

Journal of the House

Thursday, May 1, 2025

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Troy Headrick of Burlington.

House Bill Introduced

H. 514

By LaLonde of South Burlington

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the procedures governing the change of a minor's legal name

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 117

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to rulemaking on safety and health standards and technical corrections on employment practices and unemployment compensation

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

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar

Bill Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

H. 230

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the management of fish and wildlife

Pending entry 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.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 102**

Offered by Representatives Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Critchlow of Colchester, and Pezzo of Colchester

Offered by Senators Norris and Brennan

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 8–10 Colchester All-Star Vermont championship Little League Baseball team

Whereas, for the 2024 8–10 Colchester All-Star Little League Baseball team, the phrases “come from behind” and “never say no” ring true, and

Whereas, this fine squad of young players had previously proven their dedication to the game of baseball upon being selected as all-stars, and

Whereas, Colchester’s first challenge was to advance in the District 1 competition in which the team twice defeated its rival contender, Camel’s Hump, 21–8 and then 10–4 for the divisional title, notwithstanding two earlier Camel’s Hump victories over Colchester, and

Whereas, in the State championship contest, Colchester was matched against the host Brattleboro team, and in the bottom of the seventh of a scheduled seven-inning contest with two outs, no runner on base, and trailing 4–2, Colchester ignited an unanticipated offensive spree, scoring three successive and decisive runs, triumphantly departing the diamond as the 5–4 game winner and the 2024 8–10 Vermont Little League champion, and

Whereas, Colchester represented Vermont admirably at the New England regional Little League Baseball tournament played in Rhode Island, and

Whereas, the proud Colchester All-Star Little League players were Boden Carney, Grayson Carey, Elliot Cote, Hayden Critchlow, Weston Ellingson, Willie Lamarche, Graysen Mead, Keegan Norris, Oliver Ouellette, Easton Pratt, Toby Scheuch, and Jensen Yelk, and

Whereas, head coaches Brennan Carney, Ty Pratt, and Jason Yelk served as outstanding mentors and teachers for the team, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 8–10 Colchester All-Star Vermont championship Little League Baseball team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the 8–10 Colchester All-Star Vermont Little League Baseball team.

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

**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont
Adopted in Concurrence**

Proposal 3

Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington, for the Committee on General and Housing, to which had been referred Proposal 3, which is printed in full below, reported in favor of its adoption in concurrence.

The proposal, having appeared on the Calendar for five legislative days pursuant to House Rule 51a, was taken up.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Subject: Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain

PROPOSAL 3

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

Sec. 2. Article 23 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 23. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer's employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in this proposal shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the constitutional proposal in concurrence?, **Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington** 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 House adopt the constitutional proposal in concurrence?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 125. Nays, 15.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Eastes of Guilford	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Morgan, L. of Milton
Bailey of Hyde Park	Feltus of Lyndon	Morgan, M. of Milton
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Morris of Springfield
Bartley of Fairfax	Goldman of Rockingham	Morrissey of Bennington
Berbeco of Winooski	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Morrow of Weston
Birong of Vergennes	Goslant of Northfield	Mrowicki of Putney *
Bishop of Colchester	Graning of Jericho	Nigro of Bennington
Black of Essex	Greer of Bennington	Noyes of Wolcott
Bluemle of Burlington	Gregoire of Fairfield *	Nugent of South Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Harple of Glover	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Boutin of Barre City	Harrison of Chittenden	Ode of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Headrick of Burlington	Oliver of Sheldon
Brady of Williston	Higley of Lowell	Olson of Starksboro *
Branagan of Georgia	Holcombe of Norwich	Page of Newport City
Brown of Richmond	Hooper of Randolph	Pezzo of Colchester
Burke of Brattleboro	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pinsonault of Dorset
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Howard of Rutland City	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burrows of West Windsor	Hunter of Manchester	Pritchard of Pawlet
Canfield of Fair Haven	James of Manchester	Quimby of Lyndon
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham	Kascenska of Burke	Rachelson of Burlington
Casey of Montpelier	Keyser of Rutland City	Satcowitz of Randolph
Chapin of East Montpelier	Kimbell of Woodstock	Scheu of Middlebury
Charlton of Chester	Kleppner of Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Christie of Hartford	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sibilia of Dover
Cina of Burlington *	Krasnow of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Coffin of Cavendish	Lalley of Shelburne	Steady of Milton
Cole of Hartford *	LaLonde of South Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Conlon of Cornwall	LaMont of Morristown	Stone of Burlington
Cooper of Pownal	Laroche of Franklin	Surprenant of Barnard
Corcoran of Bennington	Lipsky of Stowe	Sweeney of Shelburne
Cordes of Bristol *	Logan of Burlington *	Taylor of Milton
Critchlow of Colchester	Long of Newfane	Tomlinson of Winooski
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Toof of St. Albans Town
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Malay of Pittsford	Torre of Moretown
Dodge of Essex *	Marcotte of Coventry	Waszazak of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction	Masland of Thetford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCann of Montpelier	Wells of Brownington
	McFaun of Barre Town	White of Waitsfield
		White of Bethel
		Wood of Waterbury

Donahue of Northfield
Duke of Burlington
Durfee of Shaftsbury

McGill of Bridport
Micklus of Milton
Mihaly of Calais

Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bosch of Clarendon *
Burditt of West Rutland
Burt of Cabot *
Casey of Hubbardton
Dobrovich of Williamstown*

Hango of Berkshire *
Harvey of Castleton
Howland of Rutland Town
Labor of Morgan
Luneau of St. Albans City
Nelson of Derby *

Southworth of Walden
Tagliavia of Corinth
Walker of Swanton
Winter of Ludlow

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

Campbell of St. Johnsbury
Galfetti of Barre Town
Hooper of Burlington

McCoy of Poultney
Nielsen of Brandon
North of Ferrisburgh

Parsons of Newbury
Powers of Waterford
Priestley of Bradford

Rep. Bosch of Clarendon provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I believe requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of hire will have a chilling effect on the workforce, and we have received testimony already that we have two vacancies for every applicant.”

Rep. Burt of Cabot provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

My mother would have asked me not to.”

Rep. Cina of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes in honor of my grandparents, all the ancestors who have struggled, and my co-workers in AFSCME local 1674 at Howard Center. Workers of the world unite!”

Rep. Cole of Hartford provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

We have a grave distribution of wealth problem in this country, with billionaires garnering exponentially more wealth each day – at the expense of the hardest working members of our society. I’m proud that Vermont is giving power back to the people who earned it.”

Rep. Cordes of Bristol provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

Happy International Labor Day. As Mother Jones said, ‘Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.’”

Rep. Dobrovich of Williamstown provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

While I support the ability for workers to organize, I do not agree that anyone should be compelled to become a member of a union to obtain employment. That is a bridge too far.”

Rep. Dodge of Essex provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I support Prop 3 because it defends the right of Vermonters to choose whether to organize alongside their colleagues and co-workers. Prop 3 recognizes that workplaces where labor can organize are workplaces where power lies with the many, not with the money.”

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I support the right to join a union. I also support the right not to join. I do not support being compelled to join. However, I vote yes to give the people of Vermont the opportunity to decide for themselves.”

Rep. Hango of Berkshire provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted no today for a simple reason: I cannot support taking away workers’ right to make the decision to join a union as a condition of their employment. I support union activity. I grew up in a union household, and I was a card-carrying member as a teenager. Unions have had a tremendous impact on our workplace throughout history and they have served their purpose well. I simply do not support taking away a worker’s freedom to decide.”

Rep. Logan of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

As a former member of AFT-Oregon Local GTFF3544, on behalf of every working Vermonter, and in support of workplace democracy. Solidarity forever.”

Rep. Mrowicki of Putney provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

My YES vote is for my maternal grandfather. He came to this country from Poland after WWI and the last pandemic, landed in Jersey City, NJ, and headed to the coal mines of West Virginia. The labor strife there over conditions and wages included the Blair Massacre, where Pinkertons for management opened fire on the miners’ tent city. After that they returned to Jersey City but because of the lung cancer he contracted in the coal mines, he died the year I was born, and we never met. I vote yes for him and all the workers striving for livable conditions and livable wages.”

Rep. Nelson of Derby provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

As dairy farmers, we are not allowed to collectively bargain/unionize. For this reason, I voted no.”

Rep. Olson of Starksboro provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted for Article 23 notwithstanding my reservations concerning a potential conflict with individual Vermonters’ First Amendment rights of association. Now more than ever, protect the Vulnerable. Speak the Truth. Defend the Rule of Law. I believe and intend with my vote that the courts will construe the last phrase of Article 23 so as to reconcile the values of collective bargaining with the right of all citizens to decide whether or not to join an association, all the while contributing their full share to the work of the association. Thank you, Madam Speaker.”

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 505

House bill, entitled

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

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

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

J.R.S. 15

Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Joint Senate Resolution, entitled

Joint resolution supporting Vermont's transgender and non-binary community and declaring Vermont's commitment to fighting discrimination and treating all citizens with respect and dignity

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

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 218

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 appropriations from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, appropriations; Opioid Abatement Special Fund, in subdivision (a)(11), by striking out “\$50,0000.00” and inserting thereof “\$50,000.00”

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee Appointments

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 801, the Speaker appointed the following members to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee:

Rep. Emmons of Springfield
Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington
Rep. Wood of Waterbury
Rep. McFaun of Barre Town
Rep. Squirrell of Underhill

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 1st day of May, 2025, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

- H.10 An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre**
- H.243 An act relating to the regulation of business organizations**

Message from the Senate No. 50

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 considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 488. An act relating to the fiscal year 2026 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

H. 493. An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At two o'clock and eleven minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Toof of St. Albans Town**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon.