

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 14

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 considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 7, 2025.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the House No. 15

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 a House bill of the following title:

H. 34. An act relating to workforce leadership in Vermont.

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

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

H.C.R. 19. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermonter Noah Dines on establishing a new one-year world vertical skiing record of 3,590,097 feet.

H.C.R. 20. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and Montpelier High School's role in the Washington County teen performances.

H.C.R. 21. House concurrent resolution expressing strong appreciation for the essential role of Vermont's school board members in the State's public education system and designating February as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

H.C.R. 22. House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 23. House concurrent resolution designating February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 24. House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 25. House concurrent resolution recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont.

H.C.R. 26. House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal.

H.C.R. 27. House concurrent resolution honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program.

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

Bills Introduced

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

S. 55.

By Senators Hardy and Gulick,

An act relating to reference-based pricing for hospital services.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 56.

By Senators Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Vyhovsky, Weeks and White,

An act relating to creating an Office of New Americans.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 57.

By Senators Watson, Bongartz, Lyons and White,

An act relating to the Standard Offer Program.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 9.**

Senator Norris, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to after-hours access to orders against sexual assault.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 5136(b) is amended to read:

(b)(1) The Court Administrator is authorized to contract with public or private agencies to assist plaintiffs to seek relief and to gain access to Superior Court. Law enforcement agencies shall assist in carrying out the intent of this section.

(2) The Court Administrator shall establish procedures to ensure access to orders against sexual assault after regular court hours or on weekends and holidays in accordance with subdivisions (A)–(D) of this subdivision.

(A) The court shall designate an authorized person to receive requests for ex parte emergency relief orders against sexual assault submitted after regular court hours pursuant to section 5134 of this title, including requests made by reliable electronic means according to the procedures in this subdivision (2).

(B) If a secure setting is not available for processing an ex parte emergency relief order against sexual assault submitted after regular court hours, or if the authorized person determines that electronic submission is appropriate under the circumstances, the authorized person shall inform the applicant that a complaint and affidavit may be submitted electronically.

(C) The affidavit shall be sworn to or affirmed by administration of the oath over the telephone to the applicant by the authorized person and shall conclude with the following statement: “I declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the State of Vermont that the foregoing is true and accurate. I understand that making false statements is a crime subject to a term of imprisonment or a fine, or both, as provided by 13 V.S.A. § 2904.” The

authorized person shall note on the affidavit the date and time that the oath was administered.

(D) The authorized person shall communicate the contents of the complaint and affidavit to a judicial officer telephonically or by reliable electronic means. The judicial officer shall decide whether to grant or deny the complaint and issue the order solely on the basis of the contents of the affidavit or affidavits provided. The judicial officer shall communicate the decision to the authorized person, who shall communicate it to the applicant. If the order is issued, it shall be delivered to the appropriate law enforcement agency for service and to the holding station.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2025.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

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 Reps. Lipsky and others,

H.C.R. 19.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermonter Noah Dines on establishing a new one-year world vertical skiing record of 3,590,097 feet.

Offered by Reps. McCann and others,

Offered by Senators Watson, Cummings and Perchlik,

H.C.R. 20.

House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical Hadestown and Montpelier High School's role in the Washington County teen performances.

Offered by All Members of the House,

H.C.R. 21.

House concurrent resolution expressing strong appreciation for the essential role of Vermont's school board members in the State's public education

system and designating February as School Board Recognition Month in Vermont.

Offered by Reps. Cole and others,

H.C.R. 22.

House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025 as Farm to School and Child Awareness Day at the State House.

Offered by Rep. Cordes,

H.C.R. 23.

House concurrent resolution designating February 13, 2025 as Youth Mentoring Day at the State House.

Offered by Rep. White,

H.C.R. 24.

House concurrent resolution designating February 12, 2025, as Vermont Outdoor Recreation Day at the State House.

Offered by House Committee on Human Services,

H.C.R. 25.

House concurrent resolution recognizing the vital role of Vermont 211 on its 20th anniversary and recognizing February 11, 2025 as National 211 Day in Vermont.

Offered by All Members of the House,

H.C.R. 26.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Ilona Delsing Rosa Maher on her 2024 Paris Olympics rugby sevens bronze medal.

Offered by Rep. Carris-Duncan,

H.C.R. 27.

House concurrent resolution honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 10.