

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Arnold Thomas of Jericho.

Message from the House No. 12

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Courtney Reckord, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

H. 27. An act relating to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission.

H. 35. An act relating to unmerging the individual and small group health insurance markets.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following title:

H.C.R. 10. House concurrent resolution designating February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 11. House concurrent resolution in memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie.

H.C.R. 12. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup).

H.C.R. 13. House concurrent resolution in memory of the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher of Winooski.

H.C.R. 14. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home.

H.C.R. 15. House concurrent resolution congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday.

H.C.R. 16. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin.

H.C.R. 17. House concurrent resolution honoring the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

H.C.R. 18. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world class fiber optic service to rural communities.

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

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Referred

S. 27

On motion of Senator Hashim, the Committee on Judiciary was relieved of further consideration of Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports,

and the bill was committed to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 38.

By Senator White,

An act relating to conserving habitat corridors and wildlife crossings.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 39.

By Senators Gulick, Norris and Weeks,

An act relating to the State Aid for School Construction Program.

To the Committee on Education.

Appointments Confirmed

The following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed separately by the Senate, upon full reports given by the Committees to which they were referred:

The nomination of

Badgewick, Bonnie J. of Woodstock - Superior Court Judge - January 6, 2025 to March 31, 2030.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

McLean, Joseph S. of South Burlington - Superior Court Judge - July 29, 2024 to March 31, 2028.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

Doherty, Timothy Charles, Jr. of Burlington - Superior Court Judge - January 7, 2025 to March 31, 2030.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

Seman, Jessica of Reading - Magistrate - October 17, 2024 to March 31, 2027.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

DiSano, Dana Marianna of South Burlington - Superior Court Judge - December 20, 2024 to March 31, 2030.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

Rowntree, Laura C. of South Burlington - Superior Court Judge - December 20, 2024 to March 31, 2028.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were severally adopted in concurrence:

Offered by Rep. McGill,

H.C.R. 10.

House concurrent resolution designating February 6, 2025 as 3SquaresVT Awareness Day at the State House.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 11.

House concurrent resolution in memory of extraordinary Bennington K-9 Police Officer Gracie.

Offered by All Members of the House,

Offered by All Members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 12.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 University of Vermont Catamounts on winning their school's first NCAA Division I men's soccer championship (College Cup).

Offered by All Members of the House,

H.C.R. 13.

House concurrent resolution in memory of the former esteemed Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives Robert Louis Picher of Winooski.

Offered by Rep. Mrowicki,

H.C.R. 14.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Putney Library on the 20th anniversary of its current home.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 15.

House concurrent resolution congratulating former Bennington Acting Police Chief Wally Mattison on his centennial birthday.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 16.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bennington Select Board Chair, Representative, and Assistant Judge James H. Colvin.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 17.

House concurrent resolution honoring the Green Mountain Hometown Heroes Banner Program and its recognized members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Offered by Reps. Sibilila and others,

H.C.R. 18.

House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont's communications union districts for their visionary leadership and effective efforts in bringing world class fiber optic service to rural communities.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 9, which was agreed to on a division of the Senate, Yeas 25, Nays 4.