

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Rules Suspended; Resolution Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Resolution Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended; Resolution Messaged

J.R.S. 37.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and Joint Senate Resolution entitled:

Joint resolution supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Ram Hinsdale, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs reported recommending that the resolution be amended by striking out all Whereas and Resolved clauses and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas, Nordic combined is a challenging winter sport, requiring competitors to prove their skills as both Nordic skiers and alpine ski jumpers, and

Whereas, the first documented Nordic combined competition occurred in Oslo, Norway, in 1892, 32 years before the inaugural Winter Olympics was held in France in 1924, at which Nordic combined was one of the featured events, and

Whereas, the proud century of Nordic combined competition in the Winter Olympics has been tarnished due to its exclusion of women, and

Whereas, women have exhibited outstanding Nordic combined performances in non-Olympic competition, and among the premier women's Nordic combined competitors is Vermonter Tara Geraghty-Moats, who has earned national and international recognition, and

Whereas, unfortunately for this sport, the exclusion of women from Olympic Nordic combined competition persuaded Tara Geraghty-Moats to pursue her Winter Olympic dreams as a biathlon athlete, and

Whereas, Vermont is proudly the home of many outstanding women Winter Olympians, who are medal winners in sports other than Nordic combined, and

Whereas, ironically, although the IOC recently “welcomed the Political Declaration adopted unanimously by the 69th session of the [United Nations] Commission on the Status of Women ... reaffirming the importance of sport as a vehicle for gender equality,” it continued this exclusionary policy for the 2026 Winter Olympics, and

Whereas, beyond 2026, Nordic combined Winter Olympic competition may be imperiled, as the IOC may decide to eliminate the sport entirely as a way to end this embarrassing gender exclusion controversy, and

Whereas, the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS), Nordic Combined USA, and male and female Nordic combined skiers from different nations are strongly advocating for the IOC to continue this fabled sport in Winter Olympic competition but with gender equality, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly supports, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges the IOC only to introduce new Olympic sports that practice gender equality, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to FIS, Nordic Combined USA, U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and the IOC.

and that after adoption the title of the resolution be amended to read:

“Joint resolution supporting, in solidarity with national and international ski organizations and numerous skiers across the globe, the introduction of long-overdue gender equality in Nordic combined Olympic competition and urging that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) only introduce new Olympic sports that practice gender equality.”

And that when so amended the resolution ought to pass.

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

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and the resolution was placed in all remaining stages of its passage.

Thereupon, the resolution was read the third time and adopted.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended, and the resolution was ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Bill Referred

House bill of the following title was read the first time and referred:

H. 648.

An act relating to banking, insurance, and securities.

To the Committee on Finance.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, February 5, 2026.