

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the ninth day of June, 2025 he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

S. 53. An act relating to certification of community-based perinatal doulas and Medicaid coverage for doula services.

S. 59. An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

Message from the Governor

A message was received from His Excellency, the Governor, by Ms. Jaye Pershing Johnson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed by the Governor to inform the Senate that on the ninth day of June, 2025 he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 125. An act relating to collective bargaining.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication to the Senate from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. 125** to the Senate is as follows:

“June 9, 2025

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning S.125, *An act relating to collective bargaining*, without my signature because of my objections described herein:

This bill would effectively unionize a group of Judiciary employees with a simple definitional change. I’m concerned that despite unions testifying this was a priority for their organization, employees who would be impacted by this bill were not consulted or asked to testify.

The Judiciary has advised this change could have a negative impact on the effective management of courthouses and fear a workplace marked by divisiveness and angst were this bill to pass. At a time when our court system is managing a significant backlog, we should be focusing on improving efficiencies within the system.

Further, this bill seeks to bolster existing unions by significantly increasing the voting threshold for union decertification. This means it will be much more difficult for employees who do not feel well represented to consider their alternatives.

I support collective bargaining, but I believe employees should have choices for which union they belong to. This bill seeks to make it harder for employees, if they choose, to seek union representation from other organizations. I believe the threshold to trigger a vote for certification should be the same as decertification.

Our employees should be heard and respected and for this reason I cannot allow this bill to go into law.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor”

Adjournment

No quorum of the Senate having assembled, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate, the Senate adjourned until eleven o’clock in the forenoon on Friday, June 13, 2025.