

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Rick Swanson of Stowe.

Message from the House No. 41

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 considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 30. An act relating to updating and reorganizing the health insurance statutes in 8 V.S.A. chapter 107.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption 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. 21. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 11, 2025.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 243.

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

An act relating to the regulation of business organizations.

Proposal of Amendment; Proposal of Amendment Withdrawn; Third Reading Ordered

H. 259.

Senator Cummings, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to preventing workplace violence in hospitals.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 1911b, in subdivision (a)(4)(A) by striking out “time” and inserting in lieu thereof “times”

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, without objection, Senator Cummings withdrew the proposal of amendment offered by the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

Appointment Confirmed

Under suspension of the rules (and particularly, Senate Rule 93), as moved by Senator Collamore, the following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, without a report given by the Committee to which it was referred and without debate:

Elwell, Peter of Brattleboro - Member of Vermont Economic Development Authority - March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

Appointments Confirmed

The following Gubernatorial appointments were confirmed separately by the Senate, upon full reports given by the Committees to which they were referred:

The nomination of

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

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 27, Nays 0.

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: Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Gulick, Hardy, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent or not voting were: Baruth (presiding), Harrison, Vyhovsky.

The nomination of

Cheney, Margaret of Norwich - Member of the Public Utility Commission - March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2031.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 26, Nays 0.

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: Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Hardy, Hart, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent or not voting were: Baruth (presiding), Gulick, Harrison, 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. Krowinski and others,

H.C.R. 81.

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bakersfield Select Board member Brenda Churchill.

Offered by Reps. Canfield and others,

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks and Williams,

H.C.R. 82.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team.

Offered by All Members of the House,

Offered by All Members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 83.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts.

Offered by Reps. Morrissey and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 84.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School Patriot wrestling program on winning its 36th consecutive State championship.

Offered by Reps. Page and others,

Offered by Senators Douglass and Ingalls,

H.C.R. 85.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 North Country Union High School Falcons' exemplary snowboarding teams.

Offered by Reps. McCann and others,

Offered by Senators Cummings, Perchlik and Watson,

H.C.R. 86.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Montpelier High School Solons Division II girls' Nordic championship ski team.

Offered by Reps. McCann and others,

Offered by Senators Cummings, Perchlik and Watson,

H.C.R. 87.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Montpelier High School Solons boys' basketball program on winning a fifth consecutive Division II championship.

Offered by Reps. Masland and Holcombe,

H.C.R. 88.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy inductees into the National Technical Honor Society.

Offered by Reps. Canfield and others,

Offered by Senators Collamore, Hardy, Heffernan, Weeks and Williams,

H.C.R. 89.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters girls' basketball team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship.

Offered by Reps. Rachelson and others,

Offered by Senators Gulick, Baruth, Chittenden, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Beck, Brennan, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Weeks, Westman, White and Williams,

H.C.R. 90.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship girls' basketball team.

Offered by Reps. Rachelson and others,

Offered by Senators Gulick, Baruth, Chittenden, Lyons, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Beck, Brennan, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Douglass, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White and Williams,

H.C.R. 91.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' basketball team.

Offered by Reps. Quimby and others,

Offered by Senators Beck, Douglass and Ingalls,

H.C.R. 92.

House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding achievements of the Federal TRIO Programs in Vermont.

Offered by Reps. Branagan and others,

H.C.R. 93.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Kathleen Lynch of Burlington on being named as the 2025 Vermont Mother of the Year.

Offered by Reps. Lipsky and others,

H.C.R. 94.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Tyler Riggs of Fletcher on the Vermont Forest Products Association naming him Vermont's Outstanding Sawmill Operator 2024.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Lyons, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 21.