

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Tom Charlton of Chester.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Liam D. Chase of Barre Town 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 as follows:

H. 847

By Rep. Lueders of Lincoln,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a tax return checkoff box for Hunger Free Vermont

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 848

By Reps. North of Ferrisburgh, Burt of Cabot, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Lueders of Lincoln, McFaun of Barre Town, Powers of Waterford, and Tagliavia of Corinth,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting facility fees for certain outpatient services and telehealth

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 849

By Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a civil action for damages for interference with State or federal constitutional rights by any government official

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 850

By Rep. Casey of Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to immigration enforcement

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 851

By Rep. Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing pilot programs related to highway services for electric vehicles, stabilizing and supporting public transit, and establishing a Vermont rideshare service

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 852

By Rep. Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to developing a blue zone blueprint

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 853

By Rep. Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanded use of contingency management therapy and neurofeedback in Vermont's health care and criminal justice systems

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 854

By Reps. Bosch of Clarendon, Luneau of St. Albans City, Nelson of Derby, Pritchard of Pawlet, and Southworth of Walden,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to legislative pay

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 855

By Rep. Harvey of Castleton,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to defenses in civil actions based on harm caused by artificial intelligence

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 856

By Reps. Rachelson of Burlington and Arsenault of Williston,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to possessing regulated drugs and establishing the Drug Use Health and Safety Advisory Board

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 857

By Reps. Donahue of Northfield and Noyes of Wolcott,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to alcoholic beverage retail displays and a legal analysis of state regulation of cannabis advertising

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 858

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the State Law Enforcement and Firefighters Bargaining Unit

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 859

By Reps. Cina of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, and McGill of Bridport,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to psychedelic therapy and clinical drug development trials

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 860

By Rep. Cina of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Justice and Recovery Hub and Spoke System Working Group

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 861

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 862

By Rep. Burke of Brattleboro,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to interior sound control in certain public buildings

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 863

By Reps. Burke of Brattleboro, Lalley of Shelburne, Pouech of Hinesburg, Tomlinson of Winooski, White of Waitsfield, Austin of Colchester, Bartholomew of Hartland, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Eastes of Guilford, Holcombe of Norwich, James of Manchester, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Mrowicki of Putney, Rachelson of Burlington, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to transportation initiatives to improve equity and infrastructure, increase resiliency, and reduce emissions

To the Committee on Transportation.

H. 864

By Rep. Greer of Bennington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to immigration agreements with the federal government

To the Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

H. 865

By Reps. Greer of Bennington, Galfetti of Barre Town, Boutin of Barre City, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Casey of Montpelier, Cole of Hartford, Critchlow of Colchester, Eastes of Guilford, Gregoire of Fairfield, Headrick of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Kleppner of Burlington, Malay of Pittsford, North of Ferrisburgh, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby of Lyndon, Sweeney of Shelburne, Taylor of Milton, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to travel disclosures for public servants

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 866

By Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to bail and conditions of pretrial release

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 867

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting mobile billboards

To the Committee on Environment.

H. 868

By Reps. Bos-Lun of Westminster, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burke of Brattleboro, Burt of Cabot, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, Morrow of Weston, Nelson of Derby, O'Brien of Tunbridge, Sweeney of Shelburne, and Tomlinson of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting the use of ultra-processed foods in school food programs

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

H. 869

By Reps. Bosch of Clarendon, Harvey of Castleton, Malay of Pittsford, Olson of Starksboro, Page of Newport City, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to vacancies on union school district boards where the seat is apportioned to a town

To the Committee on Education.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 202**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to
Other Committee****H. 841**

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington moved that the Committee on Judiciary be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous animal welfare procedures

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, which was agreed to.

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

H. 536

Rep. Wood of Waterbury moved that the Committee on Human Services be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to toxic heavy metals in baby food products

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, which was agreed to.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 541

Rep. Goodnow of Brattleboro, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to interference with voters and election officials

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 1972 is amended to read:

§ 1972. SHOWING BALLOT; ~~INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER~~

(a) A voter who, except in cases of assistance as provided in this title, allows ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot to be seen by another person with an apparent intention of letting it be known how ~~he or she~~ the voter is about to vote or makes a false statement to the presiding officer at an election as to ~~his or her~~ the voter's inability to mark ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot or places a distinguishing mark on ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot ~~or a person who interferes with a voter when inside the guard rail or who, within the building in which the voting is proceeding, endeavors to induce a voter to vote for a particular candidate,~~ shall be fined \$1,000.00.

~~(b) It shall be the duty of the election officers to see that the offender is duly prosecuted for a violation of this section.~~

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 1975 is added to read:

§ 1975. INTERFERENCE WITH VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

(a) No person shall intentionally or recklessly intimidate, threaten, coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce:

(1) any other person for the purpose of:

(A) obstructing the right of the other person to vote or to vote as the other person may choose; or

(B) causing the other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for public office or public question at any election; or

(2) a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for the purpose of obstructing the administration of an election.

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Judiciary agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 11

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. 39. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 6, 2026.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and thirty 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.