

Journal of the House

Friday, January 30, 2026

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Geoff Hewitt, poet, Calais.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

H. 841

By Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous animal welfare procedures

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 842

By Reps. Pinsonault of Dorset, Bishop of Colchester, Bosch of Clarendon, Boutin of Barre City, Branagan of Georgia, Canfield of Fair Haven, Charlton of Chester, Coffin of Cavendish, Cooper of Pownal, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of Williamstown, Duke of Burlington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Harvey of Castleton, Higley of Lowell, Howland of Rutland Town, Hunter of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Labor of Morgan, Laroche of Franklin, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Malay of Pittsford, Marcotte of Coventry, Morgan, L. of Milton, Oliver of Sheldon, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, Powers of Waterford, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, Tagliavia of Corinth, and Taylor of Milton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 843

By Rep. North of Ferrisburgh,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to monitoring of municipal wastewater discharges

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 844

By Rep. Lueders of Lincoln,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to sales tax and a new surcharge paid on fuel by owners of short-term rental and second home properties

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 845

By Rep. Nugent of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to an income tax deduction for the purchase of snow tires

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 846

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Burrows of West Windsor, Critchlow of Colchester, Galfetti of Barre Town, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Page of Newport City, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, and Sibia of Dover,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to artificial intelligence and elections

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**H. 611**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous provisions affecting the Department of Vermont Health Access

Appearing 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. 175**

Offered by Representatives Krowinski of Burlington, Arsenault of Williston, Austin of Colchester, Bartley of Fairfax, Birong of Vergennes, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Boyden of Cambridge, Brady of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Burke of Brattleboro, Burkhardt of South Burlington, Burrows of West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Cina of Burlington, Coffin of Cavendish, Conlon of Cornwall, Cooper of Pownal, 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, Galfetti of Barre Town, Garofano of Essex, Goslant of Northfield, Graning of Jericho, Greer of Bennington, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, Higley of Lowell, Holcombe of Norwich, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hoyt of Hartford, James of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Krasnow of South Burlington, Lalley of Shelburne, LaLonde of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown, Long of Newfane, Luneau of St. Albans City, Masland of Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, McCoy of Poultney, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan, M. of Milton, Morris of Springfield, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Mrowicki of Putney, Nelson of Derby, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Olson of Starksboro, Pezzo of Colchester, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pouech of Hinesburg, Pritchard of Pawlet, Rachelson of Burlington, Satcowitz of Randolph, Scheu of Middlebury, Sibilia of Dover, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Taylor of Milton, Tomlinson of Winooski, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, Wells of Brownington, White of Waitsfield, White of Bethel, and Wood of Waterbury

House concurrent resolution in memory of the Venerable J. Stannard Baker of Shelburne

Whereas, Stan Baker, whose forebears were Green Mountain Boys and whose names are reflected in the towns Bakersfield and Stannard, wrote his own page of Vermont history, and

Whereas, a Swarthmore College graduate, Stan Baker was a co-founder of and teacher at the Otter Creek School, a registered play therapist, a licensed mental health counselor, and a mental health clinical director in Addison and Chittenden Counties, and

Whereas, in the 1990s, he and his life partner, Peter Harrigan, Professor of Fine Arts: Theater at St. Michael's College, desired to marry, but as a same-gender couple this was legally impossible, and

Whereas, in partnership with two other LGBTQ+ couples, they sued for the right to marry, and in 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court, in the landmark decision, *Baker v. State*, 170 Vt. 194, established marriage equality under the Vermont Constitution, and the holding lead to Act 91 of 2000 establishing civil unions, and ultimately, Act 3 of 2009 authorizing civil marriage, and

Whereas, in 2009, Stan Baker, a strong justice advocate, was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church, and his local church leadership included service as a chaplain at Fletcher Allen Health Care (now the University of Vermont Medical Center), a deacon of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, and archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, and nationally, he served on panels examining marriage as a five-time clergy deputy to the House of Delegates; as chair of 2024 House of Deputies General Convention Legislative Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music; and also in 2024, was elected to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and

Whereas, in June 2025, Stan Baker died at 79 years of age, and his survivors include his husband, Peter Harrigan, and numerous family members and admiring friends, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Venerable J. Stannard Baker of Shelburne, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to members of the family of Stan Baker and to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 23, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 648

House bill, entitled

An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Olson of Starksboro** moved to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 48 in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 48 to read as follows:

Sec. 48. 9 V.S.A. § 5202 is amended to read:

§ 5202. EXEMPT TRANSACTIONS

The following transactions are exempt from the requirements of sections ~~5301 through 5306~~ 5301–5306 and 5504 of this chapter:

* * *

(14)(~~A~~) A sale or an offer to sell securities by or on behalf of an issuer, if the transaction is part of a single issue in which:

(~~A~~)(i) not more than ~~25~~ 10 purchasers are present in this State during any 12 consecutive months, other than those designated in subdivision (13) of this section;

(~~B~~)(ii) a general solicitation or general advertising is not made in connection with the offer to sell or the sale of the securities;

(~~C~~)(iii) a commission or other remuneration is not paid or given, directly or indirectly, to a person other than a broker-dealer registered under this chapter or an agent registered under this chapter for soliciting a prospective purchaser in this State; and

(~~D~~)(iv) the issuer reasonably believes that all the purchasers in this State, other than those designated in subdivision (13) of this section, are purchasing for investment.

(B) The exemption specified in this subdivision (14) shall not apply to a federal covered security that is otherwise subject to a notice filing requirement under section 5302 of this title.

* * *

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

**Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed; Rules Suspended,
Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

H. 790

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Scheu of Middlebury, Bluemle of Burlington, Dickinson of Saint Albans Town, Feltus of Lyndon, Kascenska of East Burke, Laroche of Franklin, Mrowicki of Putney, Nigro of Bennington, Squirrell of Underhill, Stevens of Waterbury, and Yacavone of Morrisville** moved that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 77. in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 77. to read as follows:

Sec. 77. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 27, Sec. E.312 is amended to read:

Sec. E.312 HEALTH; PUBLIC HEALTH

(a) HIV/AIDS funding:

* * *

(2) In fiscal year 2026, and as provided by this section, the Department of Health shall provide grants in the amount of ~~\$295,000~~ \$340,000 from the General Fund for HIV and Harm Reduction Services to the following organizations:

(A) Vermont CARES: ~~\$140,000~~ \$165,000;

(B) AIDS Project of Southern Vermont: ~~\$100,000~~ \$115,000; and

(C) HIV/HCV Resource Center: ~~\$55,000~~ \$60,000.

* * *

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill pass?, **Rep. Parsons of Newbury** 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 bill pass?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 133. Nays, 0.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Feltus of Lyndon	Morgan, L. of Milton
Austin of Colchester	Garofano of Essex	Morgan, M. of Milton
Bailey of Hyde Park	Goldman of Rockingham	Morris of Springfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Morrissey of Bennington
Bartley of Fairfax	Goslant of Northfield	Morrow of Weston
Berbeco of Winooski	Graning of Jericho	Mrowicki of Putney
Birong of Vergennes	Greer of Bennington	Nelson of Derby
Bishop of Colchester	Gregoire of Fairfield	Nigro of Bennington
Black of Essex	Hango of Berkshire	North of Ferrisburgh
Bluemle of Burlington	Harvey of Castleton	Noyes of Wolcott
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Headrick of Burlington	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Boutin of Barre City	Higley of Lowell	Ode of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Holcombe of Norwich	Oliver of Sheldon
Branagan of Georgia	Hooper of Burlington	Olson of Starksboro

Brown of Richmond	Houghton of Essex Junction	Page of Newport City
Burditt of West Rutland	Howard of Rutland City	Parsons of Newbury
Burke of Brattleboro	Howland of Rutland Town	Pezzo of Colchester
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Hunter of Manchester	Pinsonault of Dorset
Burrows of West Windsor	James of Manchester	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burt of Cabot	Kascenska of Burke	Powers of Waterford
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Keyser of Rutland City	Priestley of Bradford
Canfield of Fair Haven	Kimbell of Woodstock	Pritchard of Pawlet
Casey of Montpelier	Kleppner of Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Casey of Hubbardton	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Scheu of Middlebury
Chapin of East Montpelier	Labor of Morgan	Sibilia of Dover
Charlton of Chester	Lalley of Shelburne	Southworth of Walden
Cina of Burlington *	LaLonde of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Coffin of Cavendish	LaMont of Morristown	Steady of Milton
Cole of Hartford	Laroche of Franklin	Stevens of Waterbury
Conlon of Cornwall	Lipsky of Stowe	Stone of Burlington
Cooper of Pownal	Logan of Burlington	Sweeney of Shelburne
Corcoran of Bennington	Long of Newfane	Tagliavia of Corinth
Critchlow of Colchester	Lueders of Lincoln	Taylor of Milton
Demar of Enosburgh	Luneau of St. Albans City	Taylor of Mendon
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Maguire of Rutland City	Tomlinson of Winooski
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Malay of Pittsford	Torre of Moretown
Dodge of Essex	Marcotte of Coventry	Walker of Swanton
Dolan of Essex Junction	Masland of Thetford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCann of Montpelier	Wells of Brownington
Donahue of Northfield	McCoy of Poultney	White of Waitsfield
Duke of Burlington	McFaun of Barre Town	White of Bethel
Durfee of Shaftsbury	McGill of Bridport	Winter of Ludlow
Eastes of Guilford	Micklus of Milton	Wood of Waterbury
Emmons of Springfield	Mihaly of Calais	Yacovone of Morristown
	Minier of South Burlington	

Those who voted in the negative are: none

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

Bosch of Clarendon	Harple of Glover	Nugent of South Burlington
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Randolph	Quimby of Lyndon
Carris Duncan of Whitingham	Hoyt of Hartford	Satcowitz of Randolph
Christie of Hartford	Krasnow of South Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Galfetti of Barre Town	Nielsen of Brandon	Waszazak of Barre City

Rep. Cina of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes on this budget adjustment due to the many beneficial or harmless modifications included within it. But I do so with great objection to the Governor’s decision to waste taxpayer money by obligating the State to leases

on private property when there is plenty of public property that could have been used and when remote work could have continued to support the efficient provision of government services.”

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Message from the Senate No. 10

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. 202. An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices.

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

Pursuant to the request of the House for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill entitled:

S. 23. An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections.

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Collamore
Senator Vyhovsky
Senator Morley

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 176. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 West Rutland High School Golden Horde's Division IV championship softball team.

H.C.R. 177. House concurrent resolution congratulating Twin Valley High School Athletic Director extraordinaire and 500 game-winning boys' soccer coach Buddy Hayford.

H.C.R. 178. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Senator William H. Carris of Wells.

H.C.R. 179. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning the school's fifth consecutive divisional championship.

H.C.R. 180. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets on winning the State boys' volleyball championship.

H.C.R. 181. House concurrent resolution congratulating the winners of the 2025 Spirit of the ADA Award.

H.C.R. 182. House concurrent resolution designating February 5, 2026, as Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 183. House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2026 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 17, 2026, as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 184. House concurrent resolution celebrating the restoration of a wild turkey population in Vermont.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and sixteen minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 38.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

H.C.R. 176

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 West Rutland High School Golden Horde's Division IV championship softball team

H.C.R. 177

House concurrent resolution congratulating Twin Valley High School Athletic Director extraordinaire and 500 game-winning boys' soccer coach Buddy Hayford

H.C.R. 178

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Senator William H. Carris of Wells

H.C.R. 179

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Essex High School Hornets girls' volleyball team on winning the school's fifth consecutive divisional championship

H.C.R. 180

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Essex High School Hornets on winning the State boys' volleyball championship

H.C.R. 181

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winners of the 2025 Spirit of the ADA Award

H.C.R. 182

House concurrent resolution designating February 5, 2026, as Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House

H.C.R. 183

House concurrent resolution recognizing July 2026 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designating July 17, 2026, as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 184

House concurrent resolution celebrating the restoration of a wild turkey population in Vermont

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2026 Adjourned Session.]