

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

Pursuant to Rule 8 of the Senate Rules, in the absence of the President and the President *pro tempore*, the time for convening of the Senate having been set at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the Senate was called to order by John H. Bloomer, Jr., Secretary of the Senate.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 85

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 11, 2025, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 106. An act relating to selling real property within a FEMA mapped flood hazard area.

H. 209. An act relating to intranasal epinephrine in schools.

H. 238. An act relating to the phaseout of consumer products containing added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

H. 266. An act relating to the 340B prescription drug pricing program.

H. 321. An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments.

H. 397. An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the statutes governing emergency management and flood response.

H. 472. An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation.

H. 484. An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.

The Governor has informed the House that on June 11, 2025, he returned without signature and vetoed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 91. An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication to from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. 91** to the Senate is as follows:

“June 11, 2025

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

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I’m returning H.91, *An act relating to the Vermont Homeless Emergency Assistance and Responsive Transition to Housing Program*, without my signature.

For quite some time I’ve talked about the need to put an end to the pandemic-era “hotel/motel” program. We are the only state in the region that continues to operate an emergency housing program at this scale and unfortunately, H.91 does not adequately reduce the size or cost of the program. In fact, this bill proposes we spend millions of dollars more than the \$45 million used last year (for comparison, in 2019 we appropriated \$5 million).

It’s also important to point out that since the expansion of the program, 135 individuals sheltering in hotels and motels have died. It’s my belief many of these deaths may have been prevented had there been more accountability and better engagement.

Rather than continuing to fund a program that isn’t good for those in it, I believe we should focus on real solutions like building additional shelter capacity and requirements to engage in work, training, and treatment for those who need it. That way, those who are experiencing homelessness are more likely to get back on their feet and into permanent housing. H.91 does not adequately address how this would be accomplished.

It’s my hope the Legislature and community stakeholders will work with the Agency of Human Services to transform the hotel/motel program into one that delivers value for Vermont taxpayers, those in the program, the community-based organizations providing shelters and services, and communities that have been unfairly burdened by this failed program.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp”

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 twelfth day of June, 2025 he approved and signed bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

- S. 12.** An act relating to sealing criminal history records.
- S. 45.** An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities.
- S. 63.** An act relating to modifying the regulatory duties of the Green Mountain Care Board.
- S. 69.** An act relating to an age-appropriate design code.
- S. 109.** An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.
- S. 122.** An act relating to economic and workforce development.
- S. 123.** An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to motor vehicles.
- S. 124.** An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects.
- S. 126.** An act relating to health care payment and delivery system reform.
- S. 127.** An act relating to housing and housing development.

Adjournment

No quorum of the Senate having assembled, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Senate, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Monday, June 16, 2025.