

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 34.

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

Offered by Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 34. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 23, 2026.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 23, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Joint Resolutions Placed on Calendar

Joint Senate resolutions of the following titles were severally offered, read the first time and are as follows:

Offered by Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 35. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect an Adjutant and Inspector General to serve a two-year term commencing on March 1, 2026 and expiring on March 1, 2028, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to serve four-year terms commencing on March 1, 2026

and expiring on March 1, 2030. In case such election shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until said vacancy is filled.

Offered by Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 36. Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2026.

Whereas, in recent years it has become increasingly necessary to shorten the length of time spent by the General Assembly in joint session for the election of various officials, and

Whereas, if elections for multiple vacancies were to be decided by a plurality vote, then a great savings of time can be effectuated, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That, notwithstanding the current provisions of Joint Rule 10, and for this election only, the election of two legislative trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation at a Joint Assembly to be held on February 19, 2026, shall be governed by the following procedure:

(1) All candidates for the office of Trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be two.

(2) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the two vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the Trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for a vacant position, then voting shall continue on successive ballots for the unfilled position until the vacancy has been filled by election declared of the candidate receiving the larger number of votes.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the joint resolutions were severally placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 273.

By Senators Gulick, Clarkson, Hardy, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

An act relating to the provision of State-funded education in school districts that do not maintain an elementary school or a high school.

To the Committee on Education.

S. 274.

By Senators Watson and Perchlik,

An act relating to the sales and use tax exemption for fuel used in a residence for domestic use.

To the Committee on Finance.

S. 275.

By Senators Weeks, Collamore and Williams,

An act relating to creation of the Cemetery Vandalism Response Fund.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 276.

By Senators White and Vyhovsky,

An act relating to requiring municipalities to hold a vote concerning the operation of cannabis establishments.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 277.

By Senator Gulick,

An act relating to prohibiting mandatory overtime for nurses.

To the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Message from the House No. 7

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. 649. An act relating to captive insurance companies.

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. 60. An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.