

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Timothy Taylor of Panton.

Message from the House No. 33

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. 10. An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre.

H. 319. An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects.

H. 321. An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.

H. 484. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

H. 489. An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

In the passage 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. 134.

By Senators Hardy and Chittenden,

An act relating to municipal regulation of private airstrips.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 135.

By Senator Perchlik,

An act relating to credit card fees and requiring the acceptance of cash.

To the Committee on Finance.

Bill Referred

Pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A, the following bill having failed to meet crossover and having been granted an exception by the Committee on Rules was read the first time and referred as follows:

H. 10.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

H. 319.

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

H. 321.

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.

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

H. 484.

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

To the Committee on Agriculture.

Bill Referred

Pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A, the following bill having failed to meet crossover and having been granted an exception by the Committee on Rules was read the first time and referred as follows:

H. 489.

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

To the Committee on Appropriations.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 127.**

Senate committee bill entitled:

An act relating to housing and housing development.

Having appeared on the Calendar for notice for one day, was taken up.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Finance, reported the bill ought to pass.

Senator Watson, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4, 32 V.S.A. § 5930u, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. [Deleted.]

Second: In Sec. 5, by striking out subsection (g)

Third: By striking out Sec. 15, brownfield funding, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 15 to read as follows:

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Fourth: By striking out Secs. 18–21, and their reader assistance headings in their entirety and renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

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, and the recommendation of amendment was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the bill be read the third time?, Senators Ram Hinsdale, Clarkson, Brock and Chittenden moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a reader assistance heading and new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

* * * VHFA Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program * * *

Sec. 4. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

Sec. 38. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall

create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

* * *

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

* * *

Second: By adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be Secs. 17a and 17b to read as follows:

* * * Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms * * *

Sec. 17a. 9 V.S.A. chapter 77 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77. SMOKE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS AND CARBON
MONOXIDE ~~DETECTORS~~ ALARMS

§ 2881. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) “Smoke ~~detector~~ alarm” means a device that detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

(3) “Carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm” means a device with an assembly that incorporates a sensor control component and an alarm notification that detects elevations in carbon monoxide levels and sounds a warning alarm, is operated from a power supply within the unit or wired to it from an outside source, and is approved or listed for the purpose by Underwriters Laboratory or by another nationally recognized independent testing laboratory.

§ 2882. INSTALLATION

(a) A person who constructs a single-family dwelling shall install ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling, and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms in the dwelling in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In a dwelling provided with electrical power, ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(b) Any single-family dwelling when transferred by sale or exchange shall contain ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms in the vicinity of any bedrooms and on each level of the dwelling installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and one or more carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A single-family dwelling constructed before January 1, 1994 may contain smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms powered by the electrical service in the building or by battery, or by a combination of both. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after January 1, 1994 that is provided with electrical power, smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery. In a single-family dwelling newly constructed after July 1, 2005 that is provided with electrical power, carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms shall be powered by the electrical service in the building and by battery.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require an owner or occupant of a single-family dwelling to maintain or use a smoke ~~detector~~ alarm or a carbon monoxide ~~detector~~ alarm after installation.

§ 2883. REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF DWELLING

(a) The seller of a single-family dwelling, including one constructed for first occupancy, whether the transfer is by sale or exchange, shall certify to the buyer at the closing of the transaction that the dwelling is provided with ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms in accordance with this chapter. This certification shall be signed and dated by the seller.

(b) If the buyer notifies the seller within 10 days by certified mail from the date of conveyance of the dwelling that the dwelling lacks any ~~photoelectric-only-type~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms, or any carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms, or that any ~~detector~~ alarm is not operable, the seller shall comply with this chapter within 10 days after notification.

* * *

Sec. 17b. 20 V.S.A. § 2731 is amended to read:

§ 2731. RULES; INSPECTIONS; VARIANCES

* * *

(j) ~~Detectors~~ Alarms. Rules adopted under this section shall require that information written, approved, and distributed by the Commissioner on the type, placement, and installation of ~~photoelectric~~ photoelectric-type or UL 217 compliant smoke ~~detectors~~ alarms and carbon monoxide ~~detectors~~ alarms be conspicuously posted in the retail sales area where the ~~detectors~~ alarms are sold.

* * *

Third: By striking out Sec. 18, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof a reader assistance heading and a new section Sec. 18 to read as follows:

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that Sec. 4 and this section shall take effect on passage.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Third Reading Ordered

H. 154.

Senator Hart, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to designating November as the Vermont Month of the Veteran.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

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

Bills Passed

Senate bills of the following title were severally read the third time and passed:

S. 46. An act relating to the taxation of vehicles used for forestry operations.

S. 71. An act relating to consumer data privacy and online surveillance.

S. 126. An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon on Friday, March 28, 2025.