

Journal of the House

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Pastor Abraham Gross, Cavendish Baptist Church, Cavendish.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Shepherd Finch of Chester led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the House of Representatives that on the 6th day of April, 2026, he signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

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

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 239

Offered by All Members of the House

House concurrent resolution congratulating the winning teams at the 18th annual Jr Iron Chef VT culinary extravaganza

Whereas, Jr Iron Chef VT, convened most recently on March 14, 2026, at the Champlain Valley Exposition, provides an ideal opportunity to promote the agricultural, economic, educational, and nutritional benefits of Vermont's Farm to School initiative, while the aspiring chefs learn the importance of collaboration and explore a potential career option, and

Whereas, since 2008, over 5,000 secondary school students cooking on more than 1,000 teams have competed, and, in 2026, 55 teams consisting of 253 students and representing 37 schools or organizations participated, and

Whereas, each team, competing in either a middle school or high school cohort, vied for three honors: Lively Local, recognizing the team that best highlighted Vermont foods; Mise en Place, showcasing the team that exhibited exemplary teamwork, order, and professionalism; and Crowd Pleaser, bestowing credit on the team that best incorporated color, texture, and taste, and the award recipients, including their school name, team name, and culinary creations, in 2026 were as follows:

Lively Local: Mary Hogan School, Gourmet Hawks, Vermont country risotto with maple cream and black currant compote; First Branch Middle School, Deviled Chefs, curry-flavored fettucine; and Mt. Mansfield Union High School, MMU Wild Pestonians, pesto fettuccine with portobello mushrooms, caramelized onions, and lemon ricotta;

Mise en Place: Mt. Abraham Unified School District Expanded Learning Program, Bald Eagles, three-cheese ravioli with oven-roasted tomato sauce; Derby Elementary School, Sweet Heats, BLT tamales with pickle pesto and sweet heat sauce; and Lake Region Union High School, Roger's Raccoons, "Raccoons Gone Curry-ous"; and

Crowd Pleaser: Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, ADL PMO casserole with hot honey; Winooski Middle School, Wild Chives, "Cafeteria Gone Wild Corn Dogs"; and Champlain Valley Union High School, the Llinis, sweet potato tortellini with miso butter sauce, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the winning teams at the 18th annual Jr Iron Chef VT culinary extravaganza, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each winning team and to Vermont Afterschool.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 3, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

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

S. 232

Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries

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

Message from the Senate No. 39

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 considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 84. An act relating to allowing telehealth appointments to be recorded with patient and provider consent.

H. 540. An act relating to the recommendations of the Post-Adjudication Reparative Program Working Group.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

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

J.R.S. 48. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 10, 2026.

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

Third Reading; Bill Passed**H. 952**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

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

Committee Appointment Changes

The Speaker announced the following changes to the Committee on Health Care, due to the resignation of Rep. McFaun of Barre Town:

Rep. Berbeco of Winooski is designated Vice Chair

Rep. Taylor of Mendon is designated Ranking Member

House Discrimination Prevention Panel Appointment

Pursuant to House Rule 90(a), the House Rules Committee appointed the following member to the House Discrimination Prevention Panel, due to the resignation of Rep. McFaun of Barre Town:

Rep. Pinsonault of Dorset

Adjournment

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