

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

In the absence of the President (who was Acting Governor in the absence of the Governor) the Senate was called to order by the President *pro tempore*.

Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

Message from the House No. 23

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. 898. An act relating to copper-based to fiber-based telecommunications network transitions and consumer protections.

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

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House bill entitled:

H. 790. An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

And has refused to concur therein and asks for a Committee of Conference upon the disagreeing votes of the two Houses;

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

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury
Rep. Feltus of Lyndon
Rep. Bluemle of Burlington.

Committee Relieved of Further Consideration; Bill Committed

H. 532.

On motion of Senator Bongartz, the Committee on Education was relieved of further consideration of House bill entitled:

An act relating to mandatory retirement of college professors,

and the bill was committed to the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Bill Referred to Committee on Finance

S. 206.

Senate bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule was referred to the Committee on Finance:

An act relating to licensure of early childhood educators by the Office of Professional Regulation.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

S. 243.

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 distributing funds to the Vermont Language Justice Project.

Bill Referred

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

H. 898.

An act relating to copper-based to fiber-based telecommunications network transitions and consumer protections.

To the Committee on Finance.

Committee of Conference Appointed

H. 790.

An act relating to fiscal year 2026 budget adjustments.

Was taken up. Pursuant to the request of the House, the President announced the appointment of

Senator Perchlik
Senator Lyons
Senator Westman

as members of the Committee of Conference on the part of the Senate to consider the disagreeing votes of the two Houses.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Lyons, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.