

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by former Rep. Jason Lorber of Burlington.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Austen N. Boulanger of South Burlington led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar Bill Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

H. 454

House bill, entitled

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

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 53

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Bluemle of Burlington, Cina of Burlington, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington

House concurrent resolution honoring Megan Humphrey for her outstanding leadership of HANDS

Whereas, HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors) is a Chittenden County nonprofit organization dedicated to “providing food and resources for people aged 50+ who struggle with food insecurity,” and

Whereas, for a quarter of a century, Megan Humphrey served as the inspirational leader of HANDS and ensured the organization fulfilled its mission as effectively as possible, and

Whereas, under her guidance, HANDS evolved from offering Christmas dinners and friendship to seniors who were otherwise alone on the holiday to a far more extensive operation providing nourishment and food guidance to seniors in Chittenden County, and

Whereas, during the 2024 holiday season, HANDS distributed approximately 1,700 grocery gift cards to older adults struggling with food insecurity, and

Whereas, HANDS has also established gardening programs at local senior centers, offered healthy eating workshops, and partnered with food shelves and other similar entities to expand the scope of its programs, and

Whereas, after an outstanding quarter century developing services to feed older Chittenden County residents in need of food support, Megan Humphrey is concluding her leadership duties but intends to remain involved in this endeavor as a HANDS volunteer, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Megan Humphrey for her outstanding leadership of HANDS and wishes her every success in her future endeavors, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Megan Humphrey and to HANDS.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 21, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 55

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont

Whereas, many Americans and Vermonters may not be aware that there are more than 1.6 million children of U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, family pressures are magnified for children who remain stateside when a parent is deployed abroad, and the children of the approximately 1,000 Vermont National Guard personnel who may be deployed over the course of a year experience this disruption firsthand, and

Whereas, military children's frequent relocation and corresponding lack of long-term community stability present them with an unwelcome distraction, and

Whereas, in 1986, the U.S. Department of Defense first designated April as the Month of the Military Child, and this annual event is part of a year-round initiative that brightens and improves these children's lives, and

Whereas, related programs include the national Military Kids Connect, partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and 4-H Clubs, and Sesame Street for Military Families, as well as many local activities that Vermont National Guard's Child & Youth Services and other offices administer, and

Whereas, as part of this special month, April 15, 2025 is being observed as Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, an opportunity for Americans to show solidarity with military families by wearing purple, a color that symbolizes all branches of the military, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont National Guard Office of Child & Youth Services.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 21, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 77

Offered by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Bishop of Colchester, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brown of Richmond, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Dodge of Essex, Garofano of Essex, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, James of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Stone of Burlington, Tomlinson of Winooski, Waszazak of Barre City, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

Offered by Senators Clarkson, Bongartz, Brock, Gulick, Hardy, Mattos, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, and White

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont

Whereas, for generations, millions of Americans have been denied the housing of their choice because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or disability, and

Whereas, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, including Title VIII, known as the Fair Housing Act, and

Whereas, Vermont's 1987 Fair Housing Act, as amended, prohibits discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of housing based on "race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, religious creed, color, national origin, or disability of a person, or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling with one or more minor children, or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, or because a person is a victim of abuse, sexual assault, or stalking," as well as the denial of development permitting based on the income of prospective residents, making this law more protective than the federal statutes and among the most comprehensive in the nation, and

Whereas, the Vermont Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was established in 1987 and tasked with enforcing Vermont's Fair Housing Act, among other State antidiscrimination provisions, and

Whereas, in 2024 and 2025, the Commission has experienced an increase in fair housing inquiries and has processed more fair housing complaints than ever before, and

Whereas, in recent months, the federal government has drastically deprioritized fair housing enforcement and education and has attempted to reduce or eliminate funding for agencies and organizations working for fair housing, and

Whereas, inclusive, welcoming, and affordable communities promote diversity and a climate conducive to economic development, and

Whereas, the current housing crisis impacts all Vermonters and disproportionately impacts people in protected classes, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont remains committed to ensuring that everyone who lives in Vermont is entitled to the protections of Vermont's Fair Housing Act, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes April 2025 as Fair Housing Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Human Rights Commission, the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Vermont Legal Aid Housing Discrimination Law Project.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 4, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to
Other Committee**

S. 46

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro moved that the Committee on Ways and Means be relieved of Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Transportation, which was agreed to.

**Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to;
Third Reading Ordered**

S. 30

Rep. Cina of Burlington, for the Committee on Health Care, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, in section 4029, by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) TIME LIMIT ON CERTAIN DEFENSES: (a) After three years from the date of issue of this policy no misstatements, except fraudulent misstatements, made by the applicant in the application for such policy, shall be used to void the policy or to deny a claim for loss incurred or disability (as defined in the policy) commencing after the expiration of such three-year period.

(The foregoing policy provision shall not be so construed as to affect any legal requirement for avoidance of a policy or denial of a claim during such initial three-year period, nor to limit the application of subdivisions 4030(1)–(5) of this title in the event of misstatement with respect to age or occupation

or other insurance.) (A policy which the insured has the right to continue in force subject to its terms by the timely payment of premium (1) until at least age 50, or (2) in the case of a policy issued after age 44, for at least five years from its date of issue, may contain in lieu of the foregoing the following provision (from which the clause in parentheses may be omitted at the insurer's option) under the caption "INCONTESTABLE":

After this policy has been in force for a period of three years during the lifetime of the insured (excluding any period during which the insured is disabled), it shall become incontestable as to the statements contained in the application.)

(b) No claim for loss incurred or disability (as defined in the policy) commencing after three years from the date of issue of this policy shall be reduced or denied on the ground that a disease or physical condition not excluded from coverage by name or specific description effective on the date of loss had existed prior to the effective date of coverage of this policy.

Second: In Sec. 2, 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, in section 4030, in subdivision (3), following the first sentence, by inserting after the period, on a new line, "or, in lieu thereof:"

Third: By striking out Sec. 33, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 33 to read as follows:

Sec. 33. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

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.R. 6

Rep. Bartholomew of Hartland, for the Committee on Rules, to which had been referred House Resolution, entitled

House resolution amending House Rules relating to the House Ethics Panel

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

**Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board
Appointment**

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 1581, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Advisory Board:

Rep. Page of Newport City

Message from the Senate No. 37

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 joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 21. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 11, 2025.

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

Adjournment

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