

Journal of the Senate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 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. 31

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. 753. An act relating to utility service disconnections and ratepayer protections.

H. 849. An act relating to a civil action for damages for deprivation of federal constitutional rights by any government official.

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

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

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

S. 232. An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries.

S. 325. An act relating to studying the creation of model bylaws.

S. 327. An act relating to economic development.

Bills Referred

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

H. 753.

An act relating to utility service disconnections and ratepayer protections.

To the Committee on Finance.

H. 849.

An act relating to a civil action for damages for deprivation of federal constitutional rights by any government official.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Bills Passed

Senate bills of the following titles were read the third time and passed:

S. 189. An act relating to an approval process for reducing or eliminating hospital services.

S. 203. An act relating to penalties for second or subsequent violations of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

S. 313. An act relating to transforming Vermont's career technical education system.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**S. 138.**

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

An act relating to commercial property-assessed clean energy projects.

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

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy

§ 3275. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY-ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY DISTRICTS; APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE BODY

(a)(1) The legislative body of a town, city, or incorporated village may vote to designate the municipality as a commercial property-assessed clean energy district or C-PACE district. In a district, only those property owners who have entered into written agreements with the municipality under section 3276 of this title would be subject to a special assessment, as set forth in section 3255 of this title.

(2) In this subchapter, "district" means a commercial property-assessed clean energy district which includes the entire municipality.

(b) Upon a vote of approval by a majority of the legislative body of the municipality voting at a duly warned meeting, the municipality shall allow for the imposition of a special assessment to secure private financing for property

owners for projects relating to renewable energy, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17), or to eligible projects relating to energy efficiency as defined by section 3267 of this title, undertaken by owners of commercial or industrial buildings within the boundaries of the municipality.

(c) As used in this chapter, “commercial or industrial building” means any building other than a residential dwelling with fewer than five units.

§ 3276. WRITTEN AGREEMENTS; CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS; ENERGY SAVINGS ANALYSIS; LENDER CONSENT

(a) Upon an affirmative vote made pursuant to section 3275 of this title and the performance of an analysis pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, an owner of a commercial or industrial building, within the boundaries of a district, may enter into a written agreement with the municipality that shall constitute the owner’s consent to be subject to a special assessment, as set forth in section 3255 of this title. Entry into such an agreement may occur only after January 1, 2027.

(b) Prior to entering into a written agreement, a property owner shall have an analysis performed that includes the following components:

(1) where energy or water usage improvements are proposed, an energy analysis by a licensed professional engineer or engineering firm stating that the proposed qualified improvements will either result in more efficient use or conservation of energy or water, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, or the addition of renewable sources of energy or water;

(2) where renewable energy is proposed, an engineering study showing that the improvements are feasible;

(3) where resilience improvements are proposed, certification by a licensed professional engineer stating that the qualified improvements will result in improved resilience in accordance with local, State, or nationally recognized building standards; or

(4) for new construction, certification by a licensed professional engineer or engineering firm stating that the proposed qualified improvements will enable the project to exceed the energy efficiency or water efficiency or renewable energy or water usage requirements of the current building code.

(c) A written agreement shall provide that:

(1) The length of time allowed for the property owner to repay the assessment shall not exceed the life expectancy of the project. In instances where multiple projects have been installed, the length of time shall not exceed the average lifetime of all projects, weighted by cost.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(A) A lien under this section:

(i) is a first and prior lien on the property, subordinate only to a lien for property taxes, from the date on which the notice of special assessment is recorded until the assessment, interest, or penalty is paid; and

(ii) runs with the land, and that portion of the assessment under the assessment contract that is not yet due shall not be accelerated or extinguished by foreclosure of a property tax lien or any other foreclosure.

(B) In the event of a foreclosure action, all payments on an assessment under this subchapter that are due and unpaid as of the date the action is filed, and all payments on the assessment that become due after that date and that accrue up to and including the date title to the property is transferred to the mortgage holder, the lien holder, or a third party in the foreclosure action shall be paid in order for title to transfer.

(3) A capital provider shall disclose to participating property owners each of the following:

(A) the risks associated with participating in the program, including risks related to the failure of participating property owners to make payments and the risk of foreclosure; and

(B) the provisions of subsection (h) of this section that pertain to prepayment of the assessment.

(d) The notice of an agreement shall include at least each of the following:

(1) the name of the property owner as grantor;

(2) the name of the municipality as grantee;

(3) the date of the agreement;

(4) a legal description of the real property against which the assessment is made pursuant to the agreement;

(5) the amount of the assessment and the period during which the assessment will be made on the property;

(6) a statement that the assessment will remain a lien on the property until paid in full or released; and

(7) the location at which the original agreement may be examined.

(e) Prior to entering into the written assessment contract, the property owner shall obtain and furnish to the municipality a written statement, executed by each holder of a mortgage or deed of trust on the property

securing indebtedness, in their sole and absolute discretion, that consents to the assessment and indicates that the assessment does not constitute an event of default under the mortgage or deed of trust.

(f) The combined amount of the assessment plus any outstanding mortgage obligations for the property shall not exceed 90 percent of the assessed value of that property.

(g) With respect to an agreement under this section:

(1) the assessments to be repaid under the agreement, when calculated as if they were the repayment of a loan, shall not violate 9 V.S.A. §§ 41a, 43, 44, and 46–50; and

(2) the maximum length of time for the owner to repay the assessment shall not exceed 30 years.

(h) For projects under subchapter 2 of this chapter, there shall be no penalty or premium for prepayment of the outstanding balance of an assessment under this subchapter if the balance is prepaid in full. Projects under this subchapter 3 are not subject to these provisions, but shall be determined by the private agreement for financing of improvements.

(i) Property may be eligible for financing if otherwise qualified improvements were completed and operational not more than 36 months prior to submission of the application to the program. Waivers to the 36-month requirement may be granted in the sole discretion of the program administrator.

§ 3277. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

(a) C-PACE Program Administration.

(1) An entity that administers the commercial property-assessed clean energy program or C-PACE Program under this subchapter shall be referred to as a program administrator. A municipality, a public agency, or a private entity may serve as a program administrator. However, a capital provider or lender shall not serve as a program administrator in a municipality where it is also lending.

(2) A municipality that has adopted a C-PACE district may:

(A) enter into a contract with an entity to serve as the program administrator and to administer the functions of the C-PACE Program for the municipality; or

(B) serve as the program administrator itself, to administer the functions of a C-PACE Program, including entering into C-PACE agreements with commercial property owners in its jurisdiction and collecting C-PACE assessments.

(b) An entity may:

(1) enter into a contract with a C-PACE municipality where the entity shall serve as the program administrator in the municipality; and

(2) collect fees necessary to administer the C-PACE program.

(c) Other than the fulfillment of its obligations specified in a C-PACE agreement, neither the program administrator nor a municipality has any liability to a commercial property owner for or related to energy savings or resilience improvements financed under a C-PACE Program.

(d) The Department of Financial Regulation shall consult with relevant stakeholders, including the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Economic Development Authority, Efficiency Vermont, and agencies from other States with C-PACE programs, in order to identify appropriate entities to serve as program administrators.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 3263 is amended to read:

§ 3263. COSTS OF OPERATION OF DISTRICT

The owners of real property who have entered into written agreements with the municipality under section 3262 of this title shall be obligated to cover the costs of operating the district. A municipality may use other available funds to operate the district. A municipality may charge fees to cover the operation of the C-PACE Program under subchapter 3 of this chapter.

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 3264 is amended to read:

§ 3264. RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS

A property owner who has entered into a written agreement with the municipality under section 3262 or section 3276 of this title may enter into a private agreement for the installation or construction of a project relating to renewable energy, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17), or relating to energy efficiency as defined in section 3267 of this title.

Sec. 4. 24 V.S.A. § 3265 is amended to read:

§ 3265. LIABILITY OF MUNICIPALITY

(a) A municipality that incurs indebtedness for or otherwise finances projects under this subchapter shall not be liable for the failure of performance of a project.

(b) A municipality that incurs indebtedness for bonding under this subchapter shall pledge the full faith and credit of the municipality.

(c) A municipality that enters into a written agreement with a property owner under subchapter 3 of this chapter shall not incur any indebtedness or otherwise finance projects under this chapter, nor shall be liable for the failure of the performance of a project, nor pledge the full faith and credit of the municipality.

Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 3268 is amended to read:

§ 3268. RELEASE OF LIEN

(a) A municipality shall release a participating property owner of the lien on the property against which the assessment under this subchapter or subchapter 3 of this chapter is made upon full payment of the value of the assessment.

(b) Notice of a release of a lien for an assessment under this subchapter or subchapter 3 of this chapter shall be filed with the clerk of the applicable municipality for recording in the land records of that municipality.

Sec. 6. 24 V.S.A. § 3255 is amended to read:

§ 3255. COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS; LIENS

(a) Special assessments under this chapter shall constitute a lien on the property against which the assessment is made in the same manner and to the same extent as taxes assessed on the grand list of a municipality, and all procedures and remedies for the collection of taxes shall apply to special assessments.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a lien for an assessment under subchapter 2 of this chapter shall be subordinate to all liens on the property in existence at the time the lien for the assessment is filed on the land records, shall be subordinate to a first mortgage on the property recorded after such filing, and shall be superior to any other lien on the property recorded after such filing. In no way shall this subsection affect the status or priority of any municipal lien other than a lien for an assessment under subchapter 2 of this chapter. A lien for an assessment under subchapter 3 of this chapter shall be exempt from the provisions of this section and, upon receipt of consent from lenders, pursuant to subsection 3276(e) of this title, shall not be subordinate to all liens on the property in existence at the time the lien for the assessment is filed on the land records.

Sec. 7. 9 V.S.A. § 46 is amended to read:

§ 46. EXCEPTIONS

Section 43 of this title, relating to deposit requirements, and section 45 of this title, relating to prepayment penalties, shall not apply and the parties may contract for a rate of interest in excess of the rate provided in section 41a of this title in the case of:

(1) obligations of corporations, including municipal and nonprofit corporations; ~~or~~

(2) obligations incurred by any person, partnership, association, or other entity to finance in whole or in part income-producing business or activity, but not including obligations incurred to finance family dwellings of four units or fewer when used as a residence by the borrower or to finance real estate that is devoted to agricultural purposes as part of an operating farming unit when used as a residence by the borrower; ~~or~~

(3) obligations to finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of property for seasonal or part-time occupancy and not as a place of legal residence; ~~or~~

(4) obligations guaranteed or insured by the United States of America or any agency thereof; or

(5) obligations incurred for commercial property-assessed clean energy projects pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 87, subchapter 3.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 181.

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

An act relating to eliminating the requirement for a presentence investigation for imposition of a deferred sentence.

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

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 7041 is amended to read:

§ 7041. DEFERRED SENTENCE

(a)(1) Upon an adjudication of guilt ~~and after the filing of a presentence investigation report~~, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation upon such terms and conditions as it may require if a written agreement concerning the deferring of sentence is entered into between the State's Attorney and the respondent and filed with the clerk of the court.

(2) If the offense is a listed crime as provided in subdivision 5301(7) of this title, a presentence investigation shall be conducted unless the State's Attorney and the respondent agree to waive the presentence investigation.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the court may defer sentencing and place the respondent on probation without a written agreement between the State's Attorney and the respondent if the following conditions are met:

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) the crime for which the respondent is being sentenced is not a listed crime as defined in subdivision 5301(7) of this title;

~~(3) the court orders a presentence investigation in accordance with the procedures set forth in V.R.C.P. Rule 32, unless the State's Attorney agrees to waive the presentence investigation;~~ [Repealed.]

(4) the court permits the victim to submit a written or oral statement concerning the consideration of deferment of sentence;

(5) the court reviews ~~the presentence investigation~~ and the victim's impact statement with the parties; and

(6) the court determines that deferring sentence is in the interests of justice.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the court may not defer a sentence for a violation of section 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child), section 2602 (lewd and lascivious conduct with a child unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), subsection 3252(c) (sexual assault of a child under 16 years of age unless the victim and the defendant were within five years of age and the act was consensual), subsection 3252(d) or (e) (sexual assault of a child), subdivision 3253(a)(8) (aggravated sexual assault), or section 3253a (aggravated sexual assault of a child) of this title.

(d) Entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute an appealable judgment for purposes of appeal in accordance with 12 V.S.A. § 2383 and V.R.A.P. Rule

3. Except as otherwise provided, entry of deferment of sentence shall constitute imposition of sentence solely for the purpose of sentence review in accordance with section 7042 of this title. The court may impose sentence at any time if the respondent violates the conditions of the deferred sentence during the period of deferment.

(e) Upon violation of the terms of probation or of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall impose sentence. Upon fulfillment of the terms of probation and of the deferred sentence agreement, the court shall strike the adjudication of guilt and discharge the respondent. Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, the record of the criminal proceedings shall be expunged upon the discharge of the respondent from probation, absent a finding of good cause by the court. The court shall issue an order to expunge all records and files related to the arrest, citation, investigation, charge, adjudication of guilt, criminal proceedings, and probation related to the deferred sentence. Copies of the order shall be sent to each agency, department, or official named therein. Thereafter, the court, law enforcement officers, agencies, and departments shall reply to any request for information that no record exists with respect to such person upon inquiry in the matter. Notwithstanding this subsection, the record shall not be expunged until restitution has been paid in full.

(f) A deferred sentence imposed under subsection (a) or (b) of this section may include a restitution order issued pursuant to section 7043 of this title. Nonpayment of restitution shall not constitute grounds for imposition of the underlying sentence.

(g) [Repealed.]

(h) The Vermont Crime Information Center shall retain a special index of deferred sentences for sex offenses that require registration pursuant to ~~subchapter 3 of chapter 167, subchapter 3~~ of this title. This index shall only list the name and date of birth of the subject of the expunged files and records, the offense for which the subject was convicted, and the docket number of the proceeding that was the subject of the expungement. The special index shall be confidential and may be accessed only by the director of the Vermont Crime Information Center and a designated clerical ~~staff person~~ staff person for the purpose of providing information to the Department of Corrections in the preparation of a presentence investigation in accordance with 28 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 204a.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 219.

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

An act relating to an energy navigator program report.

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

Sec. 1. ENERGY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM; REPORT

(a) The Department of Public Service shall contract with a third-party consultant to design a Vermont community-based home energy navigator and coaching program, in collaboration with the Climate Action Center of Addison County and other existing community-based energy navigator programs in Vermont, that will provide in-person and remote energy coaching services to residential consumers in communities statewide. The Department's consultant shall build on findings from the Department's comprehensive process and performance evaluation of more than 100 publicly funded energy programs focused on affordability, including electric and thermal efficiency, weatherization for customers with low income, and beneficial electrification initiatives to inform the design of a Vermont community-based home energy navigator and coaching program. The Department's consultant shall consult with Efficiency Vermont, the Vermont State Energy Office, the Vermont Climate Action Office, Vermont's community action agencies, the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, Vermont's electric utilities, community-based home energy navigator and coaching programs, and other states, including Connecticut and Massachusetts, that have experience with community-based energy programs. For the purposes of this section, "residential consumers" includes homeowners, landlords, and renters.

(b) The program shall:

(1) provide guidance to residential consumers, particularly those with low and moderate incomes, to better understand and navigate energy efficiency and clean energy investment options to affordably meet their home energy needs;

(2) advise residential consumers on accessing available grants, rebates, financing, and other assistance programs and incentives to meet their home energy needs;

(3) assist residential consumers in prioritizing identified energy-saving opportunities, including through the integration of weatherization strategies to reduce heating and cooling loads that could minimize the need for the installation of new equipment and lower future electric demands on the grid;

(4) help residential consumers connect to local contractors and review and analyze contractor recommendations regarding cost, payment, and other relevant factors;

(5) advise residential consumers in person, as necessary, and over time, recognizing that hands-on coaching help may be needed at a consumer's home and over several years;

(6) provide ongoing State funding to support the operations of community-based energy coaching programs; and

(7) use available grant funds and private partnerships to support program implementation.

(c) On or before March 1, 2027, the Department shall submit a report on the program design to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. The report shall include a description of the design of the program, which could include the creation of a pilot program or expansion and support of existing community-based programs, a description of the technical assistance and educational materials to be developed as part of the program, an estimate of program costs, funding sources to provide ongoing support to community-based energy coaching programs, a target number of residential consumers to be served by the program, energy and emissions savings that will result from the program, and a proposed timeline for the implementation of the program.

Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2027, the sum of \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Service to hire the third-party consultant for the energy navigator report.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, the sum of \$10,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Climate Economy Action Center to collaborate with the Department of Public Service on the energy navigator program design.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Senator Watson, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with the following amendments thereto;

First: In Sec. 1, energy navigator program; report, by striking out subdivision (b)(6) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(6) to read as follows:

(6) provide recommendations for how the program would provide ongoing funding to support the operations of community-based energy coaching programs; and

Second: In Sec. 1, energy navigator program; report, by striking out subdivision (b)(7) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(7) to read as follows:

(7) recommend any grant funds and private partnerships that may be available to support program implementation.

Third: By striking out Sec. 2, appropriations, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. CONTIGENCY OF FUNDING

The duty to hire a consultant as described in Sec. 1 of this act (energy navigator program; report) is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Service for that. The duty of the Department of Public Service to grant funding to the Climate Economy Action Center is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Service for that.

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, and the recommendation of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, as amended? was agreed to and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 239.

Senator Gulick, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Working Group.

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

Sec. 1. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING WORKING GROUP

(a) There is created the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Working Group for the purpose of examining the existing statutes and the Department for Children and Families' rules and policies regarding mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect of a child and recommending changes to modernize them and reflect current best practices.

(b) The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services or designee;

(3) a co-executive director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;

(4) the Attorney General or designee;

(5) the Chief Administrative Judge or designee;

(6) two members from the Department for Children and Families' Family Services Division, appointed by the Deputy Commissioner of the Division;

(7) the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont or designee;
and

(8) the Vermont Child, Youth, and Family Advocate.

(c) In conducting its work, the Working Group shall consult with stakeholders, including:

(1) Vermont Children's Alliance and representation from Child Advocacy Centers;

(2) the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;

(3) KidSafe Collaborative;

(4) Voices for Vermont's Children;

(5) Vermont Parent Representation Center;

(6) Disability Rights Vermont;

(7) medical partners, such as the University of Vermont's Child Safe Program; and

(8) individuals with lived experience as child victims of abuse and neglect.

(d) On or before January 15, 2027, the Working Group shall report its findings and any recommended legislative proposal to the House Committee on Human Services, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and Senate and House Committees on Judiciary.

(1) Any recommendations should remain consistent with federal requirements under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), which establishes minimum standards related to state definitions of abuse and neglect, including physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation, and emotional maltreatment.

(2) To promote efficiency and avoid duplicative work, the Working Group shall leverage the work of the Children's Justice Act Task Force and the Vermont Citizens Advisory Board (VCAB), which serves as Vermont's CAPTA citizen review panel.

(3) The Working Group shall consider best practices from other states in development of its recommendations.

(e) The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department for Children and Families.

(1) The Working Group shall convene its first meeting on or before August 15, 2026.

(2) The Working Group shall elect a chair at its first meeting.

(3) Five members shall constitute a quorum for meeting purposes.

Sec. 2. 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.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 291.

Senator Vyhovsky, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to travel disclosures for legislators and certain executive officers.

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

* * * Travel Disclosures * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 1201 is amended to read:

§ 1201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10) “Immediate family” means an individual’s spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner; child or foster child; sibling; parent; or such relations by marriage or by civil union or domestic partnership; or an individual claimed as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

* * *

(16) “Staff” means any individual who supports a member of the General Assembly or an executive officer in the member’s or executive officer’s official capacity and acts at the direction of the member or executive officer, whether paid or unpaid or receiving academic credit.

(17) “State officer” means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General.

~~(17)~~(18) “Unethical conduct” means any conduct of a public servant in violation of the Code of Ethics, as provided for in this chapter.

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 1214 is added to read:

§ 1214. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES; IN GENERAL

(a) Applicability.

(1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise directed by law, a disclosure detailing costs and associated information for any travel made in the course of the member’s or executive officer’s official capacity or that would not have likely occurred but for the member’s or executive officer’s status of occupying the member’s or executive officer’s office.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a member or an executive officer is not required to file a disclosure if the travel is:

(A) fully paid by the member or executive officer, this State, or the federal government; or

(B) of de minimis value, meaning having a value of \$50.00 or less per source per occasion, provided that the aggregate market value of the individual item received from any one source shall not exceed \$150.00 in a calendar year.

(b) Contents and design of disclosure.

(1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall disclose, in writing:

(A) the purpose of the travel;

(B) whether the travel was purely in the member's or executive officer's official capacity or made for another purpose;

(C) the itinerary of travel, including dates of travel and any stopover or intentional visit to another location prior to the destination of travel;

(D)(i) with reasonable particularity, any expense made or reimbursement received for all costs associated with transportation to and from any destination, and food, refreshments, tickets and admissions, entertainment, lodging, and anything else of value, whether for cost or in kind, associated with the travel; and

(ii) notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (i) of this subdivision (D), a member or an executive officer is not required to disclose any expenses or reimbursements for any travel fully paid by the member or executive officer, this State, or the federal government;

(E) the date of any expense or reimbursement; and

(F) if certain costs associated with the travel were in part paid for or reimbursed by any other source than the member or executive officer or this State, indicate what amount was paid for or reimbursed by:

(i) the State;

(ii) the member's or executive officer's own person; or

(iii) any other sources, including associations, lobbyists, political committees and parties, individuals, other countries, states, and territories.

(2) A member or an executive officer shall also make the same disclosures described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for any staff and immediate family accompanying the member or executive officer on the travel. These disclosures shall include the name and title of any staff and only the nature of the relationship for any immediate family.

(3) A member or an executive officer shall attest to the veracity and completeness of the disclosed information and sign and date the disclosure.

(4) Disclosure forms shall, where appropriate, be designed by the State Ethics Commission.

(c) Filing date. A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall file the disclosure within 30 calendar days following the conclusion of travel.

(d) Supplemental disclosure. A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise directed by law, a supplemental disclosure in accordance with section 1203 of this title if a particular matter involving the payer or orchestrator of any expense or reimbursement detailed in subsection (b) of this section comes before the member or executive officer during the six months following such acceptance or reimbursement.

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 1215 is added to read:

§ 1215. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES; EXECUTIVE OFFICERS UNDER GOVERNOR

(a) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection §1214(a) of this title, an executive officer serving under the Governor is not required to disclose any expenses or reimbursements for any travel if:

(1) that executive officer's travel is otherwise required to be approved, reported, and disclosed pursuant to a rule or bulletin as adopted by the Governor;

(2) that rule or bulletin conforms to the requirements of section 1214 of this title; and

(3) copies of all disclosures made by the executive officers pursuant to the rule or bulletin are posted on the Agency of Administration's website.

(b) The Agency of Administration may design its own disclosure forms for executive officers serving under the Governor, provided these forms conform to the requirements of subsection 1214(b) of this title.

* * * General Amendments * * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 1211 is amended to read:

§ 1211. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS; ANNUAL DISCLOSURE

(a) Annually, each Executive officer and county officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission a disclosure form that contains the following information in regard to the previous 12 months:

(1) each source, but not amount, of personal income of the officer and of the officer's spouse or domestic partner, and of the officer together with the officer's spouse or domestic partner, that totals more than \$5,000.00, including:

(A) the officer's employer or business name and address; and

(B) if self-employed, a description of the nature of the self-employment, including the names of any clients whose principal business activities are regulated by or that have a contract with any municipal or State office, department, or agency, provided that this information is known to the ~~candidate~~ officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's domestic partner and that the disclosed information is not confidential information;

(2) any board, commission, or other entity that is regulated by law on which the officer served and the officer's position on that entity;

* * *

(6) a generalized description, but not amount, to the best of the ~~candidate's~~ officer's knowledge, of the following investments held by a ~~candidate~~ an officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner:

(A) individual stock holdings valued at \$25,000.00 or more, which a ~~candidate~~ an officer exercises control over or has the ability to buy or sell, which shall be listed individually;

(B) interests in investment funds valued at \$25,000.00 or more that a ~~candidate~~ an officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner has the ability to exercise control over the composition of assets within a fund, which shall be listed individually;

* * *

(F) the details of any loan valued at \$10,000.00 or more, made to the ~~candidate~~ officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse that is not a commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business; and

(7) the full name of the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner.

* * *

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 1221 is amended to read:

§ 1221. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

* * *

(b) Membership.

(1) The Commission shall be composed of the following seven members:

(A) one member, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(B) one member, appointed by the League of Women Voters of Vermont, who shall be a member of the League;

(C) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants, who shall be a member of the Society;

~~(D) one member, appointed by the Board of Managers of the Vermont Bar Association, who shall be a member of the Association Governor;~~

(E) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) Vermont State Council, who shall be a member of the Council;

(F) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(G) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees.

* * *

(e) Meetings.

(1) Meetings of the Commission:

~~(1)~~(A) shall be held at least quarterly for the purpose of the Executive Director updating the Commission on the Executive Director's work;

~~(2)~~(B) may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon the request of any other two Commission members; and

~~(3)~~(C) shall be conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 310 et seq.

(2) A majority of the currently appointed members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a majority of the members present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the Commission.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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 Senate *pro tempore* Assumes the Chair

Thereupon, the recommendation of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

S. 206.

Senator Gulick, for the Committee on Health and Welfare, to which was referred Senate bill entitled:

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

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

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

The Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be qualified by education and professional experience to perform the duties of the position. The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall be a classified position with the Office of the Secretary of State. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

(1) Board of Architects

* * *

(55) Early Childhood Educators

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is added to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

(a) The Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators is created.

(b) The Board shall consist of nine members appointed for five-year terms by the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §§ 129b and 2004 as follows: two public members; two each of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, an Early Childhood Educator II, and an Early Childhood Educator III; and one Family Child Care Provider. All members shall be Vermont residents. The members who are early childhood educators shall have been in active practice in Vermont for not less than the preceding three years and shall be in active practice during their incumbency. The public members shall be individuals who have no financial interest personally or through a spouse, parent, child, or sibling in the activities regulated under this chapter, other than as a consumer or a possible consumer of its services. Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability.

(c) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.

(d) Board members shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

§ 6212. BOARD PROCEDURES

(a) Annually, the Board shall meet to elect a chair, vice chair, and a secretary.

(b) Meetings shall be warned and conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(c) A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

(d) All business shall be transacted by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided by statute.

§ 6213. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

(a) The Board shall:

(1) adopt rules, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, that are necessary for the performance of its duties in accordance with this chapter, including activities that must be completed by an applicant in order to fulfill the educational and experiential requirements established by this chapter;

(2) provide general information to applicants for licensure as early childhood educators;

(3) explain appeal procedures to licensees and applicants and complaint procedures to the public; and

(4) use the administrative and legal services provided by the Office of Professional Regulation under 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

(b) The Board may conduct hearings and exercise its authority as provided in 3 V.S.A. chapter 5.

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. chapter 111 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 111. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 6201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators.

(2) “Early childhood educator” means an individual providing care and educational instruction to children from birth through eight years of age in a program regulated by the Child Development Division, including:

(A) planning and implementing intentional, developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote the physical health and social, emotional, linguistic, and cognitive growth of children;

(B) establishing and maintaining a safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy learning environment;

(C) observing, documenting, and assessing children’s learning and development;

(D) developing reciprocal, culturally responsive relationships with families and communities; and

(E) engaging in reflective practice and continuous learning.

(3) “Early Childhood Educator I” means an individual who practices early childhood education as an assistant educator in a program under the supervision of Early Childhood Educators II or III or a teacher who is exempt from this chapter and licensed by the Agency of Education under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 with endorsements in early childhood education, early childhood special education, or elementary education.

(4) “Early Childhood Educator II” means an individual who practices early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program, supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator I, and receives guidance from individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator III.

(5) “Early Childhood Educator III” means an individual who practices early childhood education as the lead or primary educator in a program, supervises the practice of individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator

I, and provides guidance to individuals licensed as an Early Childhood Educator II.

(6) “Family child care provider” means an individual who provides developmentally appropriate care, education, protection, and supervision of children from birth through eight years of age and is authorized by the Child Development Division to operate a family child care home as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511.

(7) “Guidance” means direct or indirect consultative support in which an Early Childhood Educator III provides feedback to an Early Childhood Educator II.

(8) “Program” or “program regulated by the Child Development Division” means a program or facility approved by the Department for Children and Families’ Child Development Division as a licensed or registered family child care home or a licensed center-based child care and preschool program and is not operated by a public school.

(9) “Supervision” means on-site, direct oversight in which an Early Childhood Educator II or III observes the practice of an Early Childhood Educator I and provides feedback, support, and direction to an Early Childhood Educator I.

§ 6202. PROHIBITIONS

(a) An individual shall not hold themselves out as an early childhood educator in this State unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.

(b) An individual shall not use in connection with the individual’s name any letters, words, or insignia indicating that the individual is an early childhood educator unless the individual is licensed under this chapter or exempt from this chapter pursuant to section 6203 of this chapter.

§ 6203. EXEMPTIONS

(a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following persons acting within the scope of their respective professional practices:

(1) a teacher actively licensed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51 by the Agency of Education with endorsements in early childhood education, an early childhood special education, or an elementary education;

(2) an individual who provides care in an afterschool child care program that is regulated by the Child Development Division or any other child care program that is exempt from regulation by the Child Development Division; and

(3) an individual who works exclusively in a public school.

(b) This chapter shall not be construed to alter or amend the requirements of publicly funded prekindergarten education programs operated in accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 829.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed to limit or restrict in any manner the right of a practitioner of another profession or occupation from carrying on in the usual manner any of the functions incidental to that profession or occupation.

Subchapter 2. Board of Early Childhood Educators

§ 6211. CREATION OF BOARD

* * *

Subchapter 3. Licensure Requirements

§ 6221. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS

(a) To be eligible for licensure under this chapter, an applicant shall have attained the age of majority; achieved a high school diploma, a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or an approved equivalent credential; and completed field experience in early childhood education as required by rule.

(b) An applicant shall meet the following educational requirements for each of the following license types:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I shall have received a certificate from an approved credential program in early childhood education requiring a minimum of 120 hours of training and instruction.

(2) Early Childhood Educator II shall have received an associate's degree program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 60 college credits; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule.

(3) Early Childhood Educator III shall have received a bachelor's degree from an approved program in:

(A) early childhood education or a related field requiring a minimum of 120 college credits; or

(B) any unrelated field and a minimum of 21 approved college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified in rule.

(4) A Family Child Care Provider shall be qualified for licensure if authorized by the Child Development Division to operate a family child care home and is in good standing with the Division as of January 1, 2029. The Board shall not accept Family Child Care Provider applications after January 1, 2029.

(c) Approved educational programs may offer college credit based upon an assessment of the individual's competencies acquired through experience working in the profession.

(d) In addition to the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, applicants shall pass any examination that may be required by rule.

§ 6222. LICENSE RENEWAL

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all privileges granted by the license beginning on the expiration date of the license. A license that has lapsed shall be reinstated upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal penalty pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 127, except a Family Child Care Provider license shall not be renewed after a lapse of two or more years.

(b) The Board may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary for the protection of the public to assure the Board that an applicant whose license has lapsed for more than five years is professionally qualified before reinstatement may occur. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the Board. For purposes of this subsection, the Board may require, by rule, not more than 24 hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal.

§ 6223. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Early Childhood Educator I:

(A) Application for initial license, \$125.00.

(B) Biennial renewal, \$225.00.

- (2) Early Childhood Educator II:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.
- (3) Early Childhood Educator III:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$225.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$275.00.
- (4) Family Child Care Provider:
 - (A) Application for initial license, \$175.00.
 - (B) Biennial renewal, \$250.00.

§ 6224. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As used in this chapter, “unprofessional conduct” means:

- (1) conduct prohibited by this section, by 3 V.S.A. § 129a, or by other statutes relating to early childhood education, whether that conduct is by a licensee, an applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant;
- (2) conduct that results in a licensee, applicant, or an individual who later becomes an applicant being placed on the Child Protection Registry pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 49; or
- (3) conduct that is not in accordance with the professional standards and competencies for Early Childhood Educators published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

§ 6225. VARIANCES

- (a)(1) The Board shall issue a transitional Early Childhood Educator II or III license to a teacher or director of a program who does not meet the educational and experiential licensure in this chapter. Transitional licenses shall be valid for a two-year period and shall be renewed by the Board for an otherwise qualified applicant for an additional two-year period with satisfactory supporting documentation of the individual’s ongoing work to obtain the required educational and experiential qualifications for licensure under this chapter.
- (2) At the conclusion of three two-year transitional licensure periods, the Board, at its discretion, may issue one final two-year transitional license for an otherwise qualified applicant if the licensee can demonstrate extenuating circumstances for not having attained the educational and experiential requirements in this chapter and ongoing work to attain these requirements.

(b) In addition to the transitional licensure available pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Board shall also issue an Early Childhood Educator II license for individuals who have completed the eligibility requirements set forth in subsections 6221(a) and (d) of this chapter and completed one of the following:

(1) 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule; or

(2) prior experiential learning that is assessed by an appropriately accredited institution of higher learning to be the equivalent of 21 college credits in the core early childhood education competency areas identified by the Board in rule.

§ 6226. DISCLOSURE BY LICENSEES

An early childhood educator licensed pursuant to this chapter shall post and provide to current and prospective families the following information:

(1) all available license types regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation pursuant to this chapter;

(2) a description of the Office of Professional Regulation's regulatory authority over licensees in programs regulated by the Child Development Division and how to make complaints;

(3) a description of the Agency of Education's regulatory authority over teachers providing prekindergarten services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 829 and how to make complaints; and

(4) a description of the Child Development Division's regulatory authority over regulated child care programs and how to make complaints.

Sec. 4. REPEAL; VARIANCES

26 V.S.A. § 6225 (variances) is repealed on July 1, 2036.

Sec. 5. REPORT; EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LICENSURE

On or before November 1, 2031, the Office of Professional Regulation shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Health and Welfare regarding the implementation of 26 V.S.A. chapter 111, including:

(1) the number of licensees by license type;

(2) the State resources necessary to implement the chapter;

(3) the number and nature of any complaints or enforcement actions against a licensee;

(4) the qualifications required for each license type; and

(5) any other issues the Office deems appropriate.

Sec. 6. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; LICENSURE OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN PROGRAMS
REGULATED BY THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION;
APPROPRIATION; POSITIONS

(a) The establishment of the following new permanent positions is authorized in the Office of Professional Regulation in fiscal year 2027:

(1) one full-time, classified executive officer for the Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators; and

(2) one full-time, exempt staff attorney.

(b) In fiscal year 2027, the amount of \$262,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation to be used for the licensure of early childhood educators in accordance with this act.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1 (Office of Professional Regulation), Sec. 2 (Vermont Board of Early Childhood Educators), Sec. 5 (report; early childhood educator licensure), and Sec. 6 (Office of Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators; appropriation; positions) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Sec. 3 (early childhood educators) and Sec. 4 (repeal; variances) shall take effect on July 1, 2028.

And that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

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

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare with further amendment thereto by adding a new section to be Sec. 6a, to read as follows:

Sec. 6a. CONTIGENCY OF FUNDING

The duty to implement Sec. 6 of this act, Office of Professional Regulation; licensure of early childhood educators in program regulated by the Child Development Division; appropriation; positions, is contingent upon an appropriation of funds in fiscal year 2027 from the General Fund to the Office of Professional Regulation for the specific purposes described in Sec. 6 of this act.

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, and the recommendation of the Committee on Health and Welfare was amended as recommended by the Committee on Appropriations.

The President Resumes the Chair

Thereupon, Senator Heffernan moved to commit the bill to the Committee on Education, which was decided in the negative on a roll call, Yeas 9, Nays 19.

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

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Beck, Brennan, Brock, Heffernan, Ingalls, Mattos, Norris, Weeks, Williams.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: Baruth, Benson, Bongartz, Chittenden, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, Lyons, Major, Morley, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Westman, White.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Clarkson, Vyhovsky.

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare, as amended? was agreed to, on a roll call, Yeas 21, Nays 7.

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

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Baruth, Benson, Bongartz, Brennan, Chittenden, Collamore, Cummings, Gulick, Hardy, Harrison, Hashim, *Heffernan, Lyons, Major, Morley, Perchlik, Plunkett, Ram Hinsdale, Watson, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: *Beck, Brock, Ingalls, Mattos, Norris, Weeks, Williams.

Those Senators absent and not voting were: Clarkson, Vyhovsky.

*Senator Beck explained his vote as follow:

“Vermont is in the middle of a workforce shortage and an affordability crisis. Increasing the requirements to enter a profession will exacerbate both of these problems and further increase the cost of early childhood education.

“I feel that this effect will be particularly acute in rural Vermont, and thus I vote no.”

*Senator Heffernan explained his vote as follows:

“I voted yes because it is a good bill. but I am very upset that parents were not a part of the process.”

Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock in the forenoon on Thursday, March 19, 2026.