

# Journal of the House

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

## **Devotional Exercises**

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Daisy Berbeco of Winooski.

## **Senate Bill Referred**

### **S. 329**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to criminal procedures involving firearms

Was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

## **Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations**

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Notice Calendar, carrying appropriations, under House Rule 35(a), were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

### **S. 323**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

### **S. 326**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws relating to motor vehicles

## **Pending Entry on the Notice Calendar Bill Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means**

### **S. 278**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to cannabis

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, and pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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**Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence****J.R.S. 53**

By Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 53.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on May 15, 2026.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, May 15, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

**Ceremonial Reading****H.C.R. 284**

Offered by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

House concurrent resolution honoring former Senate Majority Leader and Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Executive Director John F. Campbell for his outstanding public service career

*Whereas*, upon graduating from the University of Florida, John Campbell joined the Broward County Sheriff's Office as a patrol officer, and

*Whereas*, after experiencing the rough-and-tumble of hands-on law enforcement, he opted for a potentially more sedate work environment, graduating from what is today Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad College of Law, and

*Whereas*, upon heeding the call to "go north, young man," and relocating to Windsor County, he practiced as a private attorney, and

*Whereas*, in 2000, John Campbell successfully stood for a Windsor County Senate seat and served continuously until 2016, including several terms as the respected Senate Majority Leader, and

*Whereas*, in 2016, he became the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Executive Director and in that role was a decisive and thoughtful leader, and

*Whereas*, under his guidance, the Department improved its administrative support in all 14 counties, and

*Whereas*, although charged with being the State's Attorneys' and sheriffs' advocate, John Campbell did not shy away from criticizing severe professional misconduct, and he enthusiastically supported an ultimately unsuccessful legislative effort to impose new accountability for these elected county

officials in the belief that Vermonters deserve the best from their public servants, and

*Whereas*, reflecting on his quarter of a century in State government, John Campbell is most proud of his 2009 co-lead sponsorship of S.115, for which he successfully fought to override a gubernatorial veto, to establish marriage equality in Vermont, and his lead sponsorship in 2015 of S.31, a broad gun-control measure that, among other provisions, would have mandated a federal background check on all Vermont gun sales, and

*Whereas*, John Campbell has concluded his State government career to pursue his passion to paint works of art, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly honors former Senate Majority Leader and Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Executive Director John F. Campbell for his outstanding public service career, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to John F. Campbell.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, May 8, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**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 13th day of May, 2026, he signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 762     An act relating to the County and Regional Governance Study Committee**

**H. 940     An act relating to miscellaneous public utility subjects**

**Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont  
Adopted in Concurrence**

**Proposal 4**

**Rep. Rachelson of Burlington**, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which had been referred Proposal 4, which is printed in full below, reported in favor of its adoption in concurrence.

The proposal, having appeared on the Calendar for five legislative days pursuant to House Rule 51a, was taken up.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Subject: Declaration of rights; government for the people; equality of rights

PROPOSAL 4

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

(a) This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. The Constitution is our founding legal document stating the overarching values of our society. This amendment is in keeping with the values espoused by the current Vermont Constitution. Chapter I, Article 1 declares "That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights." Chapter I, Article 7 states "That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people." The core value reflected in Article 7 is that all people should be afforded all the benefits and protections bestowed by the government, and that the government should not confer special advantages upon the privileged. This amendment would expand upon the principles of equality and liberty by ensuring that the government does not create or perpetuate the legal, social, or economic inferiority of any class of people. This proposed constitutional amendment is not intended to limit the scope of rights and protections afforded by any other provision in the Vermont Constitution.

(b) Providing for equality of rights as a fundamental principle in the Constitution would serve as a foundation for protecting the rights and dignity of historically marginalized populations and addressing existing inequalities. This amendment would reassert the broad principles of personal liberty and equality reflected in the Constitution of the State of Vermont with authoritative force, longevity, and symbolic importance.

Sec. 2. Article 23 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 23. [Equality of rights]

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation of measures intended to

provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

Pending the question, Shall the House adopt the constitutional proposal in concurrence?, **Rep. Rachelson of Burlington** 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 House adopt the constitutional proposal in concurrence?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 128. Nays, 14.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston *	Feltus of Lyndon	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Galfetti of Barre Town	Morgan, L. of Milton
Bailey of Hyde Park	Garofano of Essex	Morgan, M. of Milton
Bartholomew of Hartland	Goldman of Rockingham	Morris of Springfield
Bartley of Fairfax	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Morrissey of Bennington
Berbeco of Winooski	Goslant of Northfield	Mrowicki of Putney
Birong of Vergennes	Graning of Jericho	Nelson of Derby
Bishop of Colchester	Greer of Bennington	Nielsen of Brandon
Black of Essex	Gregoire of Fairfield	North of Ferrisburgh *
Bluemle of Burlington	Harple of Glover	Noyes of Wolcott
Bos-Lun of Westminster *	Headrick of Burlington	Nugent of South Burlington
Boyden of Cambridge	Holcombe of Norwich	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Randolph	Ode of Burlington
Branagan of Georgia	Houghton of Essex Junction	Oliver of Sheldon
Brigham of St. Albans Town	Howard of Rutland City	Olson of Starksboro
Brown of Richmond	Hunter of Manchester	Page of Newport City
Burke of Brattleboro	James of Manchester	Pezzo of Colchester
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Kascenska of Burke	Pinsonault of Dorset
Burrows of West Windsor	Keyser of Rutland City	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burt of Cabot	Kimbell of Woodstock	Priestley of Bradford
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kleppner of Burlington *	Pritchard of Pawlet
Canfield of Fair Haven	Kornheiser of Brattleboro*	Quimby of Lyndon
Carris Duncan of Whitingham	Krasnow of South Burlington	Rachelson of Burlington
Casey of Montpelier	Labor of Morgan	Satcowitz of Randolph
Chapin of East Montpelier	Lalley of Shelburne	Scheu of Middlebury
Charlton of Chester	LaLonde of South Burlington	Scully of Burlington
Cina of Burlington	LaMont of Morristown *	Sheldon of Middlebury
Coffin of Cavendish	Laroche of Franklin	Sibilia of Dover
Cole of Hartford	Lipsky of Stowe	Southworth of Walden
		Squirrell of Underhill
		Steady of Milton *

Conlon of Cornwall	Logan of Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Cooper of Pownal	Long of Newfane	Stone of Burlington
Corcoran of Bennington	Long of Milton	Sweeney of Shelburne
Critchlow of Colchester	Lueders of Lincoln	Tomlinson of Winooski
Demar of Enosburgh	Luneau of St. Albans City	Torre of Moretown
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Maguire of Rutland City	Walker of Swanton
Dodge of Essex	Malay of Pittsford	Waszazak of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction	Marcotte of Coventry	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	Masland of Thetford	Wells of Brownington
Duke of Burlington	McCoy of Poultney	White of Waitsfield
Durfee of Shaftsbury	McGill of Bridport	White of Bethel
Eastes of Guilford	Micklus of Milton	Wood of Waterbury
Emmons of Springfield	Mihaly of Calais	Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bosch of Clarendon	Harvey of Castleton	Soucy of Barre Town
Boutin of Barre City	Higley of Lowell	Tagliavia of Corinth
Burditt of West Rutland	Howland of Rutland Town	Taylor of Mendon *
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Parsons of Newbury	Winter of Ludlow
Hango of Berkshire	Powers of Waterford	

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

Casey of Hubbardton	Hoyt of Hartford	Nigro of Bennington
Christie of Hartford	McCann of Montpelier	
Donahue of Northfield	Morrow of Weston	

**Rep. Arsenault of Williston** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes for Proposal 4 because I believe every Vermonter should have the opportunity to experience the joy and pride that comes from affirming equal rights for all by casting their vote in November.

**Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I don’t believe I have ever cast a more important vote, a vote to protect the rights of all Vermonters. I find it unfathomable that anyone in our Chamber would vote against this proposition to secure human rights for all who live here.”

**Rep. Kleppner of Burlington** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

Deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.”

**Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes in honor of all the women who fought so hard for this 40 years ago and all the decades preceding - in the ambitious hope that the voters of Vermont will join us in affirming equal rights for all.”

**Rep. LaMont of Morristown** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

From three-fifths of a person to a whole person, to women’s rights to civil rights, I voted yes to put Proposal 4 on the ballot and give Vermonters a chance to vote to amend the Constitution. We must remember this will not change human behavior, it will not erase hate, violence, or vitriol. It will, however, hopefully ensure that people, especially people who look like me, will be treated with dignity and fairness based on facts, content of their character, and not based on the bias, racism, or any -ism that may exist within some people’s hearts and minds.”

**Rep. North of Ferrisburgh** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes to ensure that my constituents get to express their vote on this Constitutional Amendment. The purpose statement says that this amendment reasserts the principles already reflected in the Vermont Constitution, Ch. I, Art. 1 and Ch. I. Art. 7. There is no mention of making up for past deficiencies but focuses us on the present and future to ‘address existing inequalities’ (present tense) and ‘to reduce discrimination’ as the bill reporter stated. This is our legislative intent.”

**Rep. Steady of Milton** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes because this vote on the floor of this body gives all Vermonters their right to decide what they want in their Vermont Constitution.”

**Rep. Taylor of Mendon** provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I have a lot of words written on this paper and I’m not going to read any of them. I believe in my heart that the only words that are going to change Vermont and to change this world I believe come from the bible, and I believe that is what’s lacking in the world. True love, peace, how I raised my girls comes from the bible. I teach them to not judge, and to love first, and to put yourself second. I believe with every ounce of my being in the bible.”

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**Message from the Senate No. 58**

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 proposals of amendment to Senate bills of the following titles:

**S. 179.** An act relating to the Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act.

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

And has concurred therein.

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

**H. 778.** An act relating to dam safety.

And has concurred therein.

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

**H. 944.** An act relating to the fiscal year 2027 Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

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

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

**S. 223.** An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Watson  
Senator Bongartz  
Senator Williams

The Senate has considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

**S. 325.** An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

The President announced the appointment as members of such Committee on the part of the Senate:

Senator Watson  
Senator Bongartz  
Senator Williams

**Second Reading; Committee Report Offered and Withdrawn; Proposal of Amendment Agreed to; Third Reading Ordered**

**S. 243**

**Rep. Garofano of Essex**, for the Committee on Human Services, to which had been referred Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to distributing funds to the Vermont Language Justice Project

Reported in favor of its passage in concurrence with proposal of amendment by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Vermont ranks sixth per capita in refugee resettlement;
- (2) the Governor has recognized the important role immigrants play in Vermont's economy;
- (3) when health information is available in only one language and only in written format, it creates barriers that lead to confusion;
- (4) the Vermont Language Justice Project's videos fill a critical gap in patient education, particularly for families with limited English proficiency;
- (5) the Vermont Language Justice Project has created and distributed videos pertaining to COVID-19 and COVID-19 testing; the importance of immunizations and how immunizations work; Mpox; preventing mosquito and tick bites; and safety during flood events, hot and cold weather, cyanobacteria outbreaks, wildfires, and more;

(6) the Vermont Language Justice Project’s videos are made in 10 to 21 of the languages commonly spoken in Vermont and in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health;

(7) the Vermont Language Justice Project is usually able to respond to a crisis within 24 hours with information in multiple languages and in multiple formats, such as written translations, audio files, and videos; and

(8) in January 2025, the Vermont Language Justice Project’s grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention abruptly ended, leaving it to be funded solely through donations from individuals and foundations and through fee-for-service work.

## Sec. 2. VERMONT LANGUAGE JUSTICE PROJECT

In fiscal year 2027, the Office of Racial Equity, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety’s Division of Emergency Management, shall contract with the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials at the request of State agencies and departments, as needed, to assist Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak, natural disaster, or other public health emergency, including ongoing personal and public health information. The Department of Buildings and General Services shall assist the Vermont Language Justice Project in being named to the State’s list of approved contractors.

## Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

**Rep. Feltus of Lyndon**, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that the report of the Committee on Human Services be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, Vermont Language Justice Project, in the first sentence, by striking out “Office of Racial Equity” and inserting in lieu thereof “Department of Health”

Second: By inserting new Secs. 3 and 4 after Sec. 2 to read as follows:

## Sec. 3. REVERSION

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2027, the following amount shall revert to the General Fund from the account indicated:

<u>1100892401</u>	<u>AOA-ORE-Language Access Plan</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
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Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION; VERMONT JUSTICE LANGUAGE PROJECT

In fiscal year 2027, \$150,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health for a grant to the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials for Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak, natural disaster, or other public health emergency.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Thereupon, **Rep. Feltus of Lyndon** asked and was granted leave of the House to withdraw the report of the Committee on Appropriations.

Pending the question, Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Human Services?, **Rep. Garofano of Essex** moved to amend the report of the Committee on Human Services by striking out Sec. 2, Vermont Language Justice Project, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. VERMONT LANGUAGE JUSTICE PROJECT

In fiscal year 2027, the Office of Racial Equity may contract with the Vermont Language Justice Project to prepare informational materials at the request of State agencies and departments, as needed, to assist Vermonters who speak languages other than English in the event of a disease outbreak, natural disaster, or other public health emergency, including ongoing personal and public health information. The Department of Buildings and General Services shall assist the Vermont Language Justice Project as it navigates the process to become added to the State's list of approved contractors.

Which was agreed to. Thereupon the report of the Committee on Human Services, as amended, was agreed to and third reading ordered.

**Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in**

**H. 536**

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to toxic heavy metals in baby food products

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 82 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 82. LABELING OF FOODS, DRUGS, COSMETICS, AND  
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Subchapter 1. ~~Labeling for Marketing and Sale~~ General Provisions

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\* \* \*

Subchapter 3. Testing and Labeling of Certain Products

§ 4091. BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Baby food product” means any food manufactured, packaged, and labeled in a jar, pouch, tub, or box sold specifically for babies and children younger than two years of age. “Baby food product” does not include infant formula.

(2) “Final baby food product” means the finished baby food product and not the constituent ingredients.

(3) “Infant formula” means a commercially available milk-based or soy-based powder, concentrated liquid, or ready-to-feed substitute for human breast milk that is intended for infant consumption.

(4) “Production aggregate” means a quantity of product that is intended to have a uniform composition, character, and quality and is produced according to a master manufacturing order.

(5) “Proficient laboratory” means a laboratory that:

(A) is accredited under the standards of the International Organization for Standardization or the International Electrotechnical Commission pursuant to standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017;

(B) uses an analytical method as sensitive as the analytical method described in the U.S. FDA’s Elemental Analysis Manual for Food and Related Products; and

(C) demonstrates proficiency in quantifying each toxic element to at least six micrograms of the toxic element to kilogram of food through an independent proficiency test by achieving a z-score that is less than or equal to plus or minus two.

(6) “QR code” means a two-dimensional matrix barcode consisting of blocks arranged in a grid that can be read by an imaging device.

(7) “Representative sample” means a sample that consists of a number of units that are drawn based on rational criteria, including random sampling, and intended to ensure that the sample accurately portrays the material being sampled.

(8) “Toxic heavy metal” means arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury.

(9) “URL” means a uniform resource locator.

(10) “U.S. FDA” means the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(b) A person shall not sell, distribute, or offer for sale any baby food product in the State that contains a toxic heavy metal that exceeds the regulatory limits established by the U.S. FDA. The provisions of this subsection shall not restrict the continued sale of inventory in stock before January 1, 2027.

(c) A manufacturer of a baby food sold or distributed in the State shall test a representative sample of each production aggregate of the manufacturer’s final baby food product for toxic heavy metals. Testing of a baby food product shall be conducted by a proficient laboratory at least once a month. A manufacturer of baby food may test the final baby food product before packaging individual units for sale or distribution. Upon request of the Office of the Attorney General, a manufacturer shall provide the results of the test conducted pursuant to this subsection.

(d)(1) Without requiring the provision of a universal product code or proof of purchase, for each baby food product sold, manufactured, delivered, held, or offered for sale in the State, a manufacturer of baby food shall make publicly available on its website for the duration of the product shelf life of a final baby food product, plus one month:

(A) the name and level of each toxic heavy metal in the final baby food product as determined by the testing conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section;

(B) sufficient information, including the product name, universal product code, or lot or batch number, to enable consumers to identify the final baby food product; and

(C) a link to the U.S. FDA’s website that provides the most recent U.S. FDA guidance and information about the health effects of toxic heavy metals on children.

(2) A baby food product that is sold online to a consumer in Vermont by either a retailer or directly by the manufacturer shall contain on the product’s web page a clearly labeled link to an information page containing the information required pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(e) If a baby food product sold or distributed in the State is tested for a toxic heavy metal subject to an action level, regulatory limit, or tolerance established by the U.S. FDA under 21 C.F.R. § 109, the manufacturer shall display on the baby food product:

(1) a label stating in a clear, legible, and conspicuous manner that more information about toxic element testing on the product is available by scanning the QR code; and

(2) a QR code or other machine-readable code that directs the consumers to the manufacturer’s website or the baby food product information page providing:

(A) the test results for the toxic heavy metal; and

(B) a URL to the web page on the U.S. FDA’s website that includes the most recent guidance and information about the health effects of toxic heavy metals on children.

(f) If a consumer reasonably believes, based on the information provided on the baby food product, that the baby food product is being sold in the State in violation of this section, the consumer may report the baby food product to the Office of the Attorney General.

(g) A violation of this section shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. The Attorney General has the same authority, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1.

(h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with federal law or regulation.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4091 is amended to read:

§ 4091. BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Baby food product” means any infant formula or food manufactured, packaged, and labeled in a jar, pouch, tub, or box sold specifically for babies and children younger than two years of age. ~~“Baby food product” does not include infant formula.~~

\* \* \*

(g) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, shall suspend the application of this section to infant formula if the Attorney General verifies that there is insufficient infant formula in the State to meet the need or evidence of a declining supply. If the Attorney General

suspends application, the Attorney General shall post notice on the Office of the Attorney General's website containing specific dates that the suspension is in effect.

(h) A violation of this section shall be deemed a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. The Attorney General has the same authority, and private parties have the same rights and remedies, as provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63, subchapter 1.

~~(h)~~(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to conflict with federal law or regulation.

### Sec. 3. INFANT FORMULA; STOCK SUPPLY

The provisions of Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4091) of this act shall not restrict the continued sale of infant formula inventory in stock in Vermont prior to the effective date of Sec. 2 of this act pursuant to Sec. 4(b) of this act.

### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1 (18 V.S.A. chapter 82), and Sec. 3 (infant formula; stock supply) shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

(b) Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 4091) shall take effect upon the Attorney General's written confirmation to the Speaker of the House and to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, which shall be posted on the General Assembly's website, that a law has taken effect in California or two other states with requirements substantially comparable to the requirements of this act regarding all of the following:

(1) the prohibition on the sale and distribution of infant formula that contains a toxic heavy metal exceeding U.S. Food and Drug Administration limits;

(2) the required testing of infant formula sold or distributed in the state for toxic heavy metals; and

(3) the labeling of infant formula and the provision of information about toxic heavy metals in infant formula.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

### **Action on Bill Postponed**

### **H. 648**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Olson of Starksboro**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

### Action on Bill Postponed

#### H. 639

House bill, entitled

An act relating to genetic data privacy

Was taken up and, pending consideration of the Senate proposal of amendment, on motion of **Rep. Olson of Starksboro**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

### Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

#### H. 739

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

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

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 1105d is added to read:

#### § 1105d. USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT; REPORT

(a) Definition. As used in this section, “paraquat” means an herbicide:

(1) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number 4685-14-7;

(2) known as paraquat dichloride, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride and the CAS registry number 1910-42-5;

(3) known as paraquat dimethyl sulfate, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dimethyl sulfate and the CAS registry number 2074-50-2; or

(4) known as paraquat, with the chemical name 1,1'-Dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium ion and all salts thereof.

(b) Prohibition. No person shall sell, use, or apply paraquat except when authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Authorized use. The Secretary may issue a written permit for the sale, use, or application of paraquat within fruit-producing tree orchards or for growing any crop listed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Crop Group 13-07: Berry and Small Fruit Crop Group on or before December 31, 2030. The Secretary shall ensure that any authorized certified applicator of paraquat has received all training required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets not more than one year prior to receiving a permit for authorized use of paraquat. A written exemption order under this subsection shall:

(1) be valid for not more than three years or until December 31, 2030, whichever comes first;

(2) specify the name on the label of the paraquat, uses, and crops or plants to which the permit applies; the date the permit takes effect; the permit's duration; and the permit's geographic scope, which may include specific farms, fields, or properties; and

(3) include permit conditions that minimize drift based on drift mitigation measures identified by the Environmental Protection Agency, require adherence to label directions to minimize applicator exposure, and exclusively limit applications to tree rows or vine rows for necessary weed control.

(d) Reporting. The Secretary shall report annually on all data regarding any use of paraquat in the State. The report shall include the amount of paraquat used and the date and location where the paraquat was used. The Secretary shall submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture on or before December 15 of each year.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on November 1, 2026.

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

**Senate Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred in;  
Committee of Conference Requested and Appointed; Rules Suspended,  
Messaged to Senate Forthwith**

## H. 952

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the ~~\$111,965,288.44~~ \$123,564,624.67 authorized in Secs. 2-16 this act, not more than ~~\$61,969,761.44~~ \$61,569,761.44 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

\* \* \*

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2026:

\* \* \*

(2) Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: ~~\$1,500,000.00~~ \$1,100,000.00

\* \* \*

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027:

(1) Statewide, major maintenance: ~~\$8,500,000.00~~ \$8,538,413.18

\* \* \*

(4) ~~Statewide, three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,100,000.00~~  
[Repealed.]

\* \* \*

(7) Montpelier, State House replacement of ~~historic~~ interior finishes:  
\$50,000.00

(8) Montpelier, 120 State Street HVAC – steam lines interior renovation:  
~~\$2,000,000.00~~ \$1,000,000.00

\* \* \*

(12) Montpelier, State House entryway upgrades, design documents, including comprehensive parking plan and delivery truck access, and second-floor egress design: \$1,325,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2026 \$13,726,680.44 \$13,326,680.44

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$15,925,000.00 \$15,188,413.18

Total Appropriation – Section 2 \$28,951,680.44 \$28,515,093.62

Third: By striking out Sec. 3, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. HUMAN SERVICES

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the following projects:

(1) Statewide, planning, design, and construction for HVAC system upgrades at correctional facilities: \$1,000,000.00 \$9,426,254.21

\* \* \*

(5) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00 [Repealed.]

(6) Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) boiler replacement: \$700,000.00

(7) Recovery House, Inc., residential treatment center, renovations: \$220,000.00

(8) Maintenance, replacement, and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility or other facilities serving the incarcerated women's population: \$598,850.00

\* \* \*

Appropriation – FY 2027 \$4,800,000.00 \$14,245,104.21

Total Appropriation – Section 3 \$13,025,000.00 \$22,470,104.21

Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 4a to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. GRANT PROGRAMS

\* \* \*

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2027 for the Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00 \$400,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$300,000.00 \$400,000.00

\* \* \*

Appropriation – FY 2027	\$2,100,000.00	<u>\$2,300,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 5	\$4,200,000.00	<u>\$4,400,000.00</u>

Fifth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a to read as follows:

Sec. 5a. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. NATURAL RESOURCES

\* \* \*

(g) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2027 to the Agency of Natural Resources for technical support to municipalities to design and implement stormwater utilities.

Appropriation – FY 2026	\$5,805,000.00
Appropriation – FY 2027	\$5,319,360.00 <u>\$5,419,360.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 9	\$11,124,360.00 <u>\$11,224,360.00</u>

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 8, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. REALLOCATION AND REVERSION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums ~~are reallocated~~ appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

\* \* \*

(12) of the amount appropriated in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(b)(2), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 10 (CJTC East Cottage): \$43,190.08

(13) of the amounts appropriated in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$1,624,241.12

(14) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$393,854.32

(15) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(a)(2) (women's correctional facilities): \$97,890.12

(16) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$618,000.00

(17) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(b) (various projects): \$350,420.67

(18) of the amounts appropriated in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 2(c) (various projects): \$150,000.00

(19) of the amounts appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 3(b)(1) (women's correctional facilities, replacement): \$868,850.00

(b) The following sums appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development from prior capital appropriations are reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act:

\* \* \*

(3) of the amount appropriated in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. 4(a)(4) (Unmarked Burial Fund): \$31,320.70

\* \* \*

(h) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(7) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(7) (design for the renovation of the Brandon and Cardinal units), \$1,500,000.00 is ~~reallocated~~ reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

(i) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(9) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(10) (111 State Street; renovation of the stack area), \$200,000.00 is ~~reallocated~~ reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

\* \* \*

(n) Of the amount appropriated to the Vermont Veterans' Home in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 15(b)(2) (elevator upgrade), \$500,000.00 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 6 of this act.

(o) Of the amount appropriated to the Enhanced 911 Board in 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 6(b)(9), as added by 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 190, Sec. 5 (Enhanced 911 Compliance Grants Program), \$63,413.15 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(p) Of the amount appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 11(j), as added by 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 139, Sec. 7 (State-owned forest and recreational access points), \$0.03 is reallocated to defray expenditures authorized in Secs. 2–16 of this act.

(q) The following sums appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1105(a) are reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act:

(1) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(1) (planning, reuse, and contingency): \$119,114.60

(2) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(6) (120 State Street renovation): \$1,000,000.00

(3) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(8) (CJTC administration building and West Cottage): \$450,000.00

(4) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(10) (DCF short-term stabilization facility): \$372,557.10

(5) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(11) (Washington County Superior Courthouse in Barre): \$750,000.00

(6) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(13) (planning and design of the Rutland Field Station): \$250,000.00

(7) of the amount authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(c)(15) (EV charging stations): \$995,040.00

(r) Of the amount appropriated from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments to the Department of Buildings and General Services in 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. B.1103(a)(3) and authorized in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 18(d)(3), as amended by 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 162, Sec. 11

(120 State Street renovation), \$1,500,000.00 is reverted to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 19 of this act.

Bonded Dollars	\$5,074,938.48	\$9,816,118.67
Cash	\$1,700,000.00	\$7,136,711.70
Total Reallocations, Reversions, and Transfers – Section 17	\$6,774,938.48	\$16,083,980.37

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 9, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 33, Sec. 19 is amended to read:

Sec. 19. FY 2026 AND 2027; CAPITAL PROJECTS; FY 2026 AND FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS ACT ACTS; INTENT; AUTHORIZATIONS

\* \* \*

(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize certain capital projects eligible for funding by 32 V.S.A. § 1001b in this act but appropriate the funds for these projects in the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Appropriations Act Acts. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Appropriations Act appropriate Acts transfer funds to the Fund established in 32 V.S.A. § 1001b for projects in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

(c) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2026, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

\* \* \*

(7) to the Vermont Veterans' Home for the design and construction of the American unit and sprinkler system installation: \$1,500,000.00

\* \* \*

(f) Authorizations; Capital Infrastructure subaccount. In FY 2027, spending authority for the following capital projects from the Capital Infrastructure subaccount of the Cash Fund for Capital and Essential Investments are authorized as follows:

(1) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide major maintenance: \$1,281,173.60

(2) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide physical security enhancements: \$225,000.00

- 
- (3) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for statewide three-acre parcel stormwater compliance: \$1,000,000.00
- (4) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Asa Bloomer roof replacement: \$3,600,000.00
- (5) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Rutland multimodal garage renovation: \$900,000.00
- (6) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for Burlington, 32 Cherry St. parking garage repairs: \$3,000,000.00
- (7) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for HVAC upgrades at correctional facilities: \$1,050,000.00
- (8) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for statewide correctional facilities security upgrades: \$225,000.00
- (9) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for door control upgrades at correctional facilities: \$2,700,000.00
- (10) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Northern State Correctional Facility boiler replacement: \$1,000,000.00
- (11) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for Newport, Northern State Correctional Facility sprinkler system upgrades: \$500,000.00
- (12) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for maintenance and renovations at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility: \$500,000.00
- (13) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the Department for Children and Families' youth short-term stabilization facility: \$772,557.10
- (14) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the State match for federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$2,498,000.00
- (15) to the Department of Environmental Conservation for Waterbury Dam Penstock project cost overruns: \$150,000.00
- (16) to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for park infrastructure and rehabilitation, improvement, and three-acre rule compliance: \$400,000.00

(17) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for dam maintenance and safety planning: \$200,000.00

(18) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety for an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facility: \$500,000.00

(19) to the Judiciary for the Essex County Courthouse connector project: \$500,000.00

(20) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Judiciary for renovations at the White River Junction courthouse: \$1,600,000.00

(21) to the Vermont Historical Society for the replacement of a climate control unit: \$566,724.00

(22) to the Department of Corrections to work with the Agency of Digital Services to install a Wi-Fi system in State correctional facilities that is appropriately designed to address the safety, security, and confidentiality risks of the correctional environment: \$250,000.00

Eighth: In Sec. 13, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; Little River State Park lease, following “Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 166, in fiscal year 2027, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation is authorized to” by striking out the words “enter into” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “negotiate”

Ninth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 14a to read as follows:

Sec. 14a. REPEAL OF AUTHORITY TO SELL 110 STATE STREET

2023 Acts and Resolves No. 69, Sec. 22(a) (authority for BGS to sell 110 State Street, Montpelier) is repealed.

Tenth: By striking out Sec. 18, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof three new reader assistance headings and four new sections to be read as follows:

\* \* \* Stormwater Utilities \* \* \*

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4414(9) is amended to read:

(9) Stormwater management and control. Any municipality may adopt bylaws to implement stormwater management and control consistent with the program developed by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264. The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this subdivision, including adoption by the

municipality of a bylaw establishing a municipal stormwater utility. Municipalities shall not charge an impervious surface fee or other stormwater fee under this subdivision or under other provisions of this title on property regulated under the Required Agricultural Practices for discharges of agricultural waste or agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Sec. 19. 24 V.S.A. § 3626 is added to read:

§ 3626. MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE AND OPERATE  
STORMWATER UTILITY

The creation of a regional stormwater utility under statute or rules of the Agency of Natural Resources shall not prevent a municipality from regulating stormwater under this chapter, including adoption by the municipality of a bylaw authorizing the operation of a municipal stormwater utility that establishes an assessment on an equivalent residential unit or impervious surface.

\* \* \* General Assembly \* \* \*

Sec. 19a. STATE HOUSE; ENTRYWAY DESIGN; SPECIAL COMMITTEE

(a) A special committee consisting of the Joint Legislative Management Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions (special committee) is hereby established. The special committee is authorized to meet to review, approve, or recommend alterations to the State House entryway design at a regularly scheduled Joint Legislative Management Committee meeting.

(b) The special committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 23.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Pending the question, Shall the House concur in the Senate proposal of amendment?, **Rep. Emmons of Springfield** moved that the House refuse to concur and ask for a Committee of Conference, which was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

**Rep. Emmons of Springfield**  
**Rep. Morrissey of Bennington**  
**Rep. Minier of South Burlington**

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.

#### **Recess**

At two o'clock and forty-four minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

#### **Called to Order**

At two o'clock and fifty minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

#### **Action on Bill Postponed**

##### **S. 212**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to potable water supply and wastewater system connections

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. North of Ferrisburgh**, action on the bill was postponed one legislative day.

#### **Committee of Conference Appointed**

##### **S. 223**

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

**Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury**

**Rep. Labor of Morgan**

**Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph**

#### **Committee of Conference Appointed**

##### **S. 325**

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction

The Speaker appointed as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the House:

**Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury**

**Rep. Labor of Morgan**

**Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier**

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

**S. 328**

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to housing and common interest communities

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

**Remarks Journalized**

On motion by **Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town**, the following remarks by **Rep. Soucy of Barre Town** were ordered printed in the Journal:

“Madam Speaker:

My seatmate and I are honored to welcome and recognize a guest in the chamber today who is truly deserving of this body’s appreciation and respect: Norma Malone.

For more than two decades, Norma Malone has devoted herself to public service on behalf of Barre Town and the State of Vermont. Her record of service is remarkable not only for its length, but for the dedication, discipline, and excellence she brought to every role she accepted.

Last week, Norma attended her final meeting as Chair of the Barre Town Selectboard, concluding eight years of service on the board. In those eight years, she never missed a single meeting — perfect attendance throughout her entire tenure.

Norma served nine years on the Barre Town Budget Committee and chaired the Committee for eight of those years. Once again, she never missed a meeting. She helped craft budgets that were fiscally responsible while ensuring town employees had the equipment, staffing, and resources necessary to meet the needs of Barre Town residents.

Norma also served on the District 5 Act 250 Environmental Commission helping ensure development in the State within the criteria of Act 250.

She dedicated years of service to public education through the Barre Unified Union School District Board and the Spaulding High School Board of Directors, where she served seven years, including five years as chair.

Among her many accomplishments, one stands out as a lasting legacy for generations of students to come. Norma helped establish the Spaulding High School Scholarship Trust, a public charity dedicated to supporting the educational and career goals of graduates of Spaulding High School and the Central Vermont Career Center. Since its founding in 2014, she has served on its Board of Trustees. Today, the Trust oversees approximately \$8.5 million in managed funds, and this year alone it will award more than \$450,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors.

Norma's attention to detail is legendary. She misses nothing. Whether it is a typo, a math calculation, or language that is not quite right, Norma will find it. Many of us who have worked with her have benefited from her sharp eye, thoughtful judgment, and steady leadership.

I can say personally that I am a better Selectboard member and a better legislator because of Norma Malone. My seat mate was proofreading my comments, and she wanted me to change that I am a better legislator, to we are better legislators.

I do have one regret regarding Norma's years of public service — and I do not know whether it is her regret as well — but my regret is that she never served in this Chamber or in the body next door. Because if she had, she would have accomplished exactly what all of us aspire to accomplish here: she would have made a difference.

When I asked Norma what inspired her commitment to public service, she spoke about her oldest son, who enlisted in the Army at age seventeen and went on to serve 23 years on active duty.

Norma said: 'I believe everyone has a responsibility to serve others within their capacity. My son's service has been on a global level; mine has been at the local level. Each of us has something unique to offer.'

That belief — that each of us has something unique to offer in service to others — defines Norma Malone's life and legacy.

On behalf of this body, thank you Norma, for your extraordinary service to Barre Town, to Vermont, and to the countless people whose lives are better because of your dedication."

**Adjournment**

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