

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Beth Ann Maier of Montpelier.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Message from the House No. 42

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 adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 81. House concurrent resolution in memory of former Bakersfield Select Board member Brenda Churchill.

H.C.R. 82. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Fair Haven Union High School Slaters State championship bowling team.

H.C.R. 83. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2024 Green Mountain Council Class of Eagle Scouts.

H.C.R. 84. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Mount Anthony Union High School Patriot wrestling program on winning its 36th consecutive State championship.

H.C.R. 85. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 North Country Union High School Falcons' exemplary snowboarding teams.

H.C.R. 86. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Montpelier High School Solons Division II girls' Nordic championship ski team.

H.C.R. 87. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Montpelier High School Solons boys' basketball program on winning a fifth consecutive Division II championship.

H.C.R. 88. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Thetford Academy inductees into the National Technical Honor Society.

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.

H.C.R. 90. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship girls' basketball team.

H.C.R. 91. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Burlington High School Seahorses Division I championship boys' basketball team.

H.C.R. 92. House concurrent resolution honoring the outstanding achievements of the Federal TRIO Programs in Vermont.

H.C.R. 93. House concurrent resolution congratulating Kathleen Lynch of Burlington on being named as the 2025 Vermont Mother of the Year.

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.

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

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 22.

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

by Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 22. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 18, 2025.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 18, 2025, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Bill Referred to Committee on Rules

S. 124.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, under Temporary Rule 44A, was referred to the Committee on Rules:

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

Bill Introduced

Senate bill of the following title was introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 151.

By Senator Clarkson,

An act relating to special motions to strike in an action arising from unpaid volunteer work for a nonprofit organization or governmental entity.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bill Passed in Concurrence**H. 259.**

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

An act relating to preventing workplace violence in hospitals.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 10.**

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

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

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 1, in section 110 (fiscal year), following the words "shall begin on the first day of July", by striking out the words "and end on the last day of June" and inserting in lieu thereof "~~and end on the last day of June~~"

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

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

Point of Privilege Journalized

During announcements, on a point of personal privilege, Senator White addressed the Chair, and on motion of Senator Ram Hinsdale, her remarks were ordered entered into the Journal, and are as follows:

“Mr. President, I have an announcement and I ask the body to listen to me about an experience I had yesterday, so I ask for your grace in this moment, we normally don’t use announcements, but I wanted to share something that happened to me and a friend of mine yesterday.

“A constituent of ours named Mohsen, an Upper Valley resident, a man who resides in White River Junction, Vermont, who is a university student went in for a citizen interview yesterday in Colchester, Vermont. We went to meet with him beforehand, around 10:00 a.m. We had coffee with him and his lawyer and his community of support at the Hampton Inn in Colchester. It was a beautiful sunny day; it was bright and gorgeous.

“He went in at 11:00 a.m. to that meeting. We heard that his interview had started. Within 20 minutes of that interview, while we were outside waiting for him to leave, he was handcuffed inside of that building. He was handcuffed by three men who were wearing face coverings, hoodies that were unmarked and we did not know why they were taking him. They told him his green card had been revoked. They did not tell his lawyer, or the friend he was with, Dave, where he was going, why they were taking him. And then, vehicles showed up at the parking lot with men in sunglasses and hats who wouldn’t tell us who they were or where they were taking him and they took him, physically, in handcuffs from Colchester, Vermont to we didn’t know where.

“This is a man who is an Upper Valley resident; this is our constituent. He invited me to come be supportive. He went for a traditional citizenship interview, and he was taken off of the street in Colchester, Vermont, in plain daylight, in open daylight, a gorgeous day and no one could stop them, and no one could prevent them from doing this.

“He is now, thank goodness, being kept in Vermont, because we know what happened to the last person, they were sent from their state and then they were sent to Louisiana. He was not given due process. His lawyer, his mother, his sister, the people who care about him in the Upper Valley were not given any information about where he was going or why he was taken.

“I want the body to know this because this is going to happen to your constituents. This is going to happen to your people, just like it has happened to our people. This is a young man who is a Buddhist, who is peaceful, who is non-violent, who attends and leads lay lead services at a Unitarian Universalist church in Hartland. This is not a bad person; this is not a criminal; this is a waste of our resources. And I wanted to share with the body that information today, because if you are invited to a citizenship interview with a constituent, you better go to that interview, because they are taking people, they are taking

people off the street. This is not a joke; this is happening in our state. This is not a joke.

“And I am very emotional, and I am very concerned this happened within the last 24 hours. This happened yesterday. Yesterday he was free, today he is not free, and we do not know why. This is unfathomable. This is happening in Vermont. If they can take this gentleman, they can take any person. They can take any person when they want, and they don’t have to tell you where they are going. I want us as a body to think about what this means for our Constitution. Does it matter? Does our Constitution matter anymore when you can be abducted off the street? No, it doesn’t matter anymore.

“And the last thing I will just say is this is obviously a tense time in our nation, and I want to communicate that Mohsen, he is so peaceful, he is so kind. When he was arrested and they took him in, I was emotional, I was ready to get in there. His reaction to the whole situation was calm and peaceful and he went in silence.”

Message from the House No. 43

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. 454. An act relating to transforming Vermont’s education governance, quality, and finance systems.

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

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 3. An act relating to the transfer of property to a trust.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o’clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.