

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Ethan Tapper, forester and author, Bolton.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Naomi Isla Segal of Woodstock led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Resolution Adopted

H.R. 8

Offered by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Burt of Cabot, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Carris-Duncan of Whitingham, Casey of Montpelier, Chapin of East Montpelier, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Dodge of Essex, Dolan of Essex Junction, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Eastes of Guilford, Emmons of Springfield, Feltus of Lyndon, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Goodnow of Brattleboro, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harple of Glover, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Houghton of Essex Junction, Howard of Rutland City, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, Minier of South Burlington, Morris of Springfield, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nigro of Bennington, Noyes of Wolcott, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill,

Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Surprenant of Barnard, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waszazak of Barre City, Waters Evans of Charlotte, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, Wood of Waterbury, and Yacovone of Morristown

House resolution strongly objecting to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocating that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention

Whereas, Mohsen Mahdawi is a resident of White River Junction and has been a U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) for the past decade, and

Whereas, on Monday, April 14, 2025, in the belief that he was to participate in his final interview for U.S. citizenship, Mohsen Mahdawi arrived at the U.S. immigration office in Colchester, and

Whereas, instead of commencing the interview, armed immigration authorities in plain clothes with faces covered arrested Mohsen Mahdawi and refused to provide any information regarding where he was being taken or what would happen to him, and

Whereas, in a joint statement that U.S. Senators Sanders and Welch and U.S. Representative Balint released, they described this action as “immoral, inhumane, and illegal,” and

Whereas, Vermont’s three federal legislators also demanded that Mohsen Mahdawi be afforded “due process under the law and immediately released from detention,” *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body strongly objects to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocate that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Clerk of the House be directed to send a copy of this resolution to U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Todd Lyons, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

Was read and adopted.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 67**

Offered by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Cooper of Pownal, Corcoran of Bennington, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Greer of Bennington, Hunter of Manchester, James of Manchester, Nigro of Bennington, and Pinsonault of Dorset

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga

Whereas, during the 1770s, the volunteer militia members of the New Hampshire Grants, living north of the province of Massachusetts in the frontier areas between the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain, were known as the Green Mountain Boys, and

Whereas, the Green Mountain Boys were located within striking distance of the two artillery-rich British forts, Crown Point and Ticonderoga, both perched on the western shore of Lake Champlain, and

Whereas, in early May 1775, Ethan Allen, who lived in Bennington, directed his fellow Green Mountain Boys at the Catamount Tavern, the militia's de facto headquarters, to bring their flintlock muskets north, in a discrete manner; to recruit more Green Mountain Boys along the way; and to rendezvous in Castleton, where they would be given further instructions, and

Whereas, the plan was finalized at Castleton and the Green Mountain Boys' execution of it resulted in the successful seizure of the British-held forts and the liberation of 78 cannons at Ticonderoga and 111 cannons at Crown Point, and these forays into British fortifications were seen as the first patriot triumphs in the American War of Independence from Great Britain, and

Whereas, these epic military operations and legendary feats forever enhanced the reputation of the Green Mountain Boys and contributed to the successful American drive to win independence from Great Britain, and

Whereas, in May 2025, Vermonters are commemorating the early role of the gallant and heroic men of the New Hampshire Grants in the fight for American independence, the prelude to Vermont's admission as our nation's 14th state, and

Whereas, in Bennington County, the commemoration of the “Expedition to Ticonderoga: Ethan Allen, the Green Mountain Boys, and America’s First Victory,” includes public events celebrating these brave deeds of 1775, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen’s planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Bennington Town Clerk.

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 72

Offered by Representative Harvey of Castleton

Offered by Senators Weeks, Collamore, and Williams

House concurrent resolution commemorating May 9, 2025 as the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen’s arrival in Castleton in association with the American War of Independence

Whereas, the Battles of Lexington and Concord, fought on April 19, 1775, initiated the long and deadly conflict between rebellious residents of the American colonies and the government of Great Britain, and

Whereas, as a result of a Committee of War held with the Green Mountain Boys and others in Zadock Remington’s tavern in Castleton, their local field commander, Ethan Allen, dispatched Samuel Herrick to lead 30 men to lock down Skenesborough (now Whitehall, New York) and to seize British Lieutenant Philip Skene’s fleet of boats in order to transport the Green Mountain Boys across Lake Champlain, and Ethan Allen also directed Gershom Beach to run more than 60 miles to alert men living in towns along Otter Creek and beyond of the need to rush to Hand’s Cove in Shoreham on the east shore of Lake Champlain, where they would meet Ethan Allen and more Green Mountain Boys, and

Whereas, this plan was finalized at Castleton and the Green Mountain Boys successfully seized the British-held forts and liberated 78 cannons at Ticonderoga and 111 cannons at Crown Point, and these events were seen as

early patriot triumphs in the American War of Independence from Great Britain, and

Whereas, over the next winter, an oxen crew that Bostonian Henry Knox led, moved 29 cannons from Crown Point and 30 from Ticonderoga to Boston, where they were placed on high ground in order to force the British navy to evacuate Boston Harbor, and

Whereas, these epic military operations enhanced the reputation of the Green Mountain Boys and contributed to the securing of American independence from Great Britain and began Vermont's journey towards admission as the nation's 14th state, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates May 9, 2025 as the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's arrival in Castleton in association with the American War of Independence, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Castleton Town Clerk and the Vermont State University Castleton campus.

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 103

Offered by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Goodnow of Brattleboro, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim

House concurrent resolution commemorating the establishment of the Austine School for the Deaf collection and exhibit at the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre

Whereas, in the 19th century, Brevet Colonel William Austine of Brattleboro donated \$50,000.00 for the construction of a hospital in the community, and

Whereas, because a hospital already existed in Brattleboro, after the Colonel's death, his estate executor arranged for the legal redesignation of the gift for the purpose of establishing a school for the blind and deaf, and

Whereas, the General Assembly, in 1904 Acts and Resolves No. 276, incorporated "The Austine Sanitarium," and it amended the legislation in 1908

Acts and Resolves No. 319 to give the new organization flexibility in designating a name, and

Whereas, finally, in 1910 Acts and Resolves No. 74, the General Assembly appropriated \$50,000.00 “for the purpose of erecting a suitable building or plant for the use of said corporation, upon the land owned by it in Brattleboro, Vermont” subject to it being used for a school for the deaf, and

Whereas, the Austine School for the Deaf opened in the fall of 1912 with 16 students and at the first commencement in 1914, both Alexander Graham Bell and Helen Keller were speakers, and

Whereas, operation of the Austine School for the Deaf continued until 2014, and the school’s historic documentation and artifacts are located at the Winston Prouty Center in Brattleboro under the curatorial supervision of the Austine School for the Deaf Museum Board, Donna Marie Auditore-Pyne, President, and

Whereas, in order to afford greater prominence to the history and role of the Austine School for the Deaf, a select collection of the oldest artifacts has been transferred for exhibition to the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre, and a dedication ceremony, at which State officials spoke, occurred on October 26, 2024, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the establishment of the Austine School for the Deaf collection and exhibit at the Vermont Historical Society Library in Barre, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the immediate past chair of the Austine School for the Deaf Museum Board and the Vermont Historical Society.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 18, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 27

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 10**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre

Was taken up and pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, on motion of **Rep. Coffin of Cavendish**, action on the bill was postponed until April 23, 2025.

Message from the Senate No. 44

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. 124. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

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. 23. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment.

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

Adjournment

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