

Journal of the Senate

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Elizabeth Gleich of Middlebury.

Pledge of Allegiance

The President then led the members of the Senate in the pledge of allegiance.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate

J.R.S. 49.

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. 49. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on April 17, 2026.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, April 17, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Third Reading Ordered

H. 744.

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

An act relating to procedures for release after arrest.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Third Reading Ordered**H. 849.**

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

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

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.

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 23, Nays 7.

Senator Vyhovsky 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, 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, Collamore, Heffernan, Ingalls, Morley, Norris, Williams.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 626.**

Senator Vyhovsky, for the Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House bill entitled:

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

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 2605, by striking out subsection (j) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (j) to read as follows:

(j) Penalties.

(1) For a first offense involving a victim who is 18 years of age or older, a person who violates subsection (b), (c), or (d), ~~or (e)~~ of this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both. For a second or subsequent offense involving a victim who is 18 years of age or older, a person who violates subsection (b), (c), or (d), ~~or (e)~~ of this section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(2) For a first offense involving a victim who is under 18 years of age, a person who violates subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both. For a second or subsequent offense involving a victim who is under 18 years of age, a person who violates subsection (b), (c), or (d) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(3) A person who violates subsection ~~(e)~~(e) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

Rules Suspended; Bill Committed

H. 940.

Appearing on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Cummings the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to miscellaneous public utility subjects.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Finance, Senator Cummings moved that Senate Rule 49 be suspended in order to commit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with the report of the Committee on Finance *intact*,

Which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until one o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.