

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 9, 2026

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by outgoing Vermont Cartoonist Laureate Tillie Walden of Norwich and new Vermont Cartoonist Laureate Steve Bissette of Windsor.

Message from the Governor

“April 8, 2026

The Honorable Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-2301

Dear Speaker Krowinski:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed David Soucy of Barre Town, Vermont to serve in the General Assembly representing House District Washington-Orange.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/fc

cc: Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House”

New Member Announced, Seated, and Appointed to Committee

Rep. Soucy of Barre Town, who was recently appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rep. McFaun of Barre Town, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was seated and then appointed by the Speaker to the Committee on Health Care.

Ceremonial Readings**H.C.R. 227**

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Sibia of Dover, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Charlton of Chester, Eastes of Guilford, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, Nigro of Bennington, Pinsonault of Dorset, and Pritchard of Pawlet

Offered by Senator Bongartz

House concurrent resolution in memory of Alice June Abraham

Whereas, born in Washington, DC, the musically talented Alice Abraham was a member of the DC Youth Orchestra; she graduated from the Canterbury School in Maryland; she majored in music composition at Bennington College, where she composed Kaeru for the Sage City Symphony, a community ensemble in North Bennington; and she earned a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts, having interned at the Library of Congress, and

Whereas, for 21 years (1990–2011), she served as the knowledgeable and respected music librarian at public radio stations WGBH-WCRB in Boston, Massachusetts, where her colleagues elected her as vice president of the local chapter of the Association of Employees of the Educational Foundation/Communications Workers of America union (AEEF/CWA), and

Whereas, from Boston, Alice Abraham embarked on a new career; returning to southern Vermont, she became projects manager at the Collaborative, a nonprofit organization that “promote[s] healthy communities and substance-free youth,” and

Whereas, in her new hometown of Jamaica, Alice Abraham was an enthusiastic community volunteer, serving on the boards of the Jamaica Memorial Library, to which she contributed her professional expertise; the Senior Solutions organization; and the Jamaica Historical Foundation, and

Whereas, the collegial, compassionate, and vibrant life of Alice Abraham tragically ended prematurely on June 28, 2025, at 64 years of age, and her survivors include her wife of 28 years, Christina Healy; her stepsons; and her extended family, and her death saddened many admiring friends, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly extends its sincere condolences to the family of Alice June Abraham, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the family of Alice Abraham and to the Collaborative.

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

H.C.R. 234

Offered by Representative Noyes of Wolcott

House concurrent resolution designating April 9, 2026, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House

Whereas, "dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that [is] severe enough to interfere with daily life," and Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, is a progressive disease, and

Whereas, in 2025, over 12,000 Vermonters were living with Alzheimer's and 20,000 caregivers provided 29 million hours of unpaid care, valued at \$773 million, and

Whereas, dementia caregivers report higher rates of emotional, physical, and financial stress than do caregivers of individuals with other types of illnesses, and

Whereas, more than one in five caregivers in Vermont are providing care to an individual with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, and

Whereas, over 10 percent of dementia caregivers in Vermont report being in frequent poor physical health, and, nationally, a significant percentage report problems due to the state of their mental health, and

Whereas, Vermont has prioritized support for dementia caregivers through the Dementia Respite Grant program that the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Area Agencies on Aging jointly administer, and

Whereas, the Dementia Respite Grant program allows dementia caregivers to have a brief break to take care of their own needs and to reduce caregiver burnout, and, importantly, this initiative aims to keep individuals in their communities and helps to defer the necessity of Medicaid support for as long as possible, and

Whereas, today, April 9, 2026, family members, caregivers, and medical professionals are gathered at the State House to inform the General Assembly of the financial, personal, and societal implications of Alzheimer's disease in Vermont, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 9, 2026, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 27, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 240

Offered by Representatives Bartholomew of Hartland and Burrows of West Windsor

House concurrent resolution congratulating Stephen R. Bissette on his designation as the sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate

Whereas, in a nationally unique collaboration between the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction and the Vermont Arts Council, the Vermont Cartoonist Laureate program advances the recognition of comics as a distinctive and powerful artistic medium, spanning graphic novels, journalism, children's literature, and other forms of storytelling, and

Whereas, the graphic artists previously so honored were James Kochalka, Ed Koren, Alison Bechdel, Rick Veitch, and, most recently, Tillie Walden, and

Whereas, the newly designated sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate is Stephen R. Bissette of Windsor, a Waterbury native and a 1973 graduate of Harwood Union High School (and a 2025 inductee into the school's hall of fame), and, professionally, he is a proud alumnus of the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art's first graduating class, an internationally recognized and honored cartoonist and publisher, a dedicated artists' advocate who was a signatory of the 1988 Creator's Bill of Rights, and a founding faculty member of the Center for Cartoon Studies, and

Whereas, in 1976, prior to enrolling at the Kubert School, Stephen R. Bissette began his comics publishing career with *Abyss*, and his reputation as a leading comic book artist and groundbreaking contributor to the medium's horror genre were confirmed when he served as the cocreator and an artist (with Alan Moore and John Totleben) of *Saga of the Swamp Thing*, a comic series that introduced the enduring character of John Constantine, and

Whereas, his career contributions to comic book creation and publication have ranged from the dinosaur epic *Tyrant*, the adaptation of Steven Spielberg's film *1941* as a graphic novel, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* projects, and as the cocreator and coeditor (again, in collaboration with John

Totleben) of the influential *Taboo* anthology, and he introduced an important outlet for independent comic book publishing and a home for boundary-pushing creators, and

Whereas, Stephen R. Bissette, whose graphic artistry has extended to many unique applications, is the winner of top professional honors, including multiple Jack Kirby Comics Industry Awards, the Inkpot Award, and the Eisner Award, all outstanding credentials for this career recognition, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Stephen R. Bissette on his designation as the sixth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Stephen R. Bissette, the Center for Cartoon Studies, and the Vermont Arts Council.

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

Action on Bill Postponed

S. 163

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the role of advanced practice registered nurses in hospital care

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Black of Essex**, action on the bill was postponed two legislative days.

Second Reading; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered

S. 181

Rep. Arsenault of Williston, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

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

Reported in favor of its passage when amended in concurrence with proposal of amendment in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 7041, by inserting a new subdivision to be subdivision (a)(3) to read as follows:

(3) If the offense is not a listed crime as provided in subdivision 5301(7) of this title, the court may, at its discretion, order a presentence investigation.

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

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered

S. 183

Rep. LaLonde of South Burlington, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence. The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 801, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, due to the resignation of Rep. McFaun of Barre Town:

Rep. Taylor of Mendon

Message from the Senate No. 40

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 House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 210. An act relating to access to autopsy reports.

And has concurred therein.

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

H. 508. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington.

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

Adjournment

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