

Journal of the House

Friday, March 20, 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. Rey Garofano of Essex.

House Bills Introduced

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

H. 945

By Rep. Campbell of St. Johnsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to hemp products

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

H. 946

By Rep. Logan of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the advertisement and costs of utilities under a residential rental agreement

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 947

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the requirement to implement a residential universal design building code

To the Committee on General and Housing.

H. 948

By Rep. Nugent of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to membership of the Retired Employees' Committee on Insurance

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 949

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to homestead property tax yields, the nonhomestead property tax rate, and technical changes to education finance

Pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, to the Committee on Appropriations.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

S. 189

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a process for reducing or eliminating hospital services

To the Committee on Health Care.

S. 203

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to penalties for second or subsequent violations of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 313

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to transforming Vermont's career technical education system

To the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

Ceremonial Reading**H.C.R. 168**

Offered by Representatives Steady of Milton, Micklus of Milton, Morgan, L. of Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, and Taylor of Milton

Offered by Senator Mattos

House concurrent resolution congratulating the members of Troop 60336 of Milton on earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award

Whereas, Girl Scout Troop 60336 of Milton, which is affiliated with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, annually applies the proceeds of its Girl Scout Cookie Program sales toward a worthy community project that makes a real difference in the town and demonstrates these girl scouts' leadership, teamwork, and commitment to helping others, and

Whereas, most recently, Troop 60336 constructed and installed a rain barrel system at the Milton Community Garden to create an easier and more accessible watering process, and

Whereas, the rain barrel is a container that collects rainwater and features a spigot at the bottom; this alternative watering method eliminates the necessity of dragging a heavy hose for a long distance, a more accessible option for persons with disabilities, and

Whereas, a critical component of this project is a set of six raised garden beds designed to support gardeners with disabilities or physical challenges, including persons who are wheelchair users, and

Whereas, registered Girl Scout Juniors who are enrolled in fourth or fifth grade and complete a Junior Journey, such as Troop 60336's community garden project, are eligible for the Bronze Award, the highest honor for this age category of Girl Scouts, and

Whereas, Troop 60336 members Cora-Lyn Fletcher, Josephine Herman, Alice Longo, Harper Gaboriault, Jillian Thompson, Arya Frank, and Faith Owen are deservedly proud recipients of the Girl Scout Bronze Award, in honor of their dedicated effort to develop the rain barrel service at the Milton Community Garden, and Brownie Vivian Fletcher, although not an award-eligible recipient, deserves special recognition for her participation in this worthy endeavor, and

Whereas, Troop 60336's co-leaders Victoria Herman, Jamie-Lyn Fletcher, and Willow Longo were essential for the success of this innovate initiative that will broaden the accessibility of the Milton Community Garden, *now therefore be it*

Resolved: That the General Assembly congratulates the members of Troop 60336 of Milton on earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Girl Scout Troop 60336.

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

Amendments Offered; Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 642

House bill, entitled

An act relating to youthful offender proceedings

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Boutin of Barre City** moved to amend the bill by inserting a new Sec. 3 and a Sec. 4 and Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 4, Secs. 5–9 are amended to read:

Sec. 5. [Deleted.]

Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

Sec. 7. [Deleted.]

Sec. 8. [Deleted.]

Sec. 9. [Deleted.]

Sec. 4. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 4, Sec. 11 is amended to read:

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICABILITY

(a) Secs. 1, 2, and 10 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b) Secs. 3 and 4 and this section shall take effect on March 31, 2025.

(c) ~~Secs. 5–9 shall take effect on July 1, 2027.~~ [Deleted.]

Sec. 5. REPEAL

2025 Acts and Resolves No. 4, Sec. 10 (Agency of Human Services Progress Reports) is repealed.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Boutin of Barre City?, **Rep. Higley of Lowell** 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 bill be amended as offered by Rep. Boutin of Barre City?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 53. Nays, 83.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, L. of Milton
Bosch of Clarendon	Greer of Bennington	Morrissey of Bennington
Boutin of Barre City	Gregoire of Fairfield	Nelson of Derby
Branagan of Georgia	Hango of Berkshire	Nielsen of Brandon
Brigham of St. Albans Town	Higley of Lowell	North of Ferrisburgh
Burditt of West Rutland	Howland of Rutland Town	Parsons of Newbury
Burt of Cabot	Kascenska of Burke	Pinsonault of Dorset
Canfield of Fair Haven	Keyser of Rutland City	Powers of Waterford
Casey of Hubbardton	Labor of Morgan	Pritchard of Pawlet
Charlton of Chester	Laroche of Franklin	Quimby of Lyndon
Coffin of Cavendish	Lipsky of Stowe	Southworth of Walden
Demar of Enosburgh	Luneau of St. Albans City	Sweeney of Shelburne
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Maguire of Rutland City	Tagliavia of Corinth
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Malay of Pittsford	Taylor of Milton
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Mendon
Feltus of Lyndon	McCoy of Poultney	Walker of Swanton
Galfetti of Barre Town *	McFaun of Barre Town	Wells of Brownington
	Micklus of Milton	Winter of Ludlow

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Eastes of Guilford	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Emmons of Springfield	Morris of Springfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Morrow of Weston
Berbeco of Winooski	Goldman of Rockingham	Mrowicki of Putney
Birong of Vergennes	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Nigro of Bennington
Bishop of Colchester	Graning of Jericho	Noyes of Wolcott
Black of Essex	Harple of Glover	Nugent of South Burlington
Bluemle of Burlington	Headrick of Burlington	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Holcombe of Norwich	Ode of Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Houghton of Essex Junction	Olson of Starksboro
Brady of Williston	Howard of Rutland City	Pezzo of Colchester
Brown of Richmond	Hunter of Manchester	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Priestley of Bradford
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Kimbell of Woodstock	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burrows of West Windsor	Kleppner of Burlington	Scheu of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sheldon of Middlebury
Casey of Montpelier	Krasnow of South Burlington	Sibilia of Dover
Chapin of East Montpelier	Lalley of Shelburne	Squirrell of Underhill
Cina of Burlington	LaLonde of South Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Cole of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Stone of Burlington
Conlon of Cornwall	Logan of Burlington	Tomlinson of Winooski
Cooper of Pownal	Long of Newfane	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	Lueders of Lincoln	Waszazak of Barre City *
Critchlow of Colchester	Masland of Thetford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolan of Essex Junction	McCann of Montpelier	White of Waitsfield
Donahue of Northfield *	McGill of Bridport	White of Bethel
Duke of Burlington		Wood of Waterbury
		Yacovone of Morristown

Durfee of Shaftsbury

Mihaly of Calais

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

Bailey of Hyde Park

Harvey of Castleton

Page of Newport City

Carris Duncan of

Hooper of Randolph

Rachelson of Burlington

Whitingham

Hoyt of Hartford

Steady of Milton

Christie of Hartford

Morgan, M. of Milton

Dodge of Essex

Oliver of Sheldon

Rep. Donahue of Northfield provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I believe there is an urgent need to revamp our convoluted systems for youth justice – from Raise the Age to Youthful Offender – to a single, clear system of addressing the needs both of accountability and with recognition of the impact of age. Clarity about ‘what will happen’ for a given crime is essential to an effective criminal justice system. However, the piecemeal impact of this amendment does not help to achieve this.”

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

“Madam Speaker:

Raising the age is a loophole used to facilitate criminal activity with impunity. While perhaps well-meaning in its intent, it is clear that criminal elements are now actively targeting and recruiting younger people and that is disturbing; this loophole must be closed.”

Rep. Waszazak of Barre City provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

Our criminal justice system in America is deeply broken. While public safety is a paramount responsibility of government, we shouldn’t use our youngest offenders as scapegoats, when poverty and desperation are the true offenders.”

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Maguire of Rutland City** moved to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 1, 33 V.S.A. § 5285, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof eight new sections to be Secs. 1–8 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 5204 is amended to read:

§ 5204. TRANSFER FROM FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SUPERIOR
COURT

(a) After a petition has been filed alleging delinquency, upon motion of the State's Attorney and after hearing, the Family Division of the Superior Court may transfer jurisdiction of the proceeding to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court if the child had attained 16 years of age but not 19 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred and the delinquent act set forth in the petition is a felony not specified in subdivisions (1)–~~(11)~~(14) of this subsection or if the child had attained 12 years of age but not 14 16 years of age at the time the act was alleged to have occurred, and if the delinquent act set forth in the petition was any of the following:

(1) arson causing death as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 501 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(2) assault and robbery with a dangerous weapon as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 608(b) or an attempt to commit that offense;

(3) assault and robbery causing bodily injury as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 608(c) or an attempt to commit that offense;

(4) aggravated assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1024 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(5) murder as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2301 and aggravated murder as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2311 or an attempt to commit either of those offenses;

(6) manslaughter as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2304 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(7) kidnapping as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2405 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(8) unlawful restraint as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2406 or 2407 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(9) maiming as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2701 or an attempt to commit that offense;

(10) sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3252(a)(1) or (a)(2) or an attempt to commit that offense; ~~or~~

(11) aggravated sexual assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3253 and aggravated sexual assault of a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 3253a or an attempt to commit either of those offenses;

(12) aggravated stalking as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1063(a)(3) or an attempt to commit that offense;

(13) first degree aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1043 or second degree aggravated domestic assault as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 1044 or an attempt to commit either of those offenses; or

(14) lewd or lascivious conduct as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2601 or lewd or lascivious conduct with a child as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 2602 or an attempt to commit either of those offenses.

* * *

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 5280 is amended to read:

§ 5280. COMMENCEMENT OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDER

~~PROCEEDINGS IN THE FAMILY DIVISION~~

(a) A youthful offender proceeding under this chapter shall be commenced by:

(1) the filing of a youthful offender petition by a State's Attorney in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court; or

~~(2) transfer to the Family Court of a proceeding from the Criminal Division of the Superior Court as provided in section 5281 of this title~~ the filing of a motion in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court by the State's Attorney, the defendant, or the court on its own motion requesting that a defendant in a criminal proceeding who has attained 14 years of age but not 22 years of age at the time the offense is alleged to have been committed be treated as a youthful offender.

~~(b) A State's Attorney may commence a proceeding in the Family Division of the Superior Court concerning a child who is alleged to have committed an offense after attaining 14 years of age but not 22 years of age that could otherwise be filed in the Criminal Division.~~

(1) Upon the filing of a petition or a motion under subdivision (a)(1) or (2) of this section and the entering of a conditional plea of guilty by the youth, the Criminal Division of the Superior Court shall enter an order deferring the sentence and hold a hearing on the motion. If the youth declines to enter a conditional plea, youthful offender status shall be denied.

(2) As used in this subsection, "conditional plea of guilty" means agreement by the parties to a plea arrangement that:

(A) includes outcomes for successful and unsuccessful youthful offender rehabilitation program completion; and

(B) is conditioned on the granting of youthful offender status that may be withdrawn in the event that youthful offender status is denied.

(c) If a State's Attorney files a petition under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the The case shall proceed as provided under subsection 5281(b) of this title. Except as provided in subdivision 5283(c)(2) of this title, upon the commencement of a youthful offender proceeding, and after hearing from the parties and the victim, the court may close future proceedings until youthful offender status is denied or revoked if it finds for good cause shown that safeguarding the physical and psychological well-being of a youth under 18 years of age outweighs the public's interest in open proceedings. The court shall make specific findings on the record supporting an order under this subsection.

(d)(1) Within 15 days after the Upon commencement of a youthful offender proceeding pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the court shall notify the youth that the youth is required to complete a risk and needs screening, which shall be conducted by the Department or by a community provider that has contracted with the Department to provide risk and needs screenings. The notice shall inform the youth that youthful offender status may be denied if the youth fails to participate in the risk and needs screening.

(2) The risk and needs screening shall be completed prior to the youthful offender status hearing held pursuant to section 5283 of this title. Unless the court extends the period for the risk and needs screening for good cause shown, the Family Division court shall reject the case for youthful offender treatment if the youth does not complete the risk and needs screening within 15 days after the offer for the risk and needs screening.

(3) The Department or the community provider shall report the risk level result of the screening, the number and source of the collateral contacts made, and the recommendation for charging or other alternatives to the State's Attorney.

(4) Information related to the present alleged offense directly or indirectly derived from the risk and needs screening or other conversation with the Department or community-based provider shall not be used against the youth in the youth's criminal or juvenile case for any purpose, including impeachment or cross-examination. However, the fact of participation in risk and needs screening may be used in subsequent proceedings.

(e) The State's Attorney shall may refer a youth directly to court diversion a youth alleged to have committed any offense other than those specified in subsection 5204(a) of this title who presents a low to moderate risk to reoffend based on the results of the risk and needs screening, unless the State's Attorney

~~states on the record at the hearing held pursuant to section 5283 of this title why a referral would not serve the ends of justice. If the court diversion program does not accept the case or if the youth fails to complete the program in a manner deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the youth's case shall return to the State's Attorney for charging consideration.~~

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 5281 is amended to read:

§ 5281. MOTION PROCEDURES IN CRIMINAL DIVISION OF SUPERIOR COURT

~~(a) A motion may be filed in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court requesting that a defendant under 22 years of age in a criminal proceeding who had attained 12 years of age but not 22 years of age at the time the offense is alleged to have been committed be treated as a youthful offender. The motion may be filed by the State's Attorney, the defendant, or the court on its own motion.~~

~~(b) Unless the State's Attorney refers the youth directly to court diversion pursuant to subsection 5280(e) of this title, upon the filing of a motion under this section or the filing of a youthful offender petition pursuant to section 5280 of this title, the Family Division court shall hold a hearing pursuant to section 5283 of this title. Pursuant to section 5110 of this title, the hearing shall be confidential as provided in section 5280 of this title. Copies of all records relating to the case shall be forwarded to the Family Division. Conditions of release and any Department of Corrections supervision or custody shall remain in effect until:~~

~~(1) the Family Division accepts the case for treatment as a youthful offender and orders conditions of juvenile probation pursuant to section 5284 of this title;~~

~~(2) any conditions of release or bail are modified, amended, or vacated pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 229; or~~

~~(3) the case is otherwise concluded.~~

~~(e)(b)(1) If the Family Division rejects the case for youthful offender treatment pursuant to section 5284 of this title, the case shall be transferred to the Criminal Division. The conditions of release imposed by the Criminal Division shall remain in effect, and the case shall proceed as though the motion for youthful offender treatment or youthful offender petition had not been filed.~~

(2) Subject to Rule 11 of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Vermont Rules of Evidence, the Family Division's court's denial of the motion for youthful offender treatment and any information related to the youthful offender proceeding shall be inadmissible against the youth for any purpose in the subsequent Criminal Division proceeding.

~~(d)~~(c) If the Family Division accepts the case for youthful offender treatment, the case shall proceed to a confidential merits hearing or admission pursuant to sections 5227-5229 of this title the youth shall not be permitted to withdraw the youth's plea of guilty after youthful offender status is approved except to correct manifest injustice pursuant to Rule 32(d) of the Vermont Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 5282 is amended to read:

§ 5282. ~~REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT~~

~~(a) Within 30 days after the youth has completed the risk and needs screening pursuant to section 5280 of this title, unless the court extends the period for good cause shown or the State's Attorney refers the youth directly to court diversion pursuant to subsection 5280(e) of this title, the Department for Children and Families shall file a report with the Family Division of the Superior Court.~~

~~(b) A report filed pursuant to this section shall include the following elements:~~

~~(1) a recommendation as to whether diversion is appropriate for the youth because the youth is a low to moderate risk to reoffend;~~

~~(2) a recommendation as to whether youthful offender status is appropriate for the youth; and~~

~~(3) a description of the services that may be available for the youth.~~

~~(c) A report filed pursuant to this section is privileged and shall not be disclosed to any person other than:~~

~~(1) the Department;~~

~~(2) the court;~~

~~(3) the State's Attorney;~~

~~(4) the youth, the youth's attorney, and the youth's guardian ad litem;~~

~~(5) the youth's parent, guardian, or custodian if the youth is under 18 years of age, unless the court finds that disclosure would be contrary to the best interests of the child;~~

~~(6) the Department of Corrections; or~~

~~(7) any other person when the court determines that the best interests of the youth would make such a disclosure desirable or helpful. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 5283 is amended to read:

§ 5283. DISPOSITION HEARING IN FAMILY DIVISION

(a) Timeline. Unless the State's Attorney refers the youth directly to court diversion pursuant to subsection 5280(e) of this title, a youthful offender ~~consideration~~ disposition hearing shall be held not later than ~~60 days after the transfer of the case from the Criminal Division or filing of a youthful offender petition in the Family Division~~ 45 days after the filing of a motion or the filing of a youthful offender petition under section 5280 of this title.

(b) Notice. Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the State's Attorney; the youth; the youth's parent, guardian, or custodian; the victim; the Department; and the Department of Corrections. The court shall not exclude any victim from the proceeding or any portion of it unless, after hearing from the parties and the victim, the court makes a finding on the record of good cause. As used in this subsection, "victim" means a person who is the victim of a crime for which a youth is charged; a parent, guardian, or legal representative of the victim; or a victim's advocate.

(c) Hearing procedure.

(1) If the motion is contested, all parties shall have the right to present evidence and examine witnesses. Hearsay may be admitted and may be relied on to the extent of its probative value. If reports are admitted, the parties shall be afforded an opportunity to examine those persons making the reports, but sources of confidential information need not be disclosed.

(2) For individuals who had attained 18 years of age but not 22 years of age at the time the act is alleged to have been committed, hearings under 5284(a) of this title shall be open to the public. ~~All other youthful offender proceedings shall be confidential.~~

(d) Burden of proof. The burden of proof shall be on the moving party to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that a child should be granted youthful offender status. If the court makes the motion, the burden shall be on the youth.

(e) Further hearing. On its own motion or the motion of a party, the court may schedule a further hearing within not more than 10 business days to obtain reports or other information necessary for the appropriate disposition of the case.

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 5284 is amended to read:

§ 5284. YOUTHFUL OFFENDER DETERMINATION AND DISPOSITION
ORDER

(a)(1) In a hearing on a motion or petition for youthful offender status, the court shall first consider whether public safety will be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender. If the court finds that public safety will not be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall deny the motion and transfer the case to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court pursuant to subsection 5281(d) of this title, the conditions of release imposed by the Criminal Division shall remain in effect, and the case shall proceed as though the motion or petition for youthful offender treatment had not been filed. If the court finds that public safety will be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall proceed to make a determination under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) When determining whether public safety will be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender, the court shall consider, on the basis of the evidence admitted:

(A) the nature and circumstances of the charge and whether violence was involved;

(B) the youth's mental health treatment history and needs;

(C) the youth's substance abuse history and needs;

(D) the youth's residential housing status;

(E) the youth's employment and educational situation;

(F) whether the youth has complied with conditions of release;

(G) the youth's criminal record and whether the youth has engaged in subsequent criminal or delinquent behavior since the original charge;

(H) whether supervising the youth on youthful offender probation is appropriate considering the nature of the charged offense and the age and specialized needs of the youth;

(I) whether the youth has previously not successfully completed youthful offender treatment or otherwise had youthful offender status revoked;

(J) whether the youth has connections to the community; and

~~(J)~~(K) the youth's history of violence and history of illegal or violent conduct involving firearms or other deadly weapons.

(b)(1) The court shall deny the motion if the court finds that:

(A) public safety will not be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender;

(B) the youth is not amenable to treatment or rehabilitation as a youthful offender; or

~~(B)~~(C) there are insufficient services in the juvenile court system and the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections to meet the youth's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

(2) The court shall grant the motion if the court finds that:

(A) public safety will be protected by treating the youth as a youthful offender;

(B) the youth is amenable to treatment or rehabilitation as a youthful offender; and

~~(B)~~(C) there are sufficient services in the juvenile court system and the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections to meet the youth's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

(c)(1) If the court approves the motion for youthful offender treatment after an adjudication pursuant to subsection 5281(d) of this title, the court:

(A) shall place the youth on conditions of probation pursuant to 28 V.S.A. chapter 5, or such additional conditions imposed by the court, provided that the requirements of this subdivision (A) may be satisfied by entering the single condition of probation required under subdivision (C) of this subdivision (c)(1);

(B) shall approve a disposition case plan and impose conditions of juvenile probation on the youth; and

(C) shall include as a condition of probation adherence to the disposition case plan approved by the court; and

~~(B)~~(D) may transfer legal custody of the youth to a parent, relative, person with a significant relationship with the youth, or Commissioner for Children and Families, provided that any transfer of custody shall expire on the youth's 18th birthday.

(2) Prior to the approval of a disposition case plan, the court may refer a child directly to a youth-appropriate community-based provider that has been approved by the department and ~~which that~~ may include a community justice center or a balanced and restorative justice program. Referral to a community-based provider pursuant to this subdivision shall not require the court to place

the child on probation. If the community-based provider does not accept the case or if the child fails to complete the program in a manner deemed satisfactory and timely by the provider, the child shall return to the court for further proceedings, including the imposition of the disposition order.

(d)(1) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections shall be responsible for supervision of and providing services to the youth until ~~the youth reaches 22 years of age~~ the earlier of:

(A) the youth successfully completing treatment and supervision; or

(B) the revocation of the youth's youthful offender designation pursuant to section 5285 of this title.

(2) ~~Both Departments~~ the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections shall designate a case manager who together shall appoint a lead ~~Department~~ department to have final decision-making authority over the case plan and the provision of services to the youth. The youth shall be eligible for appropriate community-based programming and services provided by ~~both Departments~~ the Agency of Human Services.

Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 5285 is amended to read:

§ 5285. MODIFICATION OR REVOCATION OF DISPOSITION

(a) If it appears that the youth has violated the terms of juvenile probation ordered by the court pursuant to subdivision 5284(c)(1) of this title, a motion for modification or revocation of youthful offender status may be filed in the Family Division of the Superior Court. The court shall set the motion for hearing ~~as soon as practicable~~ within 10 business days. The hearing may be joined with a hearing on a violation of conditions of probation under section 5265 of this title. ~~A~~ Consistent with the procedures of 28 V.S.A. § 301, a supervising juvenile or adult probation officer may detain in an adult facility a youthful offender who has attained 18 years of age for violating conditions of probation. A youthful offender who has not attained 18 years of age may be detained in a facility for juveniles pursuant to section 5266 of this title. A youthful offender who is detained prior to attaining 18 years of age may be transferred to an adult facility after the offender attains 18 years of age.

(b) A hearing under this section shall be held in accordance with section 5268 of this title.

(c) If the court finds after the hearing that the youth has violated the terms of ~~his or her~~ the youth's probation, the court may:

(1) maintain the youth's status as a youthful offender, with modified conditions of juvenile probation if the court deems it appropriate;

(2) revoke the youth's status as a youthful offender ~~and transfer the case with a record of the petition, affidavit, adjudication, disposition, and revocation to the Criminal Division for sentencing;~~ or

(3) transfer supervision of the youth to the Department of Corrections with all of the powers and authority of the Department and the Commissioner under Title 28, including graduated sanctions and electronic monitoring.

(d) If a youth's status as a youthful offender is revoked ~~and the case is transferred to the Criminal Division~~ pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section, the court shall ~~enter a conviction of guilty based on the admission to or finding of merits,~~ hold a sentencing hearing, and impose sentence in accordance with the conditional plea agreed to under subsection 5280(c) of this title. Unless it serves the ~~interest~~ interests of justice, the case shall not be transferred back to the Family Division pursuant to section 5203 of this title. When determining an appropriate sentence, the court may take into consideration the youth's degree of progress toward or regression from rehabilitation while on youthful offender status. The Criminal Division shall have access to all Family Division records of the proceeding.

Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 5286 is amended to read:

§ 5286. REVIEW PRIOR TO 18 YEARS OF AGE

(a) If a youth is on probation as a youthful offender prior to reaching 18 years of age, the ~~Family Division~~ court shall review the youth's case before ~~he or she~~ the youth reaches 18 years of age and set a hearing to determine whether the court's jurisdiction over the youth should be continued past 18 years of age. The hearing may be joined with a motion to terminate youthful offender status under section 5285 of this title. The court shall provide notice and an opportunity to be heard at the hearing to the State's Attorney, the youth, the Department for Children and Families, and the Department of Corrections.

(b) After receiving a notice of review under this section, the State may file a motion to modify or revoke pursuant to section 5285 of this title. If such a motion is filed, it shall be consolidated with the review under this section and all options provided for under section 5285 of this title shall be available to the court.

(c) The following reports shall be filed with the court prior to the hearing:

(1) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections shall jointly report their recommendations, with supporting justifications, as to whether the ~~Family Division~~ court should continue jurisdiction over the youth past 18 years of age and, if continued jurisdiction is

recommended, propose a case plan for the youth to ensure compliance with and completion of the juvenile disposition.

(2) If the ~~Departments~~ departments recommend continued supervision of the youthful offender past 18 years of age, the ~~Departments~~ departments shall report on the services that would be available for the youth.

(d) If the court finds that it is in the best interests of the youth and consistent with community safety to continue the case past 18 years of age, it shall make an order continuing the court's jurisdiction up to 22 years of age. The Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections shall jointly develop a case plan for the youth and coordinate services and share information to ensure compliance with and completion of the juvenile youthful offender disposition.

(e) If the court finds that it is not in the best interests of the youth to continue the case past 18 years of age, it shall terminate the disposition order, discharge the youth, and dismiss the case in accordance with subsection 5287(c) of this title.

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Maguire of Rutland City?, **Rep. Maguire of Rutland City** 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 bill be amended as offered by Rep. Maguire of Rutland City?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 52. Nays, 85.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Bartley of Fairfax	Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, M. of Milton
Bosch of Clarendon	Gregoire of Fairfield	Morrissey of Bennington
Boutin of Barre City	Hango of Berkshire	Nelson of Derby
Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Nielsen of Brandon
Brigham of St. Albans Town	Howland of Rutland Town	North of Ferrisburgh
Burditt of West Rutland	Kascenska of Burke	Parsons of Newbury
Burt of Cabot	Keyser of Rutland City	Pinsonault of Dorset
Canfield of Fair Haven	Labor of Morgan	Powers of Waterford
Casey of Hubbardton	Laroche of Franklin	Pritchard of Pawlet
Charlton of Chester	Lipsky of Stowe	Quimby of Lyndon
Coffin of Cavendish	Luneau of St. Albans City	Southworth of Walden
Demar of Enosburgh	Maguire of Rutland City	Tagliavia of Corinth
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Malay of Pittsford	Taylor of Milton
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Mendon
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCoy of Poultney	Walker of Swanton
Feltus of Lyndon	McFaun of Barre Town	Wells of Brownington
Galfetti of Barre Town	Micklus of Milton	Winter of Ludlow
	Morgan, L. of Milton	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston *	Emmons of Springfield	Morris of Springfield
Austin of Colchester	Garofano of Essex	Morrow of Weston
Bartholomew of Hartland	Goldman of Rockingham	Mrowicki of Putney
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	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pezzo of Colchester
Brady of Williston	Howard of Rutland City	Pouech of Hinesburg
Brown of Richmond	Hunter of Manchester	Priestley of Bradford
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Kimbell of Woodstock	Scheu of Middlebury
Burrows of West Windsor	Kleppner of Burlington	Sheldon of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Sibilia of Dover
Casey of Montpelier	Krasnow of South Burlington	Squirrell of Underhill
Chapin of East Montpelier	Lalley of Shelburne	Stevens of Waterbury
Cina of Burlington	LaLonde of South Burlington	Stone of Burlington
Cole of Hartford	LaMont of Morristown	Sweeney of Shelburne
Conlon of Cornwall	Logan of Burlington	Tomlinson of Winooski
Cooper of Pownal	Long of Newfane	Torre of Moretown
Corcoran of Bennington	Lueders of Lincoln	Waszazak of Barre City
Critchlow of Colchester	Masland of Thetford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolan of Essex Junction	McCann of Montpelier	White of Waitsfield
Donahue of Northfield	McGill of Bridport	White of Bethel
Duke of Burlington	Mihaly of Calais	Wood of Waterbury
Durfee of Shaftsbury	Minier of South Burlington	Yacovone of Morristown
Eastes of Guilford		

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

Bailey of Hyde Park	Dodge of Essex	Oliver of Sheldon
Carris Duncan of Whitingham	Harvey of Castleton	Page of Newport City
Christie of Hartford	Hooper of Randolph	Rachelson of Burlington
	Hoyt of Hartford	Steady of Milton

Rep Arsenault of Williston provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

We must not confuse punishment with accountability. Youthful offender status aligns with Vermont’s statutory requirement to provide young people with rehabilitative services and improves public safety – as evidenced by the remarkable low recidivism rates. We must also avoid making decisions rooted in the misguided assumption that our criminal justice system works. It does not.”

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

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 930

House bill, entitled

An act relating to addressing and preventing chronic absenteeism

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier** moved to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. chapter 25, subchapter 3, in subsection 1124(a), following the words “prevention of chronic absenteeism and truancy” by inserting “, which shall include specific provisions for how to address the absence of a child with a disability, as that term is defined in subdivision 2942(1) of this title, in accordance with applicable State and federal law”

Which was agreed to.

Thereafter, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Burrows of West Windsor and LaMont of Morristown** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. chapter 25, subchapter 3, in subdivision 1123(a)(11), following “or legal guardian;” by striking out the word “or”

Second: In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. chapter 25, subchapter 3, in subsection 1123(a), by striking out subdivision (12) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (12) and a subdivision (13) to read as follows:

(12) incidents of hazing, harassment, or bullying; or

(13) other reasons not specified in subdivisions (1)–(12) of this subsection with approval of the superintendent of a public school or designee or the head of school of an approved independent school or designee.

Third: In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. chapter 25, subchapter 3, in subsection 1124(a), following the words “prevention of chronic absenteeism and truancy” by inserting “, and which shall include guidance that emphasizes the importance of tailored responses to all students struggling with safety and emotional issues and shall emphasize emotional, academic, and social support to facilitate a successful reintegration for returning students. The policy shall include protocols to respond effectively to bullying and harassment, acknowledging the unique aspects of each case, including best practices for reentry into education spaces”

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

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 294**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to commissary and telecommunications prices in State correctional facilities and fair compensation for incarcerated labor

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Cina of Burlington and Donahue of Northfield** moved to amend the bill in Sec. 2, Department of Corrections; evaluation of telecommunications services; report, in subsection (b), by inserting a new subdivision to be subdivision (5) to read as follows:

(5) incarcerated Vermonters, formerly incarcerated Vermonters, and organizations representing incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals;

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct.

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

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 410

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the calculation of recidivism and other related criminology measures

H. 537

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the right to grow vegetable gardens

H. 583

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health care financial transactions and clinical decision making

H. 660

House bill, entitled

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

H. 739

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting the use and sale of the herbicide paraquat

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 817**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Berbeco of Winooski**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 940

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous public utility subjects

H. 942

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Bill Amended;
Third Reading Ordered****H. 928**

Rep. Pritchard of Pawlet spoke for the Committee on Environment.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes

Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. § 4255, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

(a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

(1) Fishing license	\$28.00
(2) Hunting license	\$28.00
(3) Combination hunting and fishing license	\$47.00
(4) Big game licenses (all require a hunting license)	
(A) archery license	\$23.00
(B) muzzle loader license	\$23.00
(C) turkey license	\$23.00
(D) [Repealed.]	
(E) [Repealed.]	
(F) moose license	\$100.00
(G) bear tag	\$5.00
(H) additional deer archery tag	\$23.00
(5) Trapping license	\$23.00
(6) Hunting license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$8.00
(7) Trapping license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$10.00
(8) Fishing license for persons 15 through 17 years of age	\$8.00
(9) Super sport license	\$150.00
(10) Three-day fishing license	\$11.00
(11) Combination hunting and fishing license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$12.00
(12) Mentored hunting license	\$10.00

* * *

(o) If the Board determines that it is necessary to issue or require additional big game tags or big game permits that are not otherwise identified in this section, the Department may issue such tags and permits and may assess a provisional fee for such tags and permits of not more than the lowest fee for a big game tag as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The Department shall seek legislative approval of the provisional fee pursuant to 32 V.S.A.

§ 603 within one year following the Department's assessment of the fee. The Department's failure to obtain legislative approval of the provisional fee shall void the provisional fee and the Department shall not assess a new provisional fee for the same big game tag or big game permit.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Reps. Kimbell of Woodstock, Canfield of Fair Haven, and Kornheiser of Brattleboro, moved to substitute an amendment for the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. § 4255, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 4255 is amended to read:

§ 4255. LICENSE FEES

(a) Vermont residents may apply for licenses on forms provided by the Commissioner. Fees for each license shall be:

(1) Fishing license	\$28.00
(2) Hunting license	\$28.00
(3) Combination hunting and fishing license	\$47.00
(4) Big game licenses (all require a hunting license)	
(A) archery license	\$23.00
(B) muzzle loader license	\$23.00
(C) turkey license	\$23.00
(D) [Repealed.]	
(E) [Repealed.]	
(F) moose license	\$100.00
(G) bear tag	\$5.00
(H) additional deer archery tag	\$23.00
(5) Trapping license	\$23.00
(6) Hunting license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$8.00
(7) Trapping license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$10.00
(8) Fishing license for persons 15 through 17 years of age	\$8.00
(9) Super sport license	\$150.00

(10) Three-day fishing license	\$11.00
(11) Combination hunting and fishing license for persons 17 years of age or under	\$12.00
(12) Mentored hunting license	\$10.00

* * *

(o) If the Board determines that it is necessary to issue or require additional big game tags or big game permits that are not otherwise identified in this section, the Department may issue such tags and permits and may assess a provisional fee for such tags and permits at an amount equal or similar to the fee for the same big game. The Department shall seek legislative approval of the provisional fee pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 603 within one year following the Department's assessment of the fee. The Department's failure to obtain legislative approval of the provisional fee shall void the provisional fee and the Department shall not assess a new provisional fee for the same big game tag or big game permit.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, as substituted, was agreed to and third reading was ordered.

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 932

Rep. Lipsky of Stowe spoke for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the regulation of forestry under Act 250

Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill ought to pass.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 30

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 bills of the following titles:

S. 138. An act relating to commercial property-assessed clean energy projects.

S. 181. An act relating to eliminating the requirement for a presentence investigation for imposition of a deferred sentence.

S. 206. An act relating to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of Professional Regulation.

S. 219. An act relating to an energy navigator program report.

S. 239. An act relating to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Working Group.

S. 291. An act relating to travel disclosures for legislators and certain executive officers.

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

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

H.C.R. 227. House concurrent resolution in memory of Alice June Abraham.

H.C.R. 228. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ryan Kilborn on his selection as the recipient of the Vermont Forest Products Association Outstanding Management of Resources award.

H.C.R. 229. House concurrent resolution in memory of respected legal community leader, linguist, and musician Robert D. Rachlin.

Adjournment

At eleven o'clock and fifty minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 45.

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. 227

House concurrent resolution in memory of Alice June Abraham

H.C.R. 228

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ryan Kilborn on his selection as the recipient of the Vermont Forest Products Association Outstanding Management of Resources award

H.C.R. 229

House concurrent resolution in memory of respected legal community leader, linguist, and musician Robert D. Rachlin

[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.]