security plan and any annual revisions to the security plan shall be distributed annually to all hospital employees, volunteers, the hospital's board of directors, relevant law enforcement agencies, and any other partners identified by the security plan development team.

(b)(1) A hospital licensed pursuant to this chapter shall establish and utilize a workplace violence incident reporting system to document, track, analyze, and evaluate incidents of workplace violence at the hospital. Data collection through the reporting system and resulting analysis shall be used to improve workplace safety and to manage aggressive behaviors, including improvements achieved through continuing education in targeted areas such as de-escalation training, risk identification, and prevention planning.

(2) All hospital employees shall be notified about the existence of the reporting system and shall receive training on how to report incidents of workplace violence to the hospital, hospital security, law enforcement, or any other entity the hospital deems appropriate.

(3) A hospital shall use its reporting system to track the following:

(A) the number of reported incidents; and

(B) the number of incidents reported to law enforcement.

(c) A hospital shall adopt a policy prohibiting discrimination or retaliation for:

(1) reporting an incidence of workplace violence;

(2) seeking assistance or intervention from the hospital, hospital security, law enforcement, or any other appropriate entity; or

(3) participating or refusing to participate in an investigation of workplace violence.

(d)(1) A hospital shall post a notice in a conspicuous location, either electronically or in print, indicating that hospital employees do not tolerate an unsafe work environment where any type of threatening or aggressive behavior is present. The notice shall remind hospital patrons of the serious legal consequences of assaulting a hospital employee.

(2) As used in this subsection, "conspicuous" could include the hospital's website, waiting room areas, or any other areas of the hospital that the hospital deems appropriate.

(e) The Agency of Human Services shall collaborate with hospitals to identify incentives, funding sources, and other means to support the development and operation of workplace violence prevention programs at hospitals.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9435 is amended to read:

§ 9435. EXCLUSIONS

\* \* \*

(i) Excluded from this subchapter are expenditures by a hospital that are necessary to implement the security plan required pursuant to section 1911b of this title.

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 9454 is amended to read:

§ 9454. HOSPITALS; DUTIES

(a) Hospitals shall file the following information at the time and place and in the manner established by the Board:

(1) a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year;

(2) financial information, including costs of operation, revenues, assets, liabilities, fund balances, other income, rates, charges, units of services, and wage and salary data;

(3) scope-of-service and volume-of-service information, including inpatient services, outpatient services, and ancillary services by type of service provided;

(4) utilization information;

(5) new hospital services and programs proposed for the forthcoming fiscal year;

(6) costs associated with implementing their security plan pursuant to section 1911b of this title, including capital investments, program operation, and staff;

(7) known depreciation schedules on existing buildings, a four-year capital expenditure projection, and a one-year capital expenditure plan; and

~~(7)~~(8) such other information as the Board may require.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9456 is amended to read:

§ 9456. BUDGET REVIEW

(a) The Board shall conduct reviews of each hospital's proposed budget based on the information provided pursuant to this subchapter and in accordance with a schedule established by the Board.

\* \* \*

(c) Individual hospital budgets established under this section shall:

\* \* \*

(5) include a finding that the analysis provided in subdivision (b)(9) of this section is a reasonable methodology for reflecting a reduction in net revenues for non-Medicaid payers; ~~and~~

(6) demonstrate that they support equal access to appropriate mental health care that meets standards of quality, access, and affordability equivalent to other components of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care; and

(7) take into consideration the costs associated with implementing a security plan pursuant to section 1911b of this title.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

**Speaker** presiding.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Health Care agreed to, and third reading ordered.

#### **Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**

#### **H. 396**

**Rep. Lipsky of Stowe**, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Mollie Beattie Distinguished Service Award

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

#### **Message from the Senate No. 26**

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. 44.** An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements.

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

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

**J.R.S. 18.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 21, 2025.

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

### **Adjournment**

At eleven o'clock and fifty-four minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.