

Journal of the Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 16

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. 541. An act relating to interference with voters and election officials.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered joint resolution originating in the Senate of the following title:

J.R.S. 39. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 6, 2026.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Message from the House No. 17

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 House bills of the following titles:

H. 5. An act relating to a hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age.

H. 626. An act relating to sexual extortion, voyeurism, and disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has adopted House concurrent resolutions of the following titles:

H.C.R. 185. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Colchester Majors' Division I championship Little League Baseball team.

H.C.R. 186. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Colchester Little League Minors on winning the 8–10 age bracket State Little League Baseball championship.

H.C.R. 187. House concurrent resolution congratulating Village Garage Distillery of Bennington on winning a silver medal at the 2025 San Francisco World Spirits Competition for Bonfire, its debut spirit, a smoked maple bourbon.

H.C.R. 188. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Bennington College Visual and Performing Arts Center.

H.C.R. 189. House concurrent resolution designating February 11, 2026, as Disability Advocacy Day at the State House.

H.C.R. 190. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Thetford Academy Panthers boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship.

H.C.R. 191. House concurrent resolution congratulating Doris G. Dexter on her centennial birthday.

H.C.R. 192. House concurrent resolution recognizing February 11, 2026, as National 211 Day in Vermont and celebrating the outstanding community contributions of Vermont 211.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 218.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

An act relating to reducing chloride contamination of State waters.

Bills Referred

House bills of the following titles were read the first time and referred:

H. 5.

An act relating to a hearsay exception for a child under 16 years of age.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 541.

An act relating to interference with voters and election officials.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 626.

An act relating to sexual extortion, voyeurism, and disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Rules Suspended; Resolution Amended; Third Reading Ordered; Rules Suspended; Resolution Adopted**S.R. 21.**

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

Senate resolution relating to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Operation Metro Surge.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Baruth, for the Committee on Judiciary, reported recommending that the resolution be amended as follows:

First: By striking out the second Resolved clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Resolved: That the Senate of the State of Vermont, based on initial and substantial evidence, unequivocally condemns the extrajudicial killings of Renée Good and Alex Petti as grave violations of human dignity, civil liberties, and the constitutional protections owed to all persons, *and be it further*

Second: By striking out the fourth Resolved clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Resolved: That the Senate of the State of Vermont further declares that the lawful exercise of these constitutional rights—peacefully, responsibly, and within the bounds of the law—can never justify empowering federal agents to act as judge, jury, and executioner, nor employing lethal forces outside established legal process and accountability, *and be it further*

And that when so amended the resolution ought to be adopted.

Thereupon, the resolution was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the recommendations of amendment were agreed to, on a roll call, Yeas 25, Nays 4.

Senator Ram Hinsdale having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Benson, Heffernan, Ingalls, Williams.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Morley.

Thereupon, third reading was ordered, on a roll call, Yeas 24, Nays 5.

Senator Ram Hinsdale having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: *Benson, Heffernan, Ingalls, *Norris, *Williams.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Morley.

*Senator Benson explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. President,

“The resolution as presented may be fine. However, I believe it is premature and that we should wait until the investigation is completed and the facts known before adoption of the resolution.”

*Senator Norris explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. President,

“I am voting no because this resolution declares “extrajudicial killing” before investigations or courts have established the facts. The Legislature should not act as judge and jury in place of due process.”

*Senator Williams explained his vote as follows:

“I take concerns about public safety and civil liberties seriously. But this resolution does not advance accountability in a lawful or constructive way.

“The Vermont Legislature Does not have authority to direct, condemn, or interfere with federal law enforcement operations. Doing so blurs constitutional lines, invites litigation, and weakens-not strengthens-the rule of law.

“Resolutions should reflect our values without misrepresenting our legal authority. When we use them to imply powers we do not have, or to pressure outcomes outside state jurisdiction, we risk misleading the public and politicizing matters better addressed through lawful oversight, the courts, or Congress.

“For those reasons, I cannot support this resolution as written and will vote no.”

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

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

Appointment Confirmed

The following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, upon full report given by the Committee to which it was referred..

The nomination of

Samsom, Kaj of Montpelier - Commissioner Financial Regulation, Department of - April 14, 2025 to February 28, 2027.

Was confirmed by the Senate on a roll call, Yeas 27, Nays 0.

Senator Collamore having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Beck, Benson, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Major, Morley, White.

Appointment Confirmed

Under suspension of the rules (and particularly, Senate Rule 93), as moved by Senator Baruth, the following Gubernatorial appointment was confirmed by the Senate, without report given by the Committee to which it was referred and without debate:

Furman, Sarah of Rutland - Member of the Vermont Economic Development Authority - June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

House Concurrent Resolutions

The following joint concurrent resolutions having been placed on the consent calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no Senator having requested floor consideration as provided by the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, were adopted in concurrence:

Offered by Reps. Austin and others,

Offered by Senators Brennan, Baruth, Gulick, Norris and Vyhovsky,

H.C.R. 185.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Colchester Majors' Division I championship Little League Baseball team.

Offered by Reps. Austin and others,

Offered by Senators Brennan, Baruth, Gulick and Vyhovsky,

H.C.R. 186.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2025 Colchester Little League Minors on winning the 8–10 age bracket State Little League Baseball championship.

Offered by Reps. Greer and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 187.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Village Garage Distillery of Bennington on winning a silver medal at the 2025 San Francisco World Spirits Competition for Bonfire, its debut spirit, a smoked maple bourbon.

Offered by Reps. Greer and others,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 188.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Bennington College Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Offered by All Members of the House,

Offered by All Members of the Senate,

H.C.R. 189.

House concurrent resolution designating February 11, 2026, as Disability Advocacy Day at the State House.

Offered by Reps. Holcombe and Masland,

H.C.R. 190.

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Thetford Academy Panthers boys' indoor track and field team on winning a second consecutive Division II championship.

Offered by Rep. Durfee,

Offered by Sens. Bongartz and Plunkett,

H.C.R. 191.

House concurrent resolution congratulating Doris G. Dexter on her centennial birthday.

Offered by Reps. McGill and others,

H.C.R. 192.

House concurrent resolution recognizing February 11, 2026, as National 211 Day in Vermont and celebrating the outstanding community contributions of Vermont 211.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 39.