

Journal of the House

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Woodman “Woody” Page of Newport City.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 127

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development;

Was taken up, read the first time and referred to the committee on General and Housing.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

S. 3

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 20

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 20. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 4, 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 4, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 68**

Offered by Representatives Cooper of Pownal, Austin of Colchester, Bailey of Hyde Park, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Corcoran of Bennington, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Goldman of Rockingham, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Hango of Berkshire, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kascenska of Burke, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, Micklus of Milton, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, North of Ferrisburgh, Nugent of South Burlington, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibilia of Dover, Southworth of Walden, Stevens of Waterbury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Waszazak of Barre City, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Winter of Ludlow, and Wood of Waterbury

Offered by Senators Bongartz, Brennan, Clarkson, Douglass, Hart, Ingalls, Major, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, White, and Williams

House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designating April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing Day at the State House

Whereas, manufacturing is a vital pillar of Vermont's economy, strengthening both rural and urban communities, supplying globally recognized businesses, and driving innovation across diverse industries, ensuring the State's economic resilience and competitiveness, and

Whereas, Vermont's manufacturing industry generates close to \$3 billion, an economic impact representing over 8 percent of the State's GDP, and

Whereas, manufacturing businesses constitute approximately 10.5 percent of Vermont's private sector workforce, supporting 30,000 jobs, and

Whereas, Vermont's manufacturing jobs typically offer wages above the State's average, providing workers with greater economic mobility; and supporting and promoting manufacturing jobs with competitive wages is essential to attracting and retaining talent while fostering long-term economic stability and growth in Vermont, and

Whereas, manufacturers in our State contribute significantly to promoting strategic relationships between the State and neighboring regions, including New England, New York, Canada, and the broader local and global economy, *now therefore be it*

Resolved the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designates April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing 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 the Associated Industries of Vermont, the Vermont Regional Development Corporations, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 28, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 69

Offered by Representatives Marcotte of Coventry, Bosch of Clarendon, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Cooper of Pownal, Micklus of Milton, Olson of Starksboro, Priestley of Bradford, and White of Bethel

House concurrent resolution designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House

Whereas, the percentage of Vermont high school students pursuing postsecondary education has declined significantly in recent years, and

Whereas, an important antidote to this trend is the Early College Program (ECP) that enables high school students simultaneously to complete their senior year and freshman year of college, and

Whereas, the enactment of 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 77, "An act... encouraging flexible pathways to secondary school completion," updated Vermont's long history of offering alternative methods to achieve high school graduation, and this act was designed to improve postsecondary readiness and enrollment, and

Whereas, the ECP established in Act 77 represents approximately 0.4 percent of the expenditures from the Education Fund, and it is intended to encourage postsecondary education enrollment among students who might not otherwise consider this option, and

Whereas, demonstrable gains have occurred during the past three years in the equitable admission of students into the ECP at the Community College of Vermont, including a 250 percent increase in the enrollment of students with low income, and

Whereas, Vermont associate degree graduates are among the most likely in the country to realize a positive return on their investment, a figure that stands at 79 percent according to the Strada Education Foundation, and

Whereas, the ECP has a major influence in directing the personal postsecondary education and career aspirations of the State's students, and it prospectively strengthens the future Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, today, April 2, 2025, ECP enrollees who are studying at the Community College of Vermont are visiting the State House, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 2, 2025 as Early College 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 the president of the Community College of Vermont and the Secretary of Education.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 28, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 91

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Emergency Temporary Shelter Program

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

Adjournment

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