

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Paul Sawyer of Hartland.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bills Committed

S. 21.

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

An act relating to cell phone-free schools,
and the bill was committed to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 26.

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

An act relating to prohibiting certain artificial dyes in foods and beverages served or sold at school,
and the bill was committed to the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 39.

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

An act relating to the State Aid for School Construction Program,
and the bill was committed to the Committee on Finance.

Bills Referred to the Committee on Finance

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule were referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. 12. An act relating to sealing criminal history records.

S. 18. An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers.

Bills Referred to the Committee on Appropriations

Senate bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. 27. An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.

S. 60. An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions.

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:

Clark, Sarah of Waterbury Center - Secretary, Agency of Administration - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Flynn, Joe of South Hero - Secretary, Agency of Transportation - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Transportation.

Kurrle, Lindsay of Middlesex - Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

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

Moore, Julie of Middlesex - Secretary, Agency of the Natural Resources - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Reilly-Hughes, Denise of Cavendish - Secretary, Agency of the Digital Services - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Samuelson, Jenney of Shelburne - Secretary, Agency of the Human Services - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Saunders, Zoie of Shrewsbury - Secretary, Agency of Education - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Education.

Tebbetts, Anson of Cabot - Secretary, Agency of the Agriculture, Food and Markets - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

Collier, Andrew of Westford - Commissioner, Department of the Motor Vehicles - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Transportation.

Fastiggi, Beth of Burlington - Commissioner, Department of the Human Resources - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Greshin, Adam of Warren - Commissioner, Department of the Finance and Management - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Harrington, Michael A. of Northfield - Commissioner, Department of Labor - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

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

Minoli, Wanda of Montpelier - Commissioner, Department of the Buildings and General Services - from October 24, 2024 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Minoli, Wanda of Montpelier - Commissioner, Department of the Buildings and General Services - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Shouldice, William IV of Stowe - Commissioner, Department of Taxes - from February 18, 2025 to February 28, 2025.

To the Committee on Finance.

Shouldice, William IV of Stowe - Commissioner, Department of Taxes - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Finance.

Valerio, Matthew of Proctor - Defender General, Office of the Defender General - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bailey-Rowe, Gwen of Newport - Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

To the Committee on Education.

Campion, Brian of Bennington - Member of the State Board of Education - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

To the Committee on Education.

Dengler, Wayne of Isle La Motte - Member of the Parole Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 29, 2028.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Giffin, Tom of Rutland - Member of the Parole Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 29, 2028.

To the Committee on Institutions.

Harris, Kyle of Roxbury - Member of the Cannabis Control Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 29, 2028.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Jefferson, Shirley of South Royalton - Member of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

To the Committee on Education.

Kilborn, Ryan of East Orange - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Maulucci, Jason of Essex - Trustee of the University of VT and Agricultural College Board of Trustees - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

To the Committee on Education.

McQuesten, Gary of Plainfield - Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

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

Morrison, Jennifer of North Hero - Commissioner, Department of Public Safety - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

To the Committee on Transportation.

Saarnijoki, Linda of Weston - Member of the Board of Libraries - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

To the Committee on Education.

Snedeker, David of St. Johnsbury - Member of the State Infrastructure Bank Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2030.

To the Committee on Finance.

Valsangiacomo, Jon of Barre - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Werner, Rich of East Dover - Member of the State Board of Education - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2030.

To the Committee on Education.

Zeller, Susan of Montpelier - Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees - from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2029.

To the Committee on Education.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 17.

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. 17. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 14, 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

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

Bills Introduced

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

S. 105.

By Senators Douglass, Baruth, Beck, Brock, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hart, Heffernan, Lyons, Major, Mattos and Williams,

An act relating to exemptions from vehicle inspections.

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 106.

By Senators Gulick, Vyhovsky and White,

An act relating to continuing the Psychedelic Therapy Advisory Working Group.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 107.

By Senator Brennan,

An act relating to reimbursing the Department of Fish and Wildlife for revenue lost due to issuance of free licenses.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 108.

By Senators Clarkson, Major and White,

An act relating to the Dog, Cat, and Wolf-Hybrid Spaying and Neutering Program.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

S. 109.

By Senator Hashim,

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 110.

By Senators Williams, Brennan, Collamore, Douglass, Hart, Heffernan, Ingalls, Mattos, Norris and Weeks,

An act relating to changes to Vermont's air pollution and renewable energy laws.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 111.

By Senator Gulick,

An act relating to language access and emergency response.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 112.

By Senators Hardy, Clarkson, Gulick, Vyhovsky and White,

An act relating to amending a death certificate to reflect gender identity.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

S. 113.

By Senator Harrison,

An act relating to requiring the Agency of Transportation to request conditions in relation to the relicensing of the Bellows Falls Hydroelectric Project.

To the Committee on Finance.

Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**J.R.S. 16.**

Joint Senate resolution entitled:

Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of seven Superior Court Judges and one Magistrate.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, was taken up and adopted on the part of the Senate.

Senate Resolutions Adopted

Senate resolutions entitled:

S.R. 8. Senate resolution relating to concurrently conducted electronic committee meetings

S.R. 9. Senate resolution relating to electronic participation in Senate Sessions.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, were severally taken up and adopted.

Message from the House No. 24

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. 339. An act relating to removing the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230.

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

The Governor has informed the House that on March 5, 2025, he approved and signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 31. An act relating to claim edit standards and prior authorization requirements.

Adjournment

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