

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Glenn Russell of Winooski.

Appointment Confirmed

The following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, upon full report given by the Committee to which it was referred:

The nomination of

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

Was confirmed on a roll call, Yeas 22, Nays 8.

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, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Clarkson, Gulick, Hardy, Major, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, White.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 114.

By Senator Brennan,

An act relating to charging for actual cost under Vermont's Public Records Act.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 115.

By Senators Hashim and Harrison,

An act relating to requiring prior approval by a municipality to operate an overdose prevention center.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 116.

By Senators Williams, Hart and Heffernan,

An act relating to crimes against an unborn child.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee Bill Introduced

Senate committee bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time, and, under the rule, placed on the Calendar for notice the next legislative day:

S. 117.

By the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs,

An act relating to rulemaking on safety and health standards and technical corrections on employment practices and unemployment compensation.

Bills Introduced

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

S. 118.

By Senator Ram Hinsdale,

An act relating to agricultural economic development.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

S. 119.

By Senators Clarkson and White,

An act relating to the licensure of early childhood educators.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 120.

By Senators Vyhovsky, Gulick and White,

An act relating to funding support services for persons who use drugs and eliminating misdemeanor criminal penalties for possessing or dispensing a personal use drug supply.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Passed**S. 28.**

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

An act relating to access to certain legally protected health care services.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed**S. 50.**

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to increasing the size of solar net metering projects that qualify for expedited registration.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Perchlik moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 30 V.S.A. § 8010, in subdivision (c)(3)(G), by striking out “up to 25 kilowatts” and inserting in lieu thereof “25 kilowatts and less”

Second: In Sec. 2, rulemaking, in the first sentence, by striking out “of not more than 25 kW” and inserting in lieu thereof “of 25 kilowatts and less”

Third: In Sec. 2, rulemaking, in the second sentence, by striking out “of not more than 25 kW” and inserting in lieu thereof “of 25 kilowatts and less”

Fourth: By inserting a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

* * *

(15) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of sections 2291a and 4413 of this title or 30 V.S.A. chapter 5 or 89, in a municipality that has adopted a bylaw to establish setback requirements for development, those requirements shall apply to a net metering system that is 25 kW or less in size that has been registered with the Public Utility Commission as part of

expedited review under 30 V.S.A. § 248. Setback requirements under this subdivision shall not be more restrictive than requirements applied to other development in the municipality under this chapter.

Fifth: By inserting a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

§ 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING

* * *

(c) In accordance with this section, the Commission shall adopt and implement rules that govern the installation and operation of net metering systems.

(1) The rules shall establish and maintain a net metering program that:

* * *

(G) accounts for changes over time in the cost of technology; ~~and~~

(H) allows a customer to retain ownership of the environmental attributes of energy generated by the customer's net metering system and of any associated tradeable renewable energy credits or to transfer those attributes and credits to the interconnecting retail provider, and:

(i) if the customer retains the attributes, reduces the value of the credit provided under this section for electricity generated by the customer's net metering system by an appropriate amount; and

(ii) if the customer transfers the attributes to the interconnecting provider, requires the provider to retain them for application toward compliance with sections 8004 and 8005 of this title; and

(I) allows a customer to change their decision one time to retain or transfer the attributes of a new or existing system if the system is 25 kW or less in size.

* * *

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Bill Passed**S. 69.**

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

An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 44.**

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

An act relating to requiring legislative approval prior to entering into certain immigration agreements.

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

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 4652 is amended to read:

§ 4652. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS
PURSUANT TO 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) AND 19 U.S.C. § 1401(i)

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, only the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Attorney General, is authorized to enter into, modify, or extend an agreement pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or 19 U.S.C. § 1401(i).

~~(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency is authorized to enter into an agreement pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or 19 U.S.C. § 1401(i) when necessary to address threats to the public safety or welfare of Vermont residents arising out of a declaration of a State or national emergency~~ No public agency, as that term is defined in 1 V.S.A. § 317, or an officer, employee, agent, or independent contractor of a public agency, shall enter into an agreement pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or 19 U.S.C. § 1401(i) unless the Governor has authorized the agreement as set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to authorization to enter into certain immigration agreements”

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, on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 1.

Senator Hashim 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, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

The Senator who voted in the negative was: Norris.

Message from the House No. 25

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. 96. An act relating to increasing the monetary thresholds for certificates of need.

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

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

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

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon on Friday, March 14, 2025.