

Journal of the House

Friday, April 17, 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 Peter Gould, writer and theater director, Brattleboro.

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. Stephen A. Carr of Brandon	Member of the House, Sessions of 2013-2018
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Thereupon, the members of the House held a moment of silence in memory of the deceased member.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 248

Offered by Representative Southworth of Walden

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hazen Union High School Wildcats Division III championship boys' basketball team

Whereas, the Hazen boys' basketball team has established an enviable record on the court, appearing in each of the most recent five championship games at the Barre Auditorium, but despite great efforts, it had not brought home the title in 2023, 2024, or 2025, so in 2026, the Wildcats were determined to end the season triumphantly, and

Whereas, in the decisive contest, the second-seeded Wildcats were paired against the top-ranked Randolph Galloping Ghosts, challenging the Hazen hoopsters to prove themselves worthy of this athletic honor, and

Whereas, although the Galloping Ghosts dominated early on, building a 28–26 halftime lead, the Wildcats signaled their readiness to surge ahead, closing the half with an 8–2 scoring advantage, and once the teams resumed play in the third quarter, Hazen ignited a powerful offensive charge, finishing the contest with a convincing 66–49 victory, delighting their exuberant fans, and

Whereas, the pleased Wildcats (20–4) were Jeter Demers, Kobe Smith, Noah Foster, Jameson Lamarre, Talon Michaud, Ethan Gann, Sullivan Laflam, Morgan Michaud, Dawson Michaud, Lincoln Hill, Lucian Jurkiewicz, and Chayse Newell, and

Whereas, Head Coach Aaron Hill and assistant coaches Adam Gann, Travis Hill, Kevin Doyon, Letty Hill, and Evans Bouchard motivated the Wildcats to perform their best, and team managers Blair Demers and Zander Dimick were always supportive of their classmates, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2026 Hazen Union High School Wildcats Division III championship boys' basketball team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hazen Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 10, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 249

Offered by Representative Southworth of Walden

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hazen Union Lady Cats Division III championship girls' basketball team

Whereas, the excitement of playoff competition was maximized at the 2026 Division III girls' basketball championship game at the Barre Auditorium, in which top-seeded Hazen Union faced second-ranked Windsor for the third consecutive year, the Lady Cats having won in 2024 and the Yellow Jackets in 2025, and

Whereas, the Lady Cats' switch this season to the more challenging Capital Division improved the team's performance, and

Whereas, two more evenly matched contenders were unimaginable, as Hazen exited the court at half-time with a narrow 23–21 lead, but over the balance of the game, including the overtime period required to determine a winner, the lead changed an incredible 13 times, and the Lady Cats evened the score at 48–all with under five seconds remaining in regulation play, and

Whereas, the final outcome was determined in an equally dramatic fashion, when a Hazen player succeeded on two foul shots with only 2.4 seconds remaining in overtime, resulting in a hard-won and undeniably satisfying 55–53 win, and

Whereas, the thrilled and relieved Lady Cats were Isabelle Gouin, Ari Nichols, Taylor Thompson, Marina Smith, Eloise Foster, Autumn Dailey, Mya Lumsden, Ella Renaud, Sadie Gann, Julia des Groseilliers, Kelsie Rivard, Cassidy Gann, and Kennidee Gouin, and

Whereas, Head Coach Randy Lumsden and assistant coaches Alison Blaney and Sue Rivard expertly guided the Lady Cats, and team managers Allie Foster, Ivy Demers, and Estella Foster contributed to the team's great 2025–2026 season, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2026 Hazen Union Lady Cats Division III championship girls' basketball team, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Hazen Union High School.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 10, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Amendment Offered and Withdrawn; Third Reading; Bill Passed;
Rules Suspended, Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

H. 955

House bill, entitled

An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Reps. Logan of Burlington and Burrows of West Windsor** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 24a, prohibition on charging fees beyond tuition; legislative intent, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 24a to read as follows:

Sec. 24a. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

§ 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

* * *

(e)(1) A school eligible to receive tuition pursuant to this section shall be prohibited from requiring tuition or fees of any kind from a student attending the school, according to the provisions of this chapter, above the amount of tuition paid by a sending school district pursuant to section 823 or 824 of this chapter, as applicable.

(2) A public school located in Vermont that receives tuition pursuant to section 823 or 824 of this chapter, as applicable, shall be prohibited from charging any student attending the school a fee of any kind above the amount of tuition paid by a sending school district pursuant to section 823 or 824 of this chapter, as applicable, regardless of whether the student is a resident student or a student attending the school on tuition.

Second: By striking out Sec. 24, 16 V.S.A. § 828, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 24 to read as follows:

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

§ 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

* * *

(e)(1) A school eligible to receive tuition pursuant to this section shall be prohibited from requiring tuition or fees of any kind from a student attending the school, according to the provisions of this chapter, above the amount of tuition paid by a sending school district pursuant to section 823 ~~or 824~~ of this chapter, ~~as applicable~~.

(2) A public school located in Vermont that receives tuition pursuant to section 823 ~~or 824~~ of this chapter, ~~as applicable~~, shall be prohibited from charging any student attending the school a fee of any kind above the amount of tuition paid by a sending school district pursuant to section 823 ~~or 824~~ of this chapter, ~~as applicable~~, regardless of whether the student is a resident student or a student attending the school on tuition.

Thereupon, **Rep. Logan of Burlington** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

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

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the House's actions on the bill were ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Message from the Senate No. 44

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

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 549. An act relating to eligibility of sentenced or detained individuals to obtain a State-issued nondriver identification card, replacement operator's license, or replacement learner's permit.

H. 917. An act relating to military affairs.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

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

H.C.R. 252. House concurrent resolution honoring Mary Houghton of Brattleboro as an extraordinary advocate for sustainable and affordable housing.

H.C.R. 253. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts.

H.C.R. 254. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans Bobwhites Division I championship boys' basketball team.

H.C.R. 255. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans Comets Division I girls' championship ice hockey team.

H.C.R. 256. House concurrent resolution congratulating Grant Montgomery on his dual State championship alpine skiing victories.

H.C.R. 257. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hartford High School Hurricanes girls' ice hockey team on winning a third consecutive Division II championship.

H.C.R. 258. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship girls' basketball team.

H.C.R. 259. House concurrent resolution congratulating Terese Black on being named the 2026 Vermont Mother of the Year.

H.C.R. 260. House concurrent resolution congratulating Hartford Hurricanes Captain Charlotte Jasmin on being named the 2026 Vermont girls' basketball Gatorade Player of the Year.

H.C.R. 261. House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2026 as Older Americans Month and designating May 6, 2026, as Age Strong Vermont Day.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and six minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 49.

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. 252

House concurrent resolution honoring Mary Houghton of Brattleboro as an extraordinary advocate for sustainable and affordable housing

H.C.R. 253

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts

H.C.R. 254

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans Bobwhites Division I championship boys' basketball team

H.C.R. 255

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Bellows Free Academy-St. Albans Comets Division I girls' championship ice hockey team

H.C.R. 256

House concurrent resolution congratulating Grant Montgomery on his dual State championship alpine skiing victories

H.C.R. 257

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hartford High School Hurricanes girls' ice hockey team on winning a third consecutive Division II championship

H.C.R. 258

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship girls' basketball team

H.C.R. 259

House concurrent resolution congratulating Terese Black on being named the 2026 Vermont Mother of the Year

H.C.R. 260

House concurrent resolution congratulating Hartford Hurricanes Captain Charlotte Jasmin on being named the 2026 Vermont girls' basketball Gatorade Player of the Year

H.C.R. 261

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2026 as Older Americans Month and designating May 6, 2026, as Age Strong Vermont Day

[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.]