

Journal of the House

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Pastor Matt Miller, Community Bible Chapel, Brattleboro.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Scarlett Bedford of Sharon led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 901

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to inclusion of disability expertise in State, regional, and municipal emergency management

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 902

By Reps. Boutin of Barre City and Waszazak of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

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

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 903

By Rep. Boutin of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to information collected by providers during first and second certification

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 904

By Rep. Ode of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing an automated DNA tracking system

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Senate Bill Referred**S. 208**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means**H. 578**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to penalties and procedures for animal cruelty offenses

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations**H. 660**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2027 Opioid Abatement Special Fund appropriations

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar**Bill Referred to the Committee on Appropriations****H. 577**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card Program

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Committee of Conference Appointed**H. 50**

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

An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield

Rep. Casey of Montpelier

Rep. Sweeney of Shelburne

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 197**

Offered by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Berbeco of Winooski, Bishop of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bluemle of Burlington, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Garofano of Essex, Goldman of Rockingham, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Krasnow of South Burlington, McFaun of Barre Town, Ode of Burlington, and Stone of Burlington

Offered by Senators Brennan, Collamore, Harrison, Hashim, Major, and White

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

Whereas, on December 29, 1851, Thomas Valentine Sullivan established the first YMCA (the Y) in the United States at the Old South Church in Boston, Massachusetts, mirroring the Y movement in England with a mission "to build healthy spirit, mind and body for all," and

Whereas, in 1866, the first Y in Vermont opened in Burlington, and

Whereas, since 1851, the Y has been dedicated "to meet[ing] evolving needs of American communities, strengthening society by bringing people together, fostering relationships and creating a sense of belonging," and

Whereas, the Y "serves people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, creating spaces where all people feel welcome," and

Whereas, the many historic milestones of the Y's last 175 years are of both organizational and national significance, and

Whereas, a selection of the highlights of the Y's 175-year odyssey include conducting the first night school and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, inventing basketball, offering the first group swimming lessons, serving as the birthplace of Father's Day, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for the achievement of its National War Work Council, serving as America's leading nonprofit provider of child care and afterschool programs, and offering important community support services during the pandemic, and

Whereas, nationwide, 2,600 Ys, located in every state and territory, receive support from more than 300,000 staff and 350,000 volunteers, and they annually serve 6.5 million children and 11 million adults, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the YMCA of Greater Burlington and the Meeting Waters YMCA (established in 1895) serve 15,000 Vermonters through the diligent efforts of 600 staff and 80 volunteers, and

Whereas, during this anniversary year, Ys across the country will celebrate with special commemorative events, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the YMCA on its 175th anniversary and extends best wishes for the organization's future endeavors, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the YMCA of Greater Burlington and the Meeting Waters YMCA.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 13, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

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

H. 817

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

An act relating to mental health support and substance use disorder prevention in schools

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Health Care, which was agreed to.

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 898**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Donahue of Northfield** moved to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 30 V.S.A. § 227f (concerning required disclosures related to network transitions), in subdivision (d)(6), after the word “Rights” by adding the following: “, or how to obtain a hard copy of Rule 7.600 by U.S. mail”

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

Message from the Senate No. 16

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. 209. An act relating to prohibiting civil arrest in sensitive locations.

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

The Senate has considered a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 790. An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 41. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 20, 2026.

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

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and thirty-five 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.