

# Journal of the House

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Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Gretchen Wertlieb, student at South Burlington High School and 2025 Vermont Poetry Out Loud Contest runner-up.

## **House Bill Introduced**

### **H. 516**

By Reps. Dodge of Essex, Black of Essex, and Garofano of Essex

House bill, entitled

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

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

## **Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar**

### **Bills Referred to the Committee on Appropriations**

Senate bills of the following titles pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, were referred to the Committee on Appropriations, pending entry on the Notice Calendar:

### **S. 53**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services

### **S. 127**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and housing development

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**Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence****J.R.S. 26**

By Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 26.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 16, 2025.

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

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, May 16, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

**Ceremonial Readings****H.C.R. 7**

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team

*Whereas*, the 2024 third-seeded Slaters were pleased to reach the season's decisive game against the top-seeded Green Knights of Rice Memorial High School, and

*Whereas*, in this high-scoring gridiron contest, played in St. Johnsbury, Rice assumed a 12–7 first-quarter lead that sparked Fair Haven's football prowess, resulting in a Slaters' 21–15 halftime lead, and the second half, despite Rice's attempted comeback, concluded in a 35–22 Fair Haven triumph, as the team clinched the school's first divisional football championship since 2017, and

*Whereas*, the victorious Slaters were Jack Almeida, Bryson Kelly, Mason Gutel, Tylor Jackson, Evan Spanos, Logan Knipes, Derek Webb, Sam Kyhill, Phil Bean, Cody Adams, Devin LaFrancois, Adam Williams, Konner Savage, Easton Adams, Aydin Long, Jacob Torrey, Connor LaFrancois, Aden Wilkins, Caleb Long, Max Kyhill, Anthony Szabo, Cole Belden, Jonathan Hutchins, Alex Messer, Aiden Goyette, Tommy Buxton, Colbi Clark, Caden Lynch, Seth Czachor, Jackson Beckwith, Aiden St. Armour, Tanner Raymond, Porter Silva, Gabe Barrows, Ty Ferguson, Jeremiah Kirby, Gabe Bache, Gavin Spencer, Austin Williams, Lamont Jones, and Jacob Jamieson, and

*Whereas*, Head Coach Adam Perry and assistant coaches Keith Hier, PJ Szabo, Hunter Muzzy, Chris Parker, Joel Perry, Caleb Lisai, and DJ Perry were great contributors to the Slaters' achievement, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2024 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters Division II championship boys' football team, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 24, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**H.C.R. 82**

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, and Harvey of Castleton

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team

*Whereas*, during the 2024–2025 season on the bowling lanes, the second-seeded Fair Haven Slaters experienced its strongest challenge from the top-ranked Randolph Union High Galloping Ghosts, and after defeating South Burlington and Essex in the quarter-final and semifinal rounds, the Slaters confronted their archrival for the State title at the Spare Time bowling facility in Colchester, and

*Whereas*, despite losing the opening game to Randolph (172–150), the Slaters immediately rebounded, winning the second (161–146), the third (243–177), the fifth (217–168), and the sixth (233–164), and with four victories, Fair Haven clinched the best-of-seven final round and won the 2025 State bowling championship, and

*Whereas*, a caravan of over 20 cars greeted the victorious team in Castleton and escorted the jubilant Slaters back to school, and

*Whereas*, the championship Slater bowlers were Wyatt DeLance, Aiden Goyette, Nathan Bessette, Inshik Adams-Silva, Emma Eckler, Eli Donaldson, Dylan Bania, Michael Towle, Korbin Hayes, George Stamp, Madison Stamp, and Amberlyn Haley, and

*Whereas*, Head Coach Joe Donaldson and Assistant Coach Ron Carrara were superb guides for the team, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 11, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

### **H.C.R. 89**

Offered by Representatives Canfield of Fair Haven, Casey of Hubbardton, Harvey of Castleton, McCoy of Poultney, and Toof of St. Albans Town

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks, and Williams

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship

*Whereas*, the Division II girls' basketball ultimate playoff game at Barre Auditorium proved to be a contest between two closely matched and defensively focused squads, and

*Whereas*, the top-seeded North Country Falcons narrowly led the second-ranked and defending titleholder, Fair Haven Slaters, 22–21, with roughly three minutes remaining in the third period, a score that left the final outcome unknown to all the fans watching at the Barre Auditorium, and

*Whereas*, recognizing that they were perilously close to losing their championship title, the Slaters charged full steam ahead, igniting a 9–0 scoring spree that reset the scenario with an encouraging 30–22 Fair Haven lead, and although North Country momentarily regained momentum, narrowing the Rutland County hoopsters' advantage to 30–29, Fair Haven's final surge contributed to the Slaters' 37–31 come-from-behind victory, and

*Whereas*, the Slaters' roster featured Elizabeth Love, Orianna Kerr, Megan Wetmore, Maddy Perry, Kate Hadwen, Quinn Murphy, Riley Babbie, Audrey Perry, Madi Hayes, Isabelle Cole, Callie LaRock, Brianna Cathcart, Ryleigh Murray, and Victoria Kelly, and

*Whereas*, Head Coach Kyle Wilson; assistant coaches Jay Wilson, Leo Hutchins, Chad Wilson, and Henry Daley; and team managers Rose Ouimet and Taylor Wilson appreciated the extra initiative that the team contributed to the successful 2025 season, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Fair Haven Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 11, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**H.C.R. 136**

Offered by Representatives Berbeco of Winooski and Tomlinson of Winooski

House concurrent resolution congratulating Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorating the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud

*Whereas*, Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide high school poetry recitation competition that receives national support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and locally, the Vermont Arts Council and the Flynn in Burlington are essential facilitators, and

*Whereas*, high school students across the country participate in a dynamic poetry recitation competition “that is designed to improve their public speaking skills, help build confidence, and teach them about literary history and contemporary life,” and

*Whereas*, since Poetry Out Loud began, more than 4.5 million students in the United States from 21,000 schools, and with the support of 85,000 teachers, have participated, and

*Whereas*, this year’s State competition proved an exhilarating adventure, highlighting the joys of dramatically reciting a poet’s written words, and

*Whereas*, this nationwide cavalcade of poetic verbalization begins in local classrooms, 24 in Vermont this year, where eager young orators, 3,200 in the State and 157,000 nationwide, declaimed their soliloquies of poems or sonnets, and

*Whereas*, the judges at the State finals listened with rapt attention and declared Mapenzi Selemani, a junior at Winooski High School, who presented Thomas Hood’s “I Remember, I Remember” and William Wordsworth’s “The World is Too Much With Us”, as the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State champion and Vermont’s representative at the national competition, *now therefore be it*

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

That the General Assembly congratulates Mapenzi Selemani of Winooski on winning the 2025 Poetry Out Loud Vermont State championship and commemorates the 20th anniversary of Poetry Out Loud, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Mapenzi Selemeni, the Flynn, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Vermont Arts Council.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 9, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

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

**H. 182**

**Rep. Birong of Vergennes** moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators

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

**Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in**

**H. 41**

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

An act relating to abuse of the dead body of a person

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 3761a is added to read:

§ 3761a. ABUSE OF THE DEAD BODY OF A PERSON

(a) No person shall, knowingly without legal authorization, intentionally burn, mutilate, disfigure, dismember, or destroy the dead body of a person.

(b) No person shall violate subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of concealing a crime or avoiding apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime.

(c) No person shall commit sexual conduct upon the dead body of a person.

(d)(1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(2) A person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) “Dead body of a person” does not include the cremated remains of a person.

(2) “Sexual conduct” means any of the following committed against the dead body of a person:

(A) any conduct involving contact between the penis and the vulva, the penis and the penis, the penis and the anus, the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the anus, the vulva and the vulva, or the mouth and the vulva;

(B) any intrusion, however slight, by any part of an individual’s body or any object into any part of a dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(C) any touching of the dead human body with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, or sexual desire of any individual;

(D) masturbation; or

(E) bestiality.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 5211 is amended to read:

**§ 5211. UNAUTHORIZED BURIAL OR REMOVAL; PENALTY**

A person who buries, entombs, transports, or removes the dead body of a person without a burial-transit permit so to do, or in any other manner or at any other time or place than as specified in such permit, shall be ~~imprisoned not more than five years or fined~~ subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00, ~~or both.~~

**Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Third Reading; Bill Passed**

**H. 46**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Rare Disease Advisory Council

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

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

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

**S. 63**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board

**S. 125**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to workers' compensation and collective bargaining rights

**Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel Appointment**

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 1700, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel:

**Rep. Sibilia of Dover**

**Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee Appointment**

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 614, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Joint Information Technology Oversight Committee:

**Rep. James of Manchester**

**Vermont Web Portal Board Appointment**

Pursuant to 22 V.S.A. § 952, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Vermont Web Portal Board:

**Rep. James of Manchester**

**Message from the Senate No. 58**

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 the reports of the Committees of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon House bills 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. 494.** An act relating to capital construction and State bonding.

And has accepted and adopted the same on its part.

**Message from the Senate No. 59**

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 House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

**S. 56.** An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans.

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

**H. 401.** An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

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

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 13th day of May, he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

**S. 18.** An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

**S. 28.** An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services.

**Adjournment**

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