

Journal of the House

Friday, February 27, 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. Saudia LaMont of Morristown.

Memorial Service

House members rose as the Speaker placed before the House the following name of the member of past sessions of the Vermont General Assembly who had passed away recently:

Rep. Roy C. Vance of Danville Member of the House,
Sessions of 1973 – 1980

Thereupon, the members of the House held a moment of silence in memory of the deceased member.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 919

By Reps. Headrick of Burlington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Howard of Rutland City, Logan of Burlington, and Sweeney of Shelburne,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to classifying incarcerated individuals as temporary State employees

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 920

By Reps. Satcowitz of Randolph, Berbeco of Winooski, Burrows of West Windsor, Cina of Burlington, Eastes of Guilford, Headrick of Burlington, James of Manchester, Logan of Burlington, McGill of Bridport, Morrow of Weston, Olson of Starksboro, Stevens of Waterbury, and Torre of Moretown,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the creation of the Citizens' Assembly

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

Senate Bill Referred

S. 210

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to access to autopsy reports

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services.

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, carrying appropriations, under House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

H. 559

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Parole Board

H. 772

House bill, entitled

An act relating to residential rental agreements, eviction procedures, and the creation of the positive rental payment credit reporting pilot program

House Resolution Referred to Committee

H.R. 14

Offered by Representative Kleppner of Burlington

House resolution relating to amending the House Rules to allow municipal charter and merger bills to be read three times without referral to a committee of jurisdiction

Whereas, the General Assembly ordinarily considers between 20 and 30 charter bills during a given biennium, and

Whereas, the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs has primary jurisdiction over municipal charters and mergers, but also has jurisdiction over many other subjects of great importance to the State, and

Whereas, providing for an efficient and timely process for the House to consider and debate charter proposals would provide the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs the opportunity to invest time in its other areas of jurisdiction, and

Whereas, allowing municipal charters and mergers to be read three times without referral to committee would establish a level of deference to municipalities over matters of local concern, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body amend the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives to add Rule 45a to read:

45a. (a) Notwithstanding Rule 45(a), a bill that adopts, amends, or repeals a municipal charter; approves a municipal merger; or dissolves a municipal corporation shall not be referred to committee and shall be placed on the Calendar for Notice for five legislative days before being placed in the Orders of the Day, after which it shall proceed in the regular course as other bills but without the need for a committee report. However, a bill that is subject to this rule 45a may be referred to a committee at the discretion of the Speaker or upon the motion of a member. For each bill that is subject to this rule 45a, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall prepare a memorandum that summarizes the proposals within the bill, identifies any manifest errors or necessary technical corrections, and analyzes any constitutional or legal issues presented by the bill contents.

Was read by title, treated as a bill, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs pursuant to House Rule 52.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 178

Offered by All Members of the House

Offered by All Members of the Senate

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

Whereas, although born across the Connecticut River in Hanover, New Hampshire, Bill Carris was a proud fifth-generation Vermonter, and

Whereas, as a youth, his enthusiasm for daring winter athletic competitions inspired him to train and succeed as a Junior Olympic ski jumper, and

Whereas, Bill Carris graduated from Rutland High School and the former Castleton State College, where he met his future wife, Barbara Tracy, and then served in the U.S. Army as a financial specialist stationed in Germany, and

Whereas, on returning home to Vermont, he entered his family's business, Carris Reels, a manufacturer of reels for wire and cable packaging, and in 1980 he assumed leadership of the company, transforming this small enterprise into an international industry leader, and

Whereas, in 1995, Bill and Barbara Carris implemented an ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) at Carris Reels, converting the company's ownership into a structure that directly benefitted the staff and became the centerpiece of the corporation's operational philosophy, and

Whereas, beyond his business career, Bill Carris was a passionate philanthropist who was focused on the betterment of his Rutland County community, and

Whereas, in 2006, Bill Carris decided to serve his fellow citizens in the public sector, and the voters of Rutland County elected him to the Vermont Senate for the first of three consecutive terms, where his business knowledge was relied upon during his service on the Committees on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs and on Finance, and among his other committee assignments were Institutions, Joint Rules, Judicial Rules, Legislative Information Technology, and Senate Rules, on which he served as vice chair, and

Whereas, this admired Rutland County leader died on October 22, 2025, at 81 years of age, and his survivors include his wife, Barbara; children; and grandchildren, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere sympathy to the family of former Senator William H. Carris, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Bill Carris.

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

H.C.R. 207

Offered by Representatives Morgan, M. of Milton and Morgan, L. of Milton

Offered by Senator Brennan

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department on 75 years of serving the community

Whereas, in 1951, the citizens of the Town of Grand Isle decided to establish a volunteer fire department, and it was incorporated in 1957, and

Whereas, in pursuit of this worthy objective, a portable pump was attached to the back of a 1928 Chevrolet truck, and a community member's garage was designated as the town's fire station, and

Whereas, the original firefighting volunteers consisted of auto mechanics, carpenters, dairy creamery workers, and farmers who were dedicated to assisting their community when required, and

Whereas, during the past three quarters of a century, the scope of emergency support services offered, and the resources employed to execute these responsibilities, have greatly expanded, and

Whereas, among these services are community outreach, fire prevention initiatives, hazmat calls, vehicle extrication, ice rescue, and wildland fire response, and

Whereas, Grand Isle's geographical location has a direct impact on rescue operations, as the fleet includes Marine 1 and a supporting trailer to navigate Lake Champlain, and the department proudly maintains the State's longest-serving ice rescue certification program, and

Whereas, the modern land-based firefighting fleet includes two pumpers, a heavy rescue truck, a water tanker, and a brush truck, and

Whereas, through mutual aid agreements, the geographic coverage area the department may serve, when called upon, has broadened, and

Whereas, the department's spacious, multibay, 7,400-square-foot fire station located on Hyde Road is a vast upgrade from the original garage, and

Whereas, over the decades, the volunteer membership has consisted of men and women who exemplify the motto "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," who sacrifice time with their own families to help others when the need arises, and whose weekly duties have included certification and training, community relations, business liaisons, and truck maintenance, and

Whereas, since 1951, the dedication of these volunteers has created today's outstanding Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department, the foundation for a strong future and a positive community impact, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department on 75 years of serving the community, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, February 20, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Remarks Journalized

On motion by **Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town**, the following remarks by **Rep. Carris Duncan of Whitingham** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

We just heard a resolution honoring former Senator William H. Carris. Bill to all who know him, but to me he was and will always be dad.

With his boundless energy he built a rich life of endless curiosity propelled by his quest for exploration and a deeper understanding of the world and the people in it. Throughout his adventurous life, he took on many roles-son, sibling, husband, father, business leader, politician, philanthropist. He was a former junior Olympic long ski jumper who had a love for country music, motorcycles, canons, and gathering his big multiracial family.

As the visionary CEO of Carris Reels, he bucked convention with an ambitious plan to take the business from personal ownership to an employee ownership and governance model. This is a bet that has paid off employees are now empowered to shape their company and retire with stability and dignity.

As a State Senator for Rutland County, he advocated for small businesses, the arts, and resources for the community. He was a generous spirit to whom the idea of a life well lived was so much broader than success and prosperity. In fact, he knew that those things couldn't be considered any part of a life well lived unless they could benefit the larger community, and he focused his life to that end. Anyone who encountered him felt the real care he had for others. He was a wild and wise man whose presence is deeply missed but whose influence has had a wide and lasting impact.

He loved his time in this house representing Rutland County and serving Vermont. His work in the people's house allowed him to live out his philosophy of striving to better all of humanity. Madam Speaker, I would be

remiss if I didn't share his admiration for the deep considered work we do in this particular Chamber to make Vermont a better place.

Madam Speaker, will the House please welcome my mother Barbara, my sister Jennefer, Brother Jesse, and my husband Corey.”

Remarks Journalized

On motion by **Rep. Priestley of Bradford**, the following remarks by **Rep. Sibia of Dover** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

Last week, Kansas enacted a law requiring transgender residents to surrender their legally amended driver's licenses and birth certificates and pay to replace them with documents that deny who they are.

I am proud to say that in Vermont, in 2021 and 2022 in a bipartisan way led by the former member from Winooski and with our Governor's signature, we chose a different way. We made it easier to amend birth certificates. We protect gender identity under our civil rights laws.

In Vermont we do not erase people's identities, and we do not criminalize their presence in public spaces.

To transgender Vermonters and your families: Your documents are valid. Your rights are protected. And in this State, your government stands with you.”

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 512

Rep. Carris Duncan of Whitingham, for the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of the event ticketing market

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. 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 2B is added to read:

Subchapter 2B. Event Tickets

§ 2479f. RESALE OF EVENT TICKETS

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Price” means the total amount paid or to be paid for a ticket, including all taxes, fees, and charges. Price does not include actual shipping costs.

(2) “Resale” means the second or subsequent sale of a ticket by any method, including in-person transactions, telephone, mail, email, facsimile, or electronic means through websites or mobile phone applications.

(3) “Reseller” means a person engaged in the resale of tickets.

(4) “Secondary ticket exchange” means an electronic marketplace enabling the sale, purchase, and resale of tickets.

(5) “Speculative ticket” means a ticket not in the actual or constructive possession of the reseller at the time of listing, sale, or advertisement. This includes tickets not owned by the reseller or under contract to be transferred to the reseller at the time of sale.

(6) “Ticket” means any form of physical, electronic, or other evidence that grants the possessor of the evidence license to enter a place of entertainment for one or more events at a specified date and time.

(7) “Ticket issuer” means a person or entity that issues tickets for initial sale, including musicians, venues, promoters, theater companies, marketplaces for initial purchases, or their agents.

(b) Notice requirement.

(1) A person operating a secondary ticket exchange shall provide a statement in a clear and conspicuous manner informing any customer:

(A) whether the customer is purchasing the ticket from a ticket issuer or a reseller as the case may be; and

(B) that the resale price of the ticket is limited by subsection (c) of this section.

(2) If a secondary ticket exchange provides information about the number or percentage of available tickets for a given event, the information shall not mislead customers about the availability of tickets on that platform or on other platforms.

(c) Price cap on the resale of event tickets.

(1) A ticket reseller shall not sell or offer for sale a ticket at a price greater than 110 percent of the price of an original ticket.

(2) A secondary ticket exchange shall not authorize for resale on the exchange a ticket for a price at greater than 110 percent of the price of an original ticket.

(3) This subsection shall not apply to the resale of a ticket if the reseller has a written contract with the ticket issuer for the resale of tickets at a price greater than 110 percent of the price of the original ticket.

(d) Ban on deceptive URLs and improper use of intellectual property. It shall be unlawful for a secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or the operator of any website purporting to sell or offer for sale event tickets that links or redirects to a secondary ticket exchange or reseller to:

(1) use deceptive website addresses or imply endorsement or ownership of any intellectual property of the venue or artist without explicit written authorization of the venue or artist; or

(2) state or imply that the secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or website is affiliated with or endorsed by a venue, team, or artist, including by using words such as “official” in promotional materials, social media promotions, search engine optimization, paid advertising, URLs, or search engine monetization, unless the secondary ticket exchange, reseller, or website has the express written consent of the venue, team, or artist.

(e) Prohibition on speculative ticket sales. A reseller shall not sell or offer for sale speculative tickets.

(f) Violations. A person that violates a provision of this section commits an unfair and deceptive act in commerce in violation of section 2453 of this title.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 545

House bill, entitled

An act relating to issuing immunization recommendations

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Wood of Waterbury**, action on the bill was postponed for one legislative day.

Message from the Senate No. 22

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 concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

H.C.R. 212. House concurrent resolution honoring the amazing Brooks Memorial Library Director Starr LaTronica.

H.C.R. 213. House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2026 as Social Work Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 214. House concurrent resolution celebrating the essential contributions of Irish American patriots in the struggle for our nation's independence.

H.C.R. 215. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ben Ogden of Landgrove on winning two 2026 Winter Olympics cross-country skiing silver medals.

H.C.R. 216. House concurrent resolution honoring Margo Caulfield for her exemplary and enormously appreciated volunteer leadership in the Town of Cavendish.

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and ten minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 4.

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. 212

House concurrent resolution honoring the amazing Brooks Memorial Library Director Starr LaTronica

H.C.R. 213

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2026 as Social Work Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 214

House concurrent resolution celebrating the essential contributions of Irish American patriots in the struggle for our nation's independence

H.C.R. 215

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ben Ogden of Landgrove on winning two 2026 Winter Olympics cross-country skiing silver medals

H.C.R. 216

House concurrent resolution honoring Margo Caulfield for her exemplary and enormously appreciated volunteer leadership in the Town of Cavendish

[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.]