

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rabbi Jan Salzman of Burlington.

Message from the House No. 34

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. 401. An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

H. 474. An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law.

H. 481. An act relating to stormwater management.

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. 19. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 28, 2025.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Rules Suspension Refused

H. 489.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, Senator Baruth, moved the rules be suspended and House bill entitled:

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

Be taken up for immediate consideration, which was disagreed to on a roll call, Yeas 16 , Nays 13 (3/4ths majority not attained).

Senator White having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Bongartz, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Beck, Brennan, Brock, Collamore, Douglass, Hart, Heffernan, Ingalls, Mattos, Norris, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

H. 489.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments.

Bills Referred

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

H. 401.

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments.

To the Committee on Health and Welfare.

H. 474.

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

H. 481.

An act relating to stormwater management.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Bill Amended; Bill Passed

S. 127.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to housing and housing development.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Cummings, Beck, Brock, Chittenden, Gulick, Hardy and Mattos moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1906, in subdivision (6), by striking out the word “affordable”

Second: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1906, in subdivision (10)(A), by striking out “commercial and industrial facilities.”

Third: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1906, by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct

Fourth: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, by striking out section 1907 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 1907 to read as follows:

§ 1907. PURPOSE

The purpose of housing infrastructure tax increment financing is to provide revenues for improvements and related costs to encourage the development of primary residences for households of low or moderate income.

Fifth: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) Review. The Vermont Economic Progress Council may approve only applications that:

(1) meet the process requirements, the project criterion, and any of the location criteria of this section; and

(2) are submitted on or before December 31, 2035.

Sixth: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910, in subsection (d), following “the projected housing development includes”, by striking out the word “affordable”

Seventh: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910d, in subsection (b), by inserting a new subdivision (5) to read as follows:

(5) the number and types of housing units for which a permit is being pursued under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (State land use and development plans) and, for each applicable housing development, the current stage of the permitting process;

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct

Eighth: In Sec. 16, 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 7, in section 1910d, by adding a new subsection to be subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) On or before January 15, 2035, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means evaluating the success of the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program in achieving its purpose, as stated in section 1907 of this chapter, including by identifying the amount and kinds of housing produced through the Program and by determining whether housing development pursued through the Program meets the project criterion and location criteria of section 1910 of this chapter.

Which was agreed to.

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

Bill Passed in Concurrence

H. 154.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence:

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

Appointments Confirmed

Under suspension of the rules (and particularly, Senate Rule 93), as moved by Senator Collamore, the following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed together as a group by the Senate, without reports given by the Committees to which they were referred and without debate:

Ireland, Peter of Waitsfield - Member of the Board of Medical Practice - May 15, 2024 to February 28, 2029.

Fischer, Bob of Barre - Member of the VT Citizens' Advisory Council on Lake Champlain's Future - May 15, 2024 to February 28, 2027.

Weinhagen, Alex of Burlington - Member of the Land Use Review Board - January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

Soloman, Hilary of Middletown Springs - Member of the VT Citizens' Advisory Council on Lake Champlain's Future - May 15, 2024 to February 28, 2027.

Hurley, Janet M. of Manchester - Chair of the Land Use Review Board - January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Hadd, Sarah H. of St. Albans - Member of the Land Use Review Board - January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.

Appointment Confirmed

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

The nomination of

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

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 27, Nays 2.

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, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: White, Williams.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Vyhovsky.

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. Kornheiser and others,

Offered by Senators Harrison and Hashim,

H.C.R. 63.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Brattleboro Food Co-op on its 50th anniversary and extending best future wishes.

Offered by Reps. McCann and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz, Cummings, Gulick, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson and Weeks,

H.C.R. 64.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver of Winooski High School on her selection as the 2025 Vermont Teacher of the Year and Jeremy DeMink of Edmunds Middle School in Burlington and Sonya Shedd of Wolcott Elementary School on their recognition as Distinguished Finalists.

Offered by Reps. Demar and others,

Offered by Senator Ingalls,

H.C.R. 65.

House concurrent resolution recognizing May 2025 as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Awareness Month in Vermont.

Offered by Reps. Duke and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz, Clarkson, Douglass, Harrison, Hart, Ingalls, Major, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, White and Williams,

H.C.R. 66.

House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of tourism in the Vermont economy and designating April 10, 2025 as Tourism Economy Day at the State House.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 67.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's planning, in Bennington in 1775, of the successful Vermont initiation of the American War of Independence and the associated expedition to Ticonderoga.

Offered by Reps. Cooper and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz, Brennan, Clarkson, Douglass, Hart, Ingalls, Major, Plunkett, Weeks, Westman, White and Williams,

H.C.R. 68.

House concurrent resolution celebrating the role of the manufacturing industry in the Vermont economy and designating April 2, 2025 as Manufacturing Day at the State House.

Offered by Reps. Marcotte and others,

H.C.R. 69.

House concurrent resolution designating April 2, 2025 as Early College Day at the State House.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 19.