

Journal of the House

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of a devotional.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Winnie Liu of Montpelier led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of House bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee or placed on the Notice Calendar as follows:

H. 775

By Reps. Mihaly of Calais, Charlton of Chester, Bartley of Fairfax, Graning of Jericho, Krasnow of South Burlington, and Marcotte of Coventry,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to creating tools for housing production

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 776

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Donahue of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of artificial intelligence in health care coverage decisions

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 777

By Reps. Brady of Williston, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Graning of Jericho, Harple of Glover, Holcombe of Norwich, and Priestley of Bradford,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Skier Development Scholarship Fund and Scholarship Program

To the Committee on Education.

H. 778

By Reps. Chapin of East Montpelier, Mihaly of Calais, Austin of Colchester, Casey of Montpelier, Labor of Morgan, McCann of Montpelier, Pritchard of Pawlet, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sheldon of Middlebury, Stevens of Waterbury, and Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to dam safety

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 779

By Reps. Chapin of East Montpelier, Brady of Williston, and Harple of Glover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to updating the Flexible Pathways Initiative

To the Committee on Education.

H. 780

By Reps. Dobrovich of Williamstown, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Burt of Cabot, Coffin of Cavendish, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Howland of Rutland Town, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Luneau of St. Albans City, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, Pinsonault of Dorset, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing mandatory minimum sentences of incarceration for retail theft and drug trafficking

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 781

By Reps. Dobrovich of Williamstown, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Burt of Cabot, Coffin of Cavendish, Galfetti of Barre Town, Goslant of Northfield, Maguire of Rutland City, Morgan, M. of Milton, Nelson of Derby, Nielsen of Brandon, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to filing certain juvenile offenses in the Criminal Division

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 782

By Rep. Goldman of Rockingham,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to school nurse licensure

To the Committee on Education.

H. 783

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Berbeco of Winooski, Burrows of West Windsor, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Donahue of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Holcombe of Norwich, Kleppner of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to chatbot disclosure requirements

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 784

By Reps. Priestley of Bradford, Berbeco of Winooski, Burrows of West Windsor, Cole of Hartford, Graning of Jericho, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pouech of Hinesburg, Rachelson of Burlington, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Sweeney of Shelburne, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of chatbots

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

H. 785

By Reps. Casey of Montpelier, Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, Morrissey of Bennington, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to dementia respite and dementia capable programming

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 786

By Rep. Greer of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to remote meetings with the Department of Homeland Security

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 787

By Rep. Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limitations on municipal bylaws for Agency of Human Services infrastructure

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 788

By Rep. Boutin of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles on class 3 and class 4 town highways

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 789

By Reps. Lalley of Shelburne and Pouech of Hinesburg,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to intelligent speed assistance devices
To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 790

By the Committee on Appropriations,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments
Pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

Joint House Resolution Referred to Committee**J.R.H. 7**

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Austin of Colchester, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Brady of Williston, Burke of Brattleboro, Cina of Burlington, Conlon of Cornwall, Dodge of Essex, Donahue of Northfield, Duke of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Satcowitz of Randolph, Sibia of Dover, Tomlinson of Winooski, and White of Bethel

Joint resolution strongly supporting the existing U.S.-Denmark treaty related to Greenland and opposing American efforts to secure sovereignty over the island

Whereas, Greenland, the world's largest noncontinental island, is located between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans and shares a short border with Canada on Hans Island, and

Whereas, since 1814, the nation of Denmark (a NATO ally of the United States) has governed Greenland, first as a colony, then in 1979 as a semiautonomous territory of the Danish nation, and in 2008 the voters of Greenland extended the island's authority to exercise self-governance on domestic matters, and

Whereas, Greenlanders are engaged in a long-term democratic political process to determine the island's independence status, and

Whereas, on April 9, 1940, following the Nazi occupation of Denmark, the United States quietly entered into an agreement with the Danish ambassador to Washington for an American military presence on the island and to maintain allied control of Greenland, and

Whereas, on April 9, 1941, this initial agreement was memorialized and signed as Thulesag 1, and, that year, American military personnel and equipment were deployed to the island, and

Whereas, on April 27, 1951, the United States and the Kingdom of Denmark entered into a new Defense of Greenland Agreement with reference to each country's membership in NATO, and on August 6, 2004, the two nations amended the agreement to update the text, and

Whereas, the United States maintains Pituffik Space Base in northern Greenland, which is a strategically critical location to monitor any Russian missile launches over the Arctic, and

Whereas, on Sunday, January 4, 2026, in the aftermath of the American military invasion of Venezuela, President Trump stated, "Right now, Greenland is covered with Russian and Chinese ships all over the place. We need Greenland from the standpoint of national security," and

Whereas, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, in a CNN interview, declared that the United States had the right to seize Greenland if it so desired, and

Whereas, President Trump appointed Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry as a special envoy to Greenland, claiming that the United States needs Greenland for "national protection" and that "we have to have it," and

Whereas, in response to President Trump's statements regarding the U.S.-Denmark-Greenland military collaboration, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen remarked that the existing treaty gave the United States "wide access to Greenland," and she "strongly urge[d] the United States to stop the threats against [Denmark,] a historically close ally," and

Whereas, subsequently, Prime Minister Frederiksen warned President Trump, in no uncertain terms, that an American military attack on Greenland would result in the end of the NATO alliance, and on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom, along with Prime Minister Frederiksen, released a statement emphasizing the importance of NATO to Arctic security, and

Whereas, Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen of Greenland wrote on social media that President Trump's desire for American control of Greenland was "utterly unacceptable," and

Whereas, U.S. sovereignty over Greenland is not a prerequisite for the awarding of international mining contracts to American companies for the extraction of minerals on the island, and

Whereas, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has suggested that the United States may be interested in purchasing Greenland from Denmark, but that President Trump is still considering military options; in either case, the Trump Administration has displayed a blatant disregard for the sovereignty of Greenland and Denmark and for the centrality of NATO in European and Arctic security, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses strong support for the existing U.S.-Denmark treaty related to Greenland and opposes any American effort to secure sovereignty over the island, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, the Vermont Congressional Delegation, the Greenland Inatsisartut, and Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark.

Was read by title, treated as a bill, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs pursuant to House Rule 52.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 162

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

Offered by Senators Brennan, Baruth, Gulick, and Vyhovsky

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Colchester High School Lakers Division II championship football team

Whereas, football is an inherently rough-and-tumble game not known for its gentleness and grace, and the 2025 Division II championship contest played in South Burlington, featuring the third-seeded Colchester Lakers and the fifth-ranked Fair Haven Slaters, epitomized this description, and

Whereas, despite an afternoon filled with a plethora of fumbles and turnovers, each squad exhibited true gridiron grit, which reflected the intensive engagement of all the players, and

Whereas, in the first half, a clear victor did not initially emerge as while the Lakers assumed the opening 7–0 lead, the Slaters then soon surpassed

Colchester with a temporary 12–7 scoring advantage, but Colchester concluded the first half on top, 14–12, and it remained ahead for the balance of the game, winning the Division II title with a well-earned 27–20 victory, and

Whereas, the confident Lakers (8–3), who won Colchester’s first football championship since 2009, were Jackson O’Dell, Parker Walker, Liam McHugh, Hugh Seidner, Paxton Laffal, Macsen Richardson, Landon Hogan, Sawyer Cyphers, Conor Danaher, Gunnar Perren, Michael Thomason, Colton Lefebvre, Dylan Jacobs, Logan Frechette, Brody Coppins, Christian Mcenerney, Saveren Dykeman, Barret Eckert, Jake Robare, Mason Sheltra, Miles Degree, Tristan Fradette, Eric Rocque, Tyler Reed, Noah Abbott, Sawyer Eidsheim, Jake Marchessault, Tucker Mitchell, Calvin Ehle, Sawyer Collins, Austin Cassidy, Miles Anders, Dylan Neely, Dom Schifilliti, Spencer Sartelle, Sabastian Viertlboeck, and Aiden Gamelin, and

Whereas, Head Coach Tom Perry and assistant coaches Mike Bombardier, Brennan Carney, Nick Corrigan, Antony Dennis, Bobby Hamlin, Malcolm Huesman, Ryan O’Hara, and Bailey Olson expertly advised and mentored the team throughout the thrilling 2025 football season, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Colchester High School Lakers Division II championship football team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Colchester High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 9, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 508

House bill, entitled

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

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

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 532

Rep. Mihaly of Calais, for the Committee on General and Housing, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to mandatory retirement of college professors

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

Action on Bill Postponed

S. 23

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment to the House proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Birong of Vergennes**, action on the bill was postponed until January 28, 2026.

Message from the Senate No. 9

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. 38. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 30, 2026.

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

Adjournment

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