

# Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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. 18

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. 540.** An act relating to the recommendations of the Post-Adjudication Reparative Program Working Group.

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

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

**H. 50.** An act relating to identifying underutilized State buildings and land.

And has concurred therein with a further proposal of amendment thereto, in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

## Bill Referred

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

**H. 540.**

An act relating to the recommendations of the Post-Adjudication Reparative Program Working Group.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

## Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

**S. 208.**

Senator Hashim, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to standards for law enforcement identification.

Reported recommending that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2373 is added to read:

§ 2373. STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IDENTIFICATION

(a) Legislative intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to exercise the power of Vermont, as recognized by the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and law enforcement officers present in the State by codifying standards for law enforcement identification.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Law enforcement agency” has the same meaning as in section 2351a of this title.

(2) “Law enforcement officer” has the same meaning as in section 2351a of this title and includes any officer of a federal law enforcement agency or any person acting on behalf of a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency.

(c) Identification requirements.

(1) A law enforcement officer shall be clearly identified by:

(A) the officer’s name or the officer’s unique radio or badge number visibly displayed on the officer’s person; and

(B) the officer’s agency visibly displayed on the officer’s person.

(2) A law enforcement officer shall not wear any mask or personal disguise while interacting in person with the public in the performance of the officer’s duties.

(3) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, a law enforcement officer may wear:

(A) an N95 respirator or medical grade mask worn with the intent to prevent the transmission of airborne diseases;

(B) a mask designed to protect against exposure to smoke during a fire-involved situation;

(C) a mask necessary to perform duties during a water rescue operation;

(D) a mask related to protection against exposure to biological or chemical agents during an incident where these agents may be present; or

(E) a mask designed to protect against exposure to cold between December 1 and April 1 when the National Weather Service is forecasting a duration of cold weather at or below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, which includes wind chill.

(4) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the following is permitted:

(A) Tactical Services Unit (TSU) team officers may use gear necessary to protect their faces from physical harm while performing TSU responsibilities.

(B) Law enforcement officers working with or in conjunction with the Vermont Drug Task Force who participate in active undercover drug-related operations or assignments may use a personal disguise when necessary to perform such operations or assignments.

(C) Law enforcement officers who participate in active undercover investigations relating to child sexual exploitation may use a personal disguise when necessary to perform such investigations.

(d) Statewide policy. On or before January 1, 2027, the Vermont Criminal Justice Council shall establish a statewide policy governing the standards for law enforcement identification applicable to Vermont law enforcement agencies to ensure consistent statewide application of the standards.

(e) Penalty. A law enforcement officer who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be:

(1) for a first offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00;

(2) for a second offense and subsequent offense, assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500.00.

Sec. 2. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) The Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

\* \* \*

(37) Violations of 20 V.S.A. § 2373(c)(1) and (2), relating to standards for law enforcement identification.

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**Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered on a roll call, Yeas 27, Nays 2.

Senator White 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, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White.

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

**The Senator absent and not voting was:** Morley

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, February 12, 2026.