

Journal of the House

Friday, February 13, 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 Rep. Mark Higley of Lowell.

Pages Honored

In appreciation of their many services to the members of the General Assembly, the Speaker recognized the following named Pages who completed their service today and presented them with commemorative pins:

Liam D. Chase of Barre Town
Eilidh Corbett of Montpelier
Judah Hare of Strafford
Elsie Kidder of St. Johnsbury
Winnie Liu of Montpelier
Brogan Malay of Pittsford
Siobhan Murman of Waterbury

House Bill Introduced

H. 900

By Reps. Coffin of Cavendish, Boutin of Barre City, Burtt of Cabot, Casey of Hubbardton, Charlton of Chester, Harvey of Castleton, Pritchard of Pawlet, Southworth of Walden, and Wells of Brownington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the exemption of Social Security benefits from Vermont income tax

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 164

Offered by Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town and Toof of St. Albans Town

Offered by Senators Brock and Norris

House concurrent resolution congratulating the St. Albans Town Fire Department on 50 years of remarkable community service

Whereas, in 1975, St. Albans Town decided that the community's fire protection needs necessitated the creation of a separate volunteer fire department, and, as a parting gesture, St. Albans City gave the new organization \$60,000.00 to meet initial expenses, and

Whereas, the St. Albans Town Fire Department recognized the need to disburse large quantities of water in an expedited manner and, under the insightful leadership of its first fire chief, Roy C. Parah Sr. (for whom the firehouse is named), purchased a Maxim water pumper, capable of releasing 1,500 gallons of water per minute, and it also "repurposed a Chevy truck to [deliver water] to hard-to-reach houses and converted two [additional] trucks...into tankers," and

Whereas, initially, firefighting vehicles were painted "OSHA yellow" on the theory that red fire trucks were insufficiently visible, and

Whereas, although the St. Albans City Fire Department considered refraining from assisting colleagues in St. Albans Town, this rivalry ended as the city's firefighters soon appreciated their neighbors' support, and

Whereas, the cooperative relationship between the two departments has markedly improved as Matt Mulheron now proudly serves as fire chief for both municipalities, and

Whereas, the once ragtag, and now much-respected, St. Albans Town Fire Department proudly boasts a highly trained roster of firefighters and modern equipment, and

Whereas, in August 2025, current and former St. Albans firefighters gathered to celebrate this historic milestone in the department's history, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the St. Albans Town Fire Department on 50 years of remarkable community service, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the St. Albans Town Fire Department.

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

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

H. 750

Rep. Conlon of Cornwall moved that the Committee on Education be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to school districts pursuing school construction projects during the moratorium on State aid

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Ways and Means, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 527

House bill, entitled

An act relating to extending the sunset of 30 V.S.A. § 248a

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

Third Reading; Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 37

Joint Senate resolution, entitled

Joint resolution supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition and urging that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) only introduce new Olympic sports that practice gender equality

Was taken up, read the third time, and adopted in concurrence.

Committee Bill; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

H. 898

Rep. Sibilia of Dover spoke for the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to copper-based to fiber-based telecommunications network transitions and consumer protections

Having appeared on the Notice Calendar and appearing on the Action Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 15

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. 208. An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification.

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

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

H. 50. An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

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

Senator Harrison

Senator Benson

Senator Plunkett

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

H.C.R. 193. House concurrent resolution in memory of Bennington Town Manager Stuart Alan Hurd.

H.C.R. 194. House concurrent resolution in memory of North Bennington educator, coach, volunteer firefighter, and religious leader Robert P. Nolan.

H.C.R. 195. House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as School Board Appreciation Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 196. House concurrent resolution honoring U.S. Army Major General and Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Gregory Knight on his exemplary service on behalf of our State and nation.

H.C.R. 197. House concurrent resolution congratulating the YMCA on its 175th anniversary and extending best wishes for the organization's future endeavors.

H.C.R. 198. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division II championship girls' soccer team.

H.C.R. 199. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division I field hockey team on winning a second consecutive championship.

H.C.R. 200. House concurrent resolution celebrating the life of Nathan Suter of Montpelier.

H.C.R. 201. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers on winning the inaugural Northern Vermont Youth Football League 5/6 championship.

H.C.R. 202. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers on winning the 2025 Northern Vermont Youth Football League Division I championship.

H.C.R. 203. House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as Recovery Awareness Month in Vermont.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and eight minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 40.

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:

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House concurrent resolution in memory of Bennington Town Manager Stuart Alan Hurd

H.C.R. 194

House concurrent resolution in memory of North Bennington educator, coach, volunteer firefighter, and religious leader Robert P. Nolan

H.C.R. 195

House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as School Board Appreciation Month in Vermont

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House concurrent resolution honoring U.S. Army Major General and Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Gregory Knight on his exemplary service on behalf of our State and nation

H.C.R. 197

House concurrent resolution congratulating the YMCA on its 175th anniversary and extending best wishes for the organization's future endeavors

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House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division II championship girls' soccer team

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House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights Division I field hockey team on winning a second consecutive championship

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House concurrent resolution celebrating the life of Nathan Suter of Montpelier

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House concurrent resolution congratulating the 5/6 St. Albans Steelers on winning the inaugural Northern Vermont Youth Football League 5/6 championship

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House concurrent resolution congratulating the 7/8 St. Albans Steelers on winning the 2025 Northern Vermont Youth Football League Division I championship

H.C.R. 203

House concurrent resolution designating February 2026 as Recovery Awareness Month 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.]