

Journal of the House

Thursday, February 5, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun of Westminster.

House Bill Introduced

H. 888

By Olson of Starksboro

House bill, entitled

An act relating to passing a yield bill before Town Meeting Day

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 182

Offered by Representatives White of Waitsfield, Arsenault of Williston, Brown of Richmond, Dolan of Essex Junction, Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex Junction, Hunter of Manchester, Keyser of Rutland City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Krowinski of Burlington, Lipsky of Stowe, McCoy of Poultney, Morrow of Weston, Ode of Burlington, Sibilia of Dover, Stone of Burlington, Sweeney of Shelburne, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Wells of Brownington

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

Whereas, Vermont is proud of its unparalleled and diverse natural landscape and communities tied to outdoor recreation that are world-class tourism destinations, and

Whereas, our State's outdoor recreational assets consist of more than 11,500 miles of public access trails, including 217 miles of recreational rail trails; 135,000 acres of wildlife management areas; 239,000 acres of State forests and parks; 99 picnic/day-use areas; 196 fishing access points; and 20 alpine and 30 cross-country ski areas, and

Whereas, ninety-three percent of Vermonters annually participate in outdoor recreation, and in 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 77, the General Assembly designated skiing and snowboarding as the State's official winter sports, and

Whereas, it is important that Vermont welcomes everyone to enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits, and outdoor recreational venues embrace the intrinsic community values of inclusion and representation, and

Whereas, outdoor recreation creates business opportunities, attracts new residents, and offers workforce pathways that incentivize young Vermonters to remain in the State, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in fiscal year 2023, businesses in all 14 counties involved in outdoor recreation generated \$2.1 billion in economic impact, and the industry employed over 16,000 persons, comprising just over five percent of the Vermont workforce, and

Whereas, Move Forward Together Vermont, Vermont's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, establishes a vision to foster healthy and vibrant communities through outdoor recreation, and

Whereas, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day is an occasion to celebrate the importance of outdoor recreation to Vermont's landscape, economy, quality of life, and the mental and physical well-being of Vermonters and visitors, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates February 5, 2026, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development; the Secretary of Natural Resources; the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 30, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 183

Offered by Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Burkhardt of South Burlington, LaLonde of South Burlington, Minier of South Burlington, and Nugent of South Burlington

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

Whereas, Vermont's park and recreation programs are an integral part of our State and local communities, and

Whereas, their presence in a community promotes an active lifestyle, offers environmental protection, and serves as an economic resource, and

Whereas, park and recreation programs support the effectiveness of therapeutic recreational services for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, in 1985, the National Recreation and Park Association established July as Park and Recreation Month, and, in 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted H.R. 288, a resolution "Recognizing the importance of park and recreation facilities and expressing support for the designation of the month of July as 'National Park and Recreation Month,'" *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes July 2026 as Park and Recreation Month in Vermont and designates July 17, 2026, as Vermont Park and Recreation Professionals Day, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, January 30, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Committee Not Relieved of Further Consideration

H. 70

Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town moved that the Committee on Environment be relieved of further consideration of House bill, entitled

An act relating to the inclusion of use value appraisal land in the conserved land inventory

Pending the question, Shall the Committee on Environment be relieved of further consideration of the bill?, **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 Committee on Environment be relieved of further consideration of the bill?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 48. Nays, 86.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park
Bartley of Fairfax
Bosch of Clarendon
Boutin of Barre City

Goslant of Northfield
Gregoire of Fairfield
Hango of Berkshire
Harvey of Castleton

Morgan, M. of Milton
Morrissey of Bennington
Nielsen of Brandon
North of Ferrisburgh

Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Oliver of Sheldon
Burt of Cabot	Howland of Rutland Town	Page of Newport City
Casey of Hubbardton	Kascenska of Burke	Parsons of Newbury
Charlton of Chester	Keyser of Rutland City	Powers of Waterford
Coffin of Cavendish	Labor of Morgan	Pritchard of Pawlet
Demar of Enosburgh	Laroche of Franklin	Southworth of Walden
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Lipsky of Stowe	Steady of Milton
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Luneau of St. Albans City	Tagliavia of Corinth
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	Maguire of Rutland City	Taylor of Milton
Donahue of Northfield	Malay of Pittsford	Taylor of Mendon
Feltus of Lyndon	McFaun of Barre Town	Winter of Ludlow
Galfetti of Barre Town	Micklus of Milton	
	Morgan, L. of Milton	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Emmons of Springfield	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Garofano of Essex	Morris of Springfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Goldman of Rockingham	Morrow of Weston
Berbeco of Winooski	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Nigro of Bennington
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Noyes of Wolcott
Bishop of Colchester	Greer of Bennington	Nugent of South Burlington
Black of Essex	Harple of Glover	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bluemle of Burlington	Headrick of Burlington	Ode of Burlington *
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Holcombe of Norwich	Olson of Starksboro *
Boyden of Cambridge	Hooper of Randolph	Pezzo of Colchester
Brady of Williston	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pinsonault of Dorset
Brown of Richmond	Howard of Rutland City	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burke of Brattleboro	Hunter of Manchester	Priestley of Bradford
Burkhardt of South Burlington	James of Manchester *	Rachelson of Burlington
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kimbell of Woodstock	Satcowitz of Randolph
Canfield of Fair Haven	Kleppner of Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Carris Duncan of Whitingham	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sibilia of Dover
Casey of Montpelier	Krasnow of South Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Chapin of East Montpelier*	Lalley of Shelburne	Stone of Burlington
Cina of Burlington	LaLonde of South Burlington	Sweeney of Shelburne
Cole of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Tomlinson of Winooski
Conlon of Cornwall	Long of Newfane	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	Lueders of Lincoln	Walker of Swanton
Critchlow of Colchester	Marcotte of Coventry	Waszazak of Barre City
Dodge of Essex	Masland of Thetford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolan of Essex Junction	McCann of Montpelier	White of Waitsfield
Duke of Burlington	McCoy of Poultney	White of Bethel
Durfee of Shaftsbury	McGill of Bridport	Wood of Waterbury
	Mihaly of Calais	Yacovone of Morristown

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

Burditt of West Rutland	Hooper of Burlington	Quimby of Lyndon
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Burrows of West Windsor
Christie of Hartford
Cooper of Pownal
Eastes of Guilford

Hoyt of Hartford
Logan of Burlington
Mrowicki of Putney
Nelson of Derby

Sheldon of Middlebury
Squirrell of Underhill
Wells of Brownington

Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote No because the use value appraisal program is different than permanent land conservation and because the committee process would be critical to adequately considering the impact of this bill just assigned to House Committee on Environment less than two weeks ago.”

Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes today to fulfill my duty to my constituents and all Vermonters. It is time for this body to get to work on legislation that will improve the lives of Vermonters and waste no more time on reintroducing Catamounts when Vermonters are unhoused.”

Rep. James of Manchester provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

In this body, we’re expected to make monumental decisions that impact the lives of Vermonters in many ways. We rely on our committees to do the careful legwork – and to bring thoughtful, informed recommendations to the floor. This process matters, and that’s why I vote no.”

Rep. Ode of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote no. Vermonters have a tradition of hunting, fishing, hiking, and recreating on the lands of our great State.”

Rep. Olson of Starksboro provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted No, not because of the bill, but because of the process.”

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 5

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age

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

**Amendment Offered; Question Divided; Instance of Amendment
Withdrawn; Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed**

H. 626

House bill, entitled

An act relating to voyeurism and disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 2605, in subdivision (a)(4), by striking out “or undergarment-clad” and inserting in lieu thereof “~~or undergarment-clad~~”

Second: In Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 2605, in subdivision (k)(4), by striking out “prior to July 1, 2026” and inserting in lieu thereof “on or after July 1, 2005”

Third: In Sec. 2, 13 V.S.A. § 2606, in subdivision (e)(4), by striking out “prior to July 1, 2026” and inserting in lieu thereof “on or after July 1, 2015”

Thereupon, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** asked that the question be divided by its first, and then second and third instances of amendment, and the Speaker ruled the question was divisible in that manner.

Thereupon, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the first instance of the amendment.

Thereafter, the remainder of the amendment offered by Rep. Donahue of Northfield was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 611

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending second reading, on motion of **Rep. Black of Essex**, action on the bill was postponed until February 6, 2026.

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 540**

Rep. Headrick of Burlington, for the Committee on Corrections and Institutions, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the recommendations of the Post-Adjudication Reparative Program Working Group

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.

Adjournment

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