

Journal of the House

Friday, April 24, 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 Reps. Saudia LaMont of Morristown, Emily Carris Duncan of Whitingham, and Brian Cina of Burlington.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 223

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont

Appearing on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Ceremonial Readings

H.C.R. 205

Offered by House Committee on Appropriations

House concurrent resolution honoring Maria Blair on her exemplary career as a dedicated staff member at the Joint Fiscal Office

Whereas, Maria Blair graduated from Princeton High School in New Jersey and earned both her bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Vermont, and

Whereas, she pursued employment focused on fiscal and data analysis in both the public and private sectors, and

Whereas, in 1986, while employed at the former Department of Employment and Training, Maria Blair accepted a position with the General Assembly's Joint Fiscal Office, starting a Legislative Branch career that continued for nearly four decades, and

Whereas, beginning as a budget analyst, Maria Blair quickly demonstrated subject expertise, exceptional interpersonal skills, the capability to build strong relationships across all branches of government, and the ability to provide timely and highly valued advice and guidance for House Appropriations, for

which she exhibited great flexibility, working with 11 appreciative committee chairs over the years, and for the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Joint Fiscal Office, and

Whereas, aside from her committee-related duties, Maria Blair developed an in-depth knowledge of the fiscal minutiae of many topics, including LIHEAP and weatherization programs, and

Whereas, in the early 1990s, Maria Blair's proven record of achievement and leadership resulted in her promotion to the rank of Associate Fiscal Officer, a senior position in the Joint Fiscal Office, and

Whereas, Maria Blair was instrumental in building Joint Fiscal Office camaraderie through her exceptional baking, her dedication to the porch flowers, and her ability to dispel stress through humor and storytelling, and

Whereas, Maria Blair is a genuine animal aficionado who formerly raised and tended to horses on her homestead, and, in more recent years, has adopted many dogs, sometimes up to five canine companions, who have brought comedy, exasperation, and joy to her life, and

Whereas, Maria Blair, an admired, astute, and congenial esteemed legislative staff member has concluded an amazing legislative staff tenure and anticipates enjoying time with her family, which includes her son, daughter, and daughter-in-law, and with friends; tending to her garden; and experiencing new life adventures, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Maria Blair on her exemplary career as a dedicated staff member at the Joint Fiscal Office, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Maria Blair.

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

H.C.R. 244

Offered by Representatives LaMont of Morristown, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Yacovone of Morristown

House concurrent resolution recognizing the week of April 11–17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week in Vermont

Whereas, according to a research compendium that KFF, an independent health research organization, issued in December 2025, there are stark racial disparities in the nation’s maternal and infant care health outcomes that are highly unfavorable for Black Americans, and

Whereas, for example, the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion’s Division of Reproductive Health reported that, in 2023, the pregnancy-related mortality rate per 100,000 births for Black American women was 49.4, while for white American women it stood at a far-lower 14.9, and

Whereas, also in 2023, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics recorded 10.9 Black American infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and the comparable figure for White American infants was 4.5, and

Whereas, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) is “an [a]lliance of perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health Black and women-led organizations and multidisciplinary professionals ... [that seeks] to build consensus and articulate priorities ... from those doing work within ... [the] communities [of Black American women],” and

Whereas, among the organization’s goals are to “cultivate innovative research methods ... to improve Black maternal health ... introduce and enhance holistic and comprehensive approaches to Black mamas’ care ... [and] redirect and reframe the conversation on Black maternal health and amplify the voices of Black mamas,” and

Whereas, annually, BMMA designates Black Maternal Health Week, which, in 2026, is from April 11 to 17, and this year the week’s mission is “to center the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of Black mothers while advancing community-led systems change rooted in healing, trust, and collaboration,” and

Whereas, coinciding with this mission is the theme, “Rooted in Justice & Joy: 10 Years of Building the Black Maternal Health Movement,” both honoring “a decade of groundbreaking work that has transformed the landscape of Black Maternal Health in the U.S,” and “acknowledging the persistent challenges that demand continued innovation and action,” *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of April 11–17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week in Vermont, *and be it further*

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

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

H.C.R. 253

Offered by All Members of the House

Offered by All Members of the Senate

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

Whereas, earning the rank of Eagle is a special honor that, nationally, only four to six percent of young members enrolled in Scouting America is privileged to earn, and

Whereas, an Eagle Scout is an individual who exhibits a strong commitment to service and perseveres to reach this challenging goal, and

Whereas, the following Scouts who proudly achieved the rank of Eagle during 2025 were Corey Caulfield, Niko Chernyshov, Adam Coburn, Elliot Cohen, Emerson Cohen, Amelia Currier, Caleb Demingware, Michael Denis, Theron Desroches, Sean Early, Liam Egbert, Grey Fearon, August Frazier, Cooper Freeman, Jackson Gagne, Samuel Gilliam, Logan Grimm, Charley Gunkel, Alexander Johnson, Leena Jomaa, Aureliano Joyce, Bryant Keith-Turner, Tyler Keyes, Quinnlan Kittson, Travis Knapp, Sampson Lake, Coleton Lapham, Jacob Law, Daniel Lemieux, Simon Leroux, Finn Liland, Gabriel Limlaw, Alden Looft, Brody McGuire, Ethan Metayer, Jeremiah Mosher, James Mount, Alexander Palazzo, Duncan Shaver, Jackson Tellstone, Sarah Tolgyesi, Maxwell Wagner, Jacob Warrell, Benjamin Wellborn, Logan Wells, and Jackson Yager, and

Whereas, each of these new Eagle rank honorees exemplifies the best attributes of the Scouting Movement, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2025 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each Eagle Scout honored in this resolution.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 17, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

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

S. 255

Rep. Morgan, M. of Milton, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing a pilot Law Enforcement Governance Council in Windham County

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment in Sec. 7, reporting and evaluation, by striking out subdivision (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b) to read as follows:

(b) On or before September 30, 2030, and again on or before December 31, 2033, the Council, in consultation with the Windham County Sheriff and Windham County Assistant Judges, shall submit a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations, including:

(1) an assessment of cost-effectiveness compared to alternative service delivery models;

(2) an analysis of service quality improvements;

(3) an evaluation of the governance model's effectiveness;

(4) recommendations regarding continuation, modification, or expansion of the program; and

(5) a proposed framework for statewide replication, if warranted.

Rep. Page of Newport City, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill pass in concurrence with the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

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

Favorable Report; Second Reading; Third Reading Ordered**H. 956**

Rep. Stone of Burlington, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

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

Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar**Bill Referred to the Committee on Appropriations****S. 327**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to economic development

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), carrying an appropriation, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Message from the Senate No. 48

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 Senate concurrent resolution of the following title:

S.C.R. 11. Senate concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding former Williston Fire Chief Kenneth Morton Jr..

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

H.C.R. 262. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont singer-songwriter and two-time Grammy Award nominee Noah Berkenkamp Kahan for his amazing contributions to American popular music and for creating and leading The Busyhead Project.

H.C.R. 263. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Mount Mansfield Union High School Division I championship girls' basketball team.

H.C.R. 264. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Richford High School Rockets Division IV championship girls' basketball team.

H.C.R. 265. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ryan and Gabrielle Viens on their life-saving rescue support for Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury.

H.C.R. 266. House concurrent resolution congratulating Linda Alvarez on being named the 2026 Vermont Teacher of the Year and commending the two distinguished finalists.

H.C.R. 267. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars girls' Nordic ski team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship.

H.C.R. 268. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars State co-champions girls' snowboarding team.

H.C.R. 269. House concurrent resolution congratulating Brody Allen of Reading on completing the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program and earning the Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award.

H.C.R. 270. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Stowe High School Division II championship boys' Nordic ski team.

Adjournment

At ten o'clock and twenty-two minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 50.

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. 262

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont singer-songwriter and two-time Grammy Award nominee Noah Berkenkamp Kahan for his amazing contributions to American popular music and for creating and leading The Busyhead Project

H.C.R. 263

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Mount Mansfield Union High School Division I championship girls' basketball team

H.C.R. 264

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Richford High School Rockets Division IV championship girls' basketball team

H.C.R. 265

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ryan and Gabrielle Viens on their life-saving rescue support for Grand Isle County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Nicholas Pillsbury

H.C.R. 266

House concurrent resolution congratulating Linda Alvarez on being named the 2026 Vermont Teacher of the Year and commending the two distinguished finalists

H.C.R. 267

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Mansfield Union High School Cougars girls' Nordic ski team on winning a second consecutive Division I championship

H.C.R. 268

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Mt. Mansfield Union High School Cougars State co-champions girls' snowboarding team

H.C.R. 269

House concurrent resolution congratulating Brody Allen of Reading on completing the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program and earning the Distinguished Smallbore Rifleman Award

H.C.R. 270

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2026 Stowe High School Division II championship boys' Nordic ski team

S.C.R. 11

Senate concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding former Williston Fire Chief Kenneth Morton Jr.

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House and Senate Calendar Addendums on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2026 Adjourned Session.]