

Journal of the Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

Pursuant to the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President, the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 84

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mx. Nigel Hicks-Tibbles, its First Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on June 5, 2025, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 105. An act relating to expanding the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

H. 222. An act relating to civil orders of protection.

H. 231. An act relating to technical corrections to fish and wildlife statutes.

H. 458. An act relating to the Agency of Digital Services.

H. 482. An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer.

The Governor has informed the House that on June 5, 2025, he did not approve and allowed to become law without his signature a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 1. An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, setting forth his reasons for refusing to sign and *allowing to become law without his signature* **House Bill No. 1.** is as follows:

"June 5, 2025

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, I'm allowing H.1, *An act relating to accepting and referring complaints by the State Ethics Commission*, to become law without my signature.

Just last year, in a rare area of consensus in that session, the Legislature agreed to enhance accountability and transparency in State ethics laws, including applying these higher standards to its own branch.

Among the many changes in H.1, it's my belief this bill softens the Legislature's commitment to the statutory State Code of Ethics. I'm concerned about how this change will be viewed by Vermonters, who want their state government to set a high standard for the conduct of its officials and the transparency with which issues are addressed.

Nevertheless, considering the balance of the bill and remaining ethical requirements, it does not rise to the level of a veto.

For these reasons, I'm allowing H.1 to become law without my signature and urge the Legislature to take another look at this in the next session. In the meantime, the Executive Branch will continue to adhere to the standards applied to it by both our laws, as well as the self-imposed higher standards of my executive order on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp"

Adjournment

No quorum of the Senate having assembled, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate Rules, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock in the forenoon on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.