

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 545.

House 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 issuing immunization recommendations.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 41.

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. 41. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on February 20, 2026.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 20, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment; Rules Suspended; Bill Messaged

H. 790.

House bill of the following title was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

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

Third Reading Ordered

S. 218.

Senator Watson, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to reducing chloride contamination of State waters.

Reported that the bill ought to pass.

Senator Hardy, for the Committee on Finance to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass.

Senator Watson, for the Committee on Appropriations to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 1.

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, Benson, Bongartz, Brennan, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Heffernan, Ingalls, Lyons, Major, Mattos, Morley, Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson, Weeks, Westman, White.

The Senator who voted in the negative was: Williams.

Message from the House No. 22

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. 527. An act relating to extending the sunset of 30 V.S.A. § 248a.

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. 37. 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 has adopted the same in concurrence.

Pursuant to the request of the Senate for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House bill of the following title:

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

The Speaker has appointed as members of such committee on the part of the House:

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield
Rep. Casey of Montpelier
Rep. Sweeney of Shelburne.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.