

# Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Katelyn Macrae of Richmond.

## Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

## Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

### J.R.S. 11.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

Offered by Senator Baruth,

**J.R.S. 11.** Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 14, 2025.

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

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 14, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

## Bills Introduced

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

### S. 58.

By Senator Brennan,

An act relating to requirements for the pay plans of certain law enforcement officers and firefighters employed by the State.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 59.**

By Senator Hardy,

An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 60.**

By Senators Hardy, Heffernan, Major and Plunkett,

An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

**S. 61.**

By Senator Brennan,

An act relating to automatic opening knives.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**S. 62.**

By Senators Vyhovsky, Clarkson, Gulick, Harrison, Lyons, Perchlik, Watson and White,

An act relating to privatization contracts.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**S. 63.**

By Senators Lyons, Cummings and Gulick,

An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**S. 64.**

By Senators White, Baruth, Beck, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Douglass, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Major, Mattos, Norris, Plunkett, Vyhovsky, Weeks and Williams,

An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

**S. 65.**

By Senators Watson, Clarkson and White,  
An act relating to energy efficiency utility jurisdiction.  
To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**S. 66.**

By Senators White, Clarkson, Gulick, Major and Watson,  
An act relating to motor vehicle noise, exhaust modifications, and engine  
compression brakes.  
To the Committee on Transportation.

**Bill Referred**

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

**H. 34.**

An act relating to workforce leadership in Vermont.  
To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General  
Affairs.

**Message from the Governor  
Appointments Referred**

A message was received from the Governor, by Jaye Pershing Johnson,  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointments,  
which were referred to committees as indicated:

Johnson, Kerrick L. of Middlesex - Commissioner, Department of Public  
Service - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027.

To the Committee on Finance.

Fallar, Gail of Tinmouth - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board -  
from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Howrigan, Harold of Sheldon - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board  
- from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Lagerquist, Josh of Montpelier - Member of the Current Use Advisory  
Board - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Hogan, Michael of Marshfield - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Foster, Ted of Vergennes - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Hastings, Walter of South Royalton - Member of the Current Use Advisory Board - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Richardson, Amy of Northfield - Member of the Vermont Housing Conservation Board - from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2028.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

#### **Bill Passed**

##### **S. 9.**

Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed:

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

#### **Third Reading Ordered**

##### **S. 30.**

Senator Hardy, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

Reported that the bill ought to pass.

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

#### **Third Reading Ordered**

##### **H. 35.**

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, to which was referred House bill entitled:

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

Reported that the bill ought to passage in concurrence.

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

**Message from the House No. 16**

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. 141.** An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

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

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.