Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 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. 64

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 considered Senate proposals of amendment to the following House bills:

H. 512. An act relating to the regulation of the event ticketing market.

H. 559. An act relating to the Parole Board.

And has severally concurred therein.

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 189. An act relating to establishing a process for reducing or eliminating hospital services.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

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

H. 952. An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

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

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

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Rep. Emmons of Springfield
Rep. Morrissey of Bennington
Rep. Minier of South Burlington.

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

S. 223. An act relating to water quality of the waters of Vermont.

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

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury
Rep. Labor of Morgan
Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph.

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

S. 325. An act relating to regional planning and Act 250 Tier jurisdiction.

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

Rep. Sheldon of Middlebury
Rep. Labor of Morgan
Rep. Chapin of East Montpelier.

The Governor has informed the House that on May 13, 2026, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

H. 762. An act relating to the County and Regional Governance Study Committee.

H. 940. An act relating to miscellaneous public utility subjects.

Action Reconsidered; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 657.

Assuring the Chair that she voted with the majority whereby the Senate proposal of amendment was amended as recommended by Senator Heffernan, Senator Lyons moved that the Senate reconsider its action on Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to various programming and requirements within the Department for Children and Families.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, during debate of the measure, Senator White raised a *point of order* that Senator Ingalls violated Sec. 121 of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure which provides that "No person may indulge in personalities, impugn motives of members, use indecent or profane language, or participate in conduct that disrupts or disturbs the orderly proceedings of the body".

Thereupon, the President found the point of order not well taken, but cautioned Senator Ingalls against possibly impugning motives of members.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate proposal of amendment be amended as recommended by Senator Heffernan?, Senator Weeks moved to recommit the bill to the Committee on Health and Welfare, which was decided in the negative, on a roll call, Yeas 13, Nays 17.

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, Benson, Brennan, Brock, Collamore, Heffernan, Ingalls, Mattos, Morley, Norris, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

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

Thereupon, the pending question, Shall the Senate proposal of amendment be amended as recommended by Senator Heffernan?, was decided in the negative, on a roll call, Yeas 13, Nays 17.

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: Beck, Benson, Brennan, Brock, Collamore, Heffernan, Ingalls, Mattos, Morley, Norris, Weeks, Westman, Williams.

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

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Committee of Conference Appointed

H. 952.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

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

Senator Harrison
Senator Plunkett
Senator Benson

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

Bills Referred to Committee on Appropriations

House 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:

H. 935. An act relating to emergency management.

H. 955. An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont's education system.

Bills Referred

H. 953.

Pursuant to Temporary Rule 44A the following bill having failed to meet crossover and being released by the Committee on Rules was referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of Panton.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 293.

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

An act relating to health equity data reporting and registry disclosure requirements.

Proposal of Amendment; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 583.

House bill entitled:

An act relating to clinical decision making.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senator Lyons moved to amend the Senate proposal of amendment by adding a fourth instance of amendment to read as follows:

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. chapter 233, in section 9774, in subsection (a), by striking out "February" and inserting in lieu thereof "July"

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

H. 642.

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

An act relating to youthful offender proceedings.

Bill Passed in Concurrence

H. 956.

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

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In with Amendment

S. 298.

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to creating the Vermont Voting Rights Act.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Voter Protections Act * * *

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

This act may be cited as the "Voter Protections Act of 2026."

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. chapter 35 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 35. OFFENSES AGAINST THE PURITY OF ELECTIONS

* * *

Subchapter 2. Penalties Upon Voters

* * *

§ 1972. SHOWING BALLOT~~; INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER~~

~~(a)~~ A voter who, except in cases of assistance as provided in this title, allows ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot to be seen by another person with an apparent intention of letting it be known how ~~he or she~~ the voter is about to vote or makes a false statement to the presiding officer at an election as to ~~his or her~~ the voter's inability to mark ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot or places a distinguishing mark on ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot ~~or a person who interferes with a voter when inside the guard rail or who, within the building in which the voting is proceeding, endeavors to induce a voter to vote for a particular candidate,~~ shall be fined $1,000.00.

~~(b) It shall be the duty of the election officers to see that the offender is duly prosecuted for a violation of this section.~~

* * *

§ 1975. INTERFERENCE WITH VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

(a) No person shall intentionally or recklessly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce:

(1) any other person for the purpose of:

(A) obstructing the right of the other person to vote or to vote as the other person may choose; or

(B) causing the other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for public office or public question at any election; or

(2) a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for the purpose of obstructing the administration of an election.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than $2,000.00, or both.

§ 1976. IMPAIRMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any registered voter.

* * *

Subchapter 4. Use of Synthetic Media in Elections

* * *

Subchapter 5. Enforcement and Investigation

* * *

Subchapter 6. Voter Protections

§ 2045. VOTE DENIAL OR DILUTION

(a) No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by the State or any municipality in a manner that results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section is established if, on the basis of the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or a municipality are not equally open to participation by members of a protected class in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political processes or to elect representatives of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to office in the State or municipality is one circumstance that may be considered.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to establish a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Municipality" means a town, city, village, school district, or other political subdivision that holds public elections.

(2) "Protected class" means a group of citizens protected from discrimination based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501.

§ 2046. CIVIL ACTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

(a) Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of this subchapter has occurred and that the rights of any voter or group of voters have been affected by such violation, the Attorney General may initiate a civil action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which the alleged violation has occurred for appropriate relief.

(b) In such civil action, the court may:

(1) award such preventive relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order against the person responsible for a violation of this title, as is necessary to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights granted by this title;

(2) assess a civil penalty against the respondent of not more than $5,000.00 for a first violation and of not more than $25,000.00 for any subsequent violation; and

(3) issue an order requiring reimbursement to the State of Vermont for the reasonable value of its services and its expenses in investigating and prosecuting the action.

* * * Voter Checklists * * *

Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2154 is amended to read:

§ 2154. STATEWIDE VOTER CHECKLIST

* * *

(c)(1) Any person wishing to obtain a copy of all of the statewide voter checklist ~~must~~, a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist, or any other municipal voter checklist shall swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 65, that the person will not:

(A) use the checklist for commercial purposes; or

(B) knowingly disclose the checklist to any foreign government or to a federal agency or commission or to a person acting on behalf of a foreign government or of such a federal entity in circumvention of the prohibited purposes for using the checklist set forth in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(2) ~~The~~ In the case of the statewide voter checklist, the affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State. In the case of a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist or any other municipal voter checklist, the affirmation shall be filed with the municipal clerk.

* * *

* * * Disclosures for Candidates for State, Legislative, and County Office * * *

Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2414 is amended to read:

§ 2414. CANDIDATES FOR STATE ~~AND~~, LEGISLATIVE, AND COUNTY OFFICE; DISCLOSURE FORM

* * *

(f)(1) The State Ethics Commission shall provide informational resources to candidates and answer candidates' questions regarding the requirements of this section, how to accurately complete and submit the disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure form pursuant to section 2415 of this title. The Commission shall make available on its web page the disclosure form, preprepared responses to frequently asked questions, and any informational resources and materials that it deems necessary to adequately inform candidates of how to comply with the provisions of this section. Upon contact by a candidate, the Commission shall provide answers to the candidate's questions by email or by phone, whichever the candidate may prefer.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide hyperlinks from its web page connecting to the disclosure form and other materials and resources required of the State Ethics Commission pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Sec. 5. SUSPENSION OF DISCLOSURE PENALTIES FOR CANDIDATES FOR STATE, LEGISLATIVE, AND COUNTY OFFICE

Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 2415, through May 30, 2027, the State Ethics Commission shall not enforce against any delinquent filers, nor shall the Office of the Secretary of State notify the State Ethics Commission of the names of delinquent filers, nor shall the candidates for State office, county office, State Senator, and State Representative be otherwise penalized for delinquently filing a disclosure.

* * * Safety Protections for Candidates * * *

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Expenditure" means a payment, disbursement, distribution, advance, deposit, loan, or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised to be paid, for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on a public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates.

(A) Expenditures may include those expenses that are necessary to allow a candidate to campaign, such as expenses for the care of a dependent family member that are incurred as a direct result of campaign activity or for the provision of monitoring systems, protective detail, and cybersecurity related to a candidate's security.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to voter protections"

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, Senator Collamore moved that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4, 17 V.S.A. § 2414, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. CANDIDATES FOR STATE, LEGISLATIVE, AND COUNTY OFFICE; DISCLOSURE FORM

Through May 30, 2027:

(1) The State Ethics Commission shall provide informational resources to candidates and answer candidates' questions regarding the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2414, how to accurately complete and submit the candidate disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure form pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2415. The Commission shall make available on its web page the disclosure form, preprepared responses to frequently asked questions, and any informational resources and materials that it deems necessary to adequately inform candidates of how to comply with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. §§ 2414 and 2415.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide hyperlinks from its web page connecting to the disclosure form and other materials and resources required of the State Ethics Commission pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.

Second: By adding a new section, to be Sec. 4a, to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. MANAGEMENT OF CANDIDATE DISCLOSURE FORMS; REPORT

On or before January 30, 2027, the State Ethics Commission and the Secretary of State's Office shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations their combined and shared recommendations on how to best manage candidate disclosure forms required under 17 V.S.A. §§ 2414 and 2415.

Third: By adding a new section, to be Sec. 4b, to read as follows:

Sec. 4b. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(13) "Political committee" or "political action committee" means any formal or informal committee of one or more individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political party, that accepts contributions ~~or~~ and makes expenditures in any amounts in any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a public question in any election, and includes a legislative leadership political committee.

* * *

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered

H. 907.

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

An act relating to legislative review of reporting requirements.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following

* * * Repeal of Reporting Requirements * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2313 is amended to read:

§ 2313. PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

(a) The Chief Performance Officer shall assist agencies as necessary in developing performance measures for contracts and grants.

(b) ~~Annually, on or before July 30 and as part of any other report requirement to the General Assembly set forth in this subchapter, the Chief Performance Officer shall report to the General Assembly on the progress by rate or percent of how many State contracts and grants have performance accountability requirements and the rate or percent of contractors' and grantees' compliance with those requirements.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 331 is amended to read:

§ 331. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

* * *

(c)(1) The Commissioner may authorize the continued employment of a person in a temporary capacity for more than 1,280 hours in any one calendar year if the Commissioner determines, in writing, that a bona fide emergency exists for the appointing authority that requires such continued employment.

* * *

(3) The Commissioner may authorize seasonal employment in a specific position for a period of between seven and 12 months if the Commissioner determines, in writing, that the nature and duties of the position require the employment of a person for a period of more than seven months in a 12-month period. The Commissioner shall not authorize seasonal employment for a period of more than seven months in a 12-month period if the authorization is intended to circumvent, or has the effect of circumventing, the policies and purposes of the classified service under this chapter. ~~Annually, on or before January 15, the Commissioner shall submit a report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations:~~

~~(A) the total number of positions in seasonal employment that have been authorized for a period of between seven and 12 months during the prior calendar year;~~

~~(B) the agency or department that each position identified in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) is assigned to; and~~

~~(C) the period of time that each identified position is authorized for.~~

* * *

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. § 2972 is amended to read:

§ 2972. POWERS AND DUTIES

* * *

(b) Included among the powers of the Council in connection with the enforcement of this chapter are the powers to require reports from any person subject to this chapter; to adopt, rescind, modify, and amend all proper and necessary rules and orders to administer this chapter, which rules and orders shall be adopted by publication in the manner prescribed by the Council and shall have the force and effect of law when not inconsistent with existing laws; to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses, take depositions, and certify to official acts; to require any dealer to keep such true and accurate records and to make such reports covering purchases, sales, and receipts of dairy products and related matters as the Council deems reasonably necessary for effective administration, which records shall be open to inspection by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary, but information thus obtained shall not be published or be open to public inspection in any manner revealing any individual dealer's identity, except as required in proceedings to enforce compliance; and to keep accurate books, records, and accounts of all of its dealings~~; and to make annually a full report of its doings to the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Governor, which shall show the amount of money received and the expenditures thereof. The report shall be submitted on or before January 15~~. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall perform the administrative work of the Council as directed by the Council. The Council shall reimburse the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the cost of services performed by the Agency.

* * *

Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 4810 is amended to read:

§ 4810. AUTHORITY; COOPERATION; COORDINATION

* * *

(d) Cooperation and coordination. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for reducing and eliminating agricultural nonpoint source pollutants and discharges from farms. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall cooperate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in the implementation of the

federal Clean Water Act for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall implement the State's comprehensive, complementary nonpoint source program. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food~~,~~ and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall coordinate regarding program administration; grant negotiation; grant sharing; implementation of the antidegradation policy including to new sources of agricultural nonpoint source pollutants, and watershed planning activities to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 1259(i), the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, shall issue a document that sets forth the respective roles and responsibilities of the Agency of Natural Resources in implementing the federal Clean Water Act on farms and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' roles and responsibilities in implementing the State's complementary nonpoint source program on farms. The document shall be consistent with and equivalent with the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit regulations for discharges from CAFOs. The document will replace the memorandum of understanding between the agencies. The allocation of duties under this chapter between the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall be consistent with the Secretary's duties, established under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1258(b), to comply with Pub. L. No. 92-500. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the State lead person in applying for federal funds under Pub. L. No. 92-500 but shall consult with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets during the process. The agricultural nonpoint source program may compete with other programs for competitive watershed projects funded from federal funds. The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall be represented in reviewing these projects for funding. Actions by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under this chapter concerning agricultural nonpoint source pollution shall be consistent with the water quality standards and water pollution control requirements of 10 V.S.A. chapter 47 and the federal Clean Water Act as amended. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall coordinate with the Secretary of Natural Resources in implementing and enforcing programs, plans, and practices developed for the proper management of composting facilities when those facilities are located on a farm. ~~The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall each develop three separate measures of the performance of the agencies under the federal Clean Water Act and State nonpoint source regulatory authority, and annually on or before January 15, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit separate reports to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture, Food~~

~~Resiliency, and Forestry, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the House Committee on Environment regarding the success of each agency in meeting its selected performance measures.~~

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1978 is amended to read:

§ 1978. RULES

* * *

(e)(1) The Secretary shall periodically review and, if necessary, revise the rules adopted under this chapter to ensure that the technical standards remain current with the known and proven technologies regarding potable water supplies and wastewater systems.

* * *

(3) ~~The Technical Advisory Committee shall provide annual reports, starting January 15, 2003, to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. The reports shall include information on the following topics: the implementation of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter; the number and type of alternative or innovative systems approved for general use, approved for use as a pilot project, and approved for experimental use; the functional status of alternative or innovative systems approved for use as a pilot project or approved for experimental use; the number of permit applications received during the preceding calendar year; the number of permits issued during the preceding calendar year; and the number of permit applications denied during the preceding calendar year, together with a summary of the basis of denial.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The State Board shall engage local school board members and the broader education community and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update a long-term strategic vision for the delivery of educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high-priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in accordance with legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and executing special assignments. In addition to other specified duties, the Board shall:

* * *

(17) ~~Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups, racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school, school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 829 is amended to read:

§ 829. PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

* * *

(e) Rules. The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner for Children and Families shall jointly develop and agree to rules and present them to the State Board for adoption under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as follows:

* * *

(10) To establish a system by which the Agency of Education and Department for Children and Families shall jointly monitor and evaluate prekindergarten education programs to promote optimal results for children that support the relevant population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 and to collect data that will inform future decisions. ~~The Agency and Department shall be required to report annually to the General Assembly in January.~~ At a minimum, the system shall monitor and evaluate:

* * *

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 4635 is amended to read:

§ 4635. PRESCRIPTION DRUG COST TRANSPARENCY

* * *

(d)(1) ~~The Attorney General shall provide a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year based on the information received from manufacturers pursuant to this section.~~ The Attorney General shall post ~~the report and~~ the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section on the Office of the Attorney General's website.

(2) The Green Mountain Care Board shall post on its website ~~the report prepared by the Attorney General pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and~~ the public version of each manufacturer's information submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1)(B)(ii) of this section, and may inform the public of the availability of the report and the manufacturers' justification information.

* * *

Sec. 9. 28 V.S.A. § 104 is amended to read:

§ 104. NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

* * *

(e) ~~The Commissioner of Corrections shall annually, by January 15, report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the implementation of this section during the previous 12 months.~~ [Repealed.]

Sec. 10. 33 V.S.A. § 4305 is amended to read:

§ 4305. COORDINATED SYSTEM OF CARE

* * *

(c) ~~The Commissioners of Mental Health and for Children and Families and the Secretary of Education shall jointly submit to the General Assembly a report on the status of programs for children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance and their families, which shall include a system of care plan. The report shall be submitted together with the general appropriation bill provided for by 32 V.S.A. § 701. The system of care plan shall:~~

~~(1) identify the characteristics and number of children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance in need of appropriate services, describe the educational, residential, mental health or other treatment services needed, describe currently available programs and resources, recommend a plan to meet the needs of such children, recommend priorities for the continuation or development of programs and resources, and make an assessment of the success of such programs; and~~

~~(2) provide information as available on the extent to which children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance have not received services, the characteristics and number of those children and adolescents who have not received services and recommendations on how to address their identified needs.~~ [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 11. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 20 is amended to read:

Sec. 20. VERMONT CENTER FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES

The sum of $50,000 is appropriated to the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements at domestic violence shelters. ~~Annually, on or before December 1, the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services shall file with the commissioner of buildings and general services a report which details the status of the improvements funded in whole or in part by state capital appropriations.~~

Total Appropriation – Section 20 $50,000

Sec. 12. REPEALS

The following are repealed:

(1) 6 V.S.A. § 4825 (report concerning activities in support of water quality financial and technical assistance);

(2) 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 112a(b)(2)(A) (report on utilization of services and expenses under Choices for Care);

(3) 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 192, Sec. 5.221(b) (report on use of appropriations for household weatherization);

(4) 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 113, Sec. 3 (report on Genuine Progress Indicator);

(5) 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. C.106 (Vermont Health Connect monthly reports);

(6) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.100.5(g) (report on resources made available from the Vermont Enterprise Fund);

(7) 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 195, Secs. 3(f) and 4(b) (evaluate goals and performance of pretrial services and precharge programs);

(8) 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 68, Sec. 3 (report on concussions suffered by student athletes);

(9) 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 174, Sec. 1(c)(2) (Auditor report filed if a privatization contract has not achieved the required cost savings or complied with required performance measures); and

(10) 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 10(b) (report on status of the Broadband Innovation Grant Program).

* * * Reports Extended Until 2030 Review * * *

Sec. 13. REPORTS REPEAL DELAYED

The reports set forth in this section shall not be subject to review under the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) until July 1, 2030:

(1) 3 V.S.A. § 168(f)(6) (Racial Disparities in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System Advisory Panel report and recommendations);

(2) 10 V.S.A. § 280ee(d) (Vermont Economic Development Authority report concerning Broadband Expansion Loan Program activities);

(3) 10 V.S.A. § 325m(g) (Rural Economic Development Initiative report);

(4) 13 V.S.A. § 5256 (Office of Defender General annual report);

(5) 13 V.S.A. § 5415(c) (Department of Public Safety report concerning sex offender registry compliance);

(6) 18 V.S.A. § 909(e) (EMS Advisory Committee report concerning progress toward goals of five-year plan);

(7) 20 V.S.A. § 2367 (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning use of electronic control devices);

(8) 20 V.S.A. § 2366(d) (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning fair and impartial policing policies and training);

(9) 20 V.S.A. § 4624 (Department of Public Safety report on drone use);

(10) 24 V.S.A. § 1892(g) (quadrennial analysis of recommendations and conclusions of the tax increment financing capacity study and report);

(11) 29 V.S.A. § 160(e) (Department of Buildings and General Services Property Management Revolving Fund annual report);

(12) 32 V.S.A. § 3340(a) (Vermont Economic Progress Council report concerning Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program).

* * * Reports Exempted from 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) * * *

Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 3902 is amended to read:

§ 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

* * *

(d) Annually, the Office shall provide a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Natural Resources and Energy on appropriations utilizing existing resources within State government available in the Office of Economic Opportunity's weatherization data management system that compiles performance data available on households weatherized in the past year to include the:

(1) number of households weatherized;

(2) average program expenditure per household for energy efficiency;

(3) average percent in energy savings;

(4) energy and nonenergy benefits combined;

(5) benefits saved for every dollar spent;

(6) average savings per unit for heating fuels;

(7) gallons of oil saved related to the equivalent number of homes heated;

(8) projected number of households to be weatherized in the current program year;

(9) projected program expenditures for the current program year ending March 31;

(10) total number of all units that had weatherization deferred, and the reasons why;

(11) number of rental units that had weatherization deferred, and the reasons why;

(12) number of rental units deferred specifically because of vermiculite;

(13) backlog of deferred rental units deferred specifically because of vermiculite; and

(14) potential energy savings for all deferred weatherization that do not require disturbing the vermiculite.

Sec. 15. 3 V.S.A. § 1226 is amended to read:

§ 1226. COMMISSION REPORTS

* * *

(c) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 16. 4 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

§ 608. FUNCTIONS

* * *

(e) On or before the tenth Thursday after the convening of each biennial and adjourned session, the Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation whether the candidates should continue in office, with any amplifying information that it may deem appropriate, in order that the General Assembly may discharge its obligation under Chapter II, § 34 of the ~~Constitution of the State of~~ Vermont Constitution. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 17. 6 V.S.A. § 4710 is amended to read:

§ 4710. VERMONT FARM AND FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

* * *

(f) In collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall report in writing to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and on Commerce and Economic Development on or before January 31 of each year with a report on the activities and performance of the Farm and Forest Viability Program. At a minimum, the report shall include an evaluation of the Program utilizing the performance goals and performance measures established in consultation with the Advisory Board under subsection (d) of this section. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 18. 6 V.S.A. § 4825 is amended to read:

§ 4825. REPORTS

(a) Annually by January 15 of each year, the Secretary shall report to the General Assembly regarding activities in support of the objectives of this subchapter, including use of State, federal, and private funds:

* * *

(b) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. TREASURER'S LOCAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* * *

(e) Report. On or before January 15, the Advisory Committee annually shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Appropriations, on Commerce and Economic Development, on Ways and Means, and on Government Operations and Military Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The report shall include the following:

* * *

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 531 is amended to read:

§ 531. THE VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM

* * *

(k) Report. Annually on or before January 15, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In addition to the reporting requirements under section 540 of this title, the report shall identify:

* * *

Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 2609a is amended to read:

§ 2609a. INCOME FROM LEASE OF MOUNTAINTOP COMMUNICATION SITES

Annually on or before February 15, the Agency of Natural Resources shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the House ~~Committees~~ Committee on Energy and ~~Technology and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife~~ Digital Infrastructure containing an itemization of the income generated through the end of the previous fiscal year from the use of sites for communication purposes. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 6503 is amended to read:

§ 6503. LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL

(a) The Committee shall report to the General Assembly its recommendation to approve or not to approve the petition for the facility together with such additional information and comment it deems appropriate. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

Sec. 23. 32 V.S.A. § 311 is amended to read:

§ 311. RETIREMENT FUNDS INTEGRITY REPORT

* * *

(b) At the request of the House ~~or Senate Committee on Government Operations or on Appropriations~~ Committee on Appropriations or on Government Operations and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on Appropriations or on Government Operations, or the Joint Public Pension Oversight Committee, the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall present to the requesting committees the recommendations submitted under 3 V.S.A. § 471(n) and 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r).

(c) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 24. 32 V.S.A. § 588 is amended to read:

§ 588. SPECIAL FUNDS; ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

All special funds shall be organized and managed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

* * *

(6) Accounting and reporting.

* * *

(B) In addition, the Commissioner shall annually report a list of any special funds created during the fiscal year. The list shall furnish for each fund its name, authorization, and revenue source or sources. The report for the prior fiscal year shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before December 1 of each year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 25. 3 V.S.A. § 3303 is amended to read:

§ 3303. REPORTING, RECORDS, AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

(a) Annual report and budget. The Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Institutions, concurrent with the Governor's annual budget request required under 32 V.S.A. § 306, an annual report for information technology and cybersecurity. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The report shall reflect the priorities of the Agency and shall include:

* * *

* * * Reports Modified * * *

Sec. 26. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 119, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

Sec. 8. REPORTING; UTILIZATION BY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

(a) The Executive Director of the Division of Fire Safety shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding:

* * *

(b) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding:

* * *

(c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were certified to perform inspections without being required to pass an examination as provided pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1227(b)(2).

(d) The Commissioner of Health shall, on or before February 1 of each even year, report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on General, Housing, and Military Affairs, and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations regarding the number of service members and veterans who, during the previous calendar year, were deemed to have knowledge of the prevention of food-borne disease, be able to apply the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles, and have met the criteria for "demonstration of knowledge" requirements set forth by the Department of Health in rule for the purposes of obtaining a food establishment license as provided pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4303(b) and the total number of food establishment licenses issued to those service members and veterans.

Sec. 27. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. COURT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT ON PUBLIC RECORDS CASES

On or before January 15, 2012, and ~~annually~~ on even years thereafter, the Vermont court administrator's office shall report to the senate and house committees on government operations regarding contested cases filed in the civil division of the superior court involving disputes under the Public Records Act, as set forth in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 4. The report shall include the number of Public Records Act contested cases filed annually in the civil division of the superior court, the disposition of such cases, and whether attorney's fees were awarded in any of the cases. The court administrator shall submit a copy of a report required under this section to the secretary of state at the same time the report is submitted to the senate and house committees on government operations.

Sec. 28. 4 V.S.A. § 40 is amended to read:

§ 40. REPORT ON TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

(a) Annually, on or before January 15 of every even year, the State Court Administrator shall submit a report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations identifying for each of the two prior calendar years:

(1) the total number of individuals employed by the Judiciary Department on a temporary basis who have worked in excess of 1,280 hours in the prior calendar year, excluding employees identified in 3 V.S.A. § 1011(7), (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

(2) the total number of temporary positions in which one or more individuals have been employed for a combined total of more than 1,280 hours, excluding positions filled by employees identified in 3 V.S.A. § 1011(7), (8)(A)–(D), (8)(F) and (G), and (8)(I)–(K);

(3) the total number of hours worked by each temporary employee identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section; and

(4) the total number of years during which each temporary employee identified pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section has worked for the Judiciary Department.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the State Court Administrator need not submit the report if there were no temporary employees hired in the prior two calendar years.

Sec. 29. REPEAL

2014 Acts and Resolves No. 180, Sec. 2(c) (Vermont Criminal Justice Council report concerning use of electronic control devices) is repealed.

Sec. 30. 20 V.S.A. § 2367 is amended to read:

§ 2367. STATEWIDE POLICY; ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES; REPORTING

* * *

(f)(1) Every State, county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency and every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall report all incidents involving the use of an electronic control device to the Criminal Justice Council in a form to be determined by the Council.

(2) Annually, on or before November 15, the Criminal Justice Council shall report to the House Committees on Government Operations and Military Affairs and on Judiciary and to the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary all incidents from the prior 12 months involving the use of an electronic control device, a review of compliance with standards, the adequacy of training and certification requirements, and the adequacy of funding for mental health collaboration.

* * *

Sec. 31. 20 V.S.A § 4662 is amended to read:

§ 4662. CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

* * *

(g) Reports. On or before ~~January~~ February 15 each year, the Council shall ~~submit a written~~ report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Energy and Digital Infrastructure, on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Government Operations with a status update on the work of the Council and any recommendations for legislative action. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 32. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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

Senator Perchlik, for the Committee on Appropriations, to which the bill was referred, reported recommending that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations.

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.

House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In with Amendment

S. 202.

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read:

§ 201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(9) "Plug-in photovoltaic device" means a photovoltaic generation device that:

(A) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system via an electrical cord plugged into a receptacle;

(B) includes a feature that prevents the system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage;

(C) complies with UL 3700 for plug-in photovoltaic systems by UL Solutions or an equivalent certification by an equivalent Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory for use in the United States and is installed and operated in compliance with IEEE 1547-2018 and any successor standard, using default performance and setting profiles consistent with those developed by regional transmission and distribution system operators; and

(D) is connected to a building that is connected to the electric grid.

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 256 is added to read:

§ 256. PLUG-IN PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES

(a) A customer may install one or more plug-in photovoltaic devices per electric meter if the devices have a maximum combined inverter capacity of not more than 1,200 watts. Plug-in photovoltaic devices shall only be connected to systems using smart meters. A customer shall ensure a device is temporarily but securely attached to the ground or a structure.

(b) The installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device that complies with subsection (a) of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of section 248 of this chapter, shall not be required to obtain an interconnection agreement with an electric distribution company, and shall not otherwise be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission.

(c) An electric distribution company shall not require a customer using a plug-in photovoltaic device that complies with subsection (a) of this section to:

(1) obtain the company's approval before installing or using the device;

(2) pay any fee or charge related to the installation of the device; or

(3) install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the device.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prevent an electric distribution company from recovering costs associated with the overloading of the service provided due to the presence of a plug-in photovoltaic device.

(e) A customer with a net metering system shall not also install a plug-in photovoltaic device. A plug-in photovoltaic device shall not be eligible for net metering. Generation exported to the grid by a plug-in photovoltaic device shall not be compensated by an electric distribution company.

(f) A plug-in photovoltaic device in a public building, as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 2730, shall be used in a manner that complies with all applicable requirements of the most recent Fire and Building Safety Code adopted by the Division of Fire Safety.

(g) No tenant shall install a plug-in photovoltaic device without the landlord's permission. A tenant shall provide at least 10 days' notice to the landlord of the tenant's intent to install a plug-in photovoltaic device in compliance with subsection (a) of this section in the building. The landlord shall respond within 10 days with any reasonable restrictions on the installation of the device or may deny installation.

Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. § 4413(g) is amended to read:

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a bylaw adopted under this chapter shall not:

(1) Regulate the installation, operation, and maintenance of a plug-in photovoltaic device or, on a flat roof of an otherwise complying structure, of a solar energy device that heats water or space or generates electricity. For the purpose of this subdivision, "flat roof" means a roof having a slope less than or equal to five degrees.

(2) Prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the installation of solar collectors not exempted from regulation under subdivision (1) of this subsection, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources.

Sec. 4. 27 V.S.A. § 544 is amended to read:

§ 544. ENERGY DEVICES BASED ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

(a) No deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements running with the land shall prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting solar collectors, clotheslines, or other energy devices based on renewable resources from being installed on or, for a plug-in photovoltaic device as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, appurtenant to buildings erected on the lots or parcels covered by the deed restrictions, covenants, or binding agreements. A property owner may not be denied permission to install solar collectors or other energy devices based on renewable resources by any entity granted the power or right in any deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement to approve, forbid, control, or direct alteration of property with respect to residential dwellings. For purposes of this subsection, that entity may determine the specific location where solar collectors may be installed on the roof within an orientation to the south or within 45° east or west of due south, provided that this determination does not impair the effective operation of the solar collectors.

* * *

(c) The legislative intent in enacting this section is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare by encouraging the development and use of renewable resources in order to conserve and protect the value of land, buildings, and resources by preventing measures that will have the ultimate effect, whether or not intended, of driving the costs of owning and operating commercial or residential property beyond the capacity of private owners to maintain. This section shall not apply to patio railings in condominiums, cooperatives, or apartments, except for a plug-in photovoltaic device.

Sec. 5. 9 V.S.A. § 2795 is amended to read:

§ 2795. EFFICIENCY AND WATER CONSERVATION STANDARDS

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 establishing minimum efficiency standards for the types of new products set forth in section 2794 of this title. The rules shall provide for the following minimum efficiency standards for products sold or installed in this State:

* * *

(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, ~~2017~~ 2025. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.

* * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to plug-in photovoltaic devices"

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, Senators Watson, Beck, Bongartz, Hardy and Williams moved that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with a further proposals of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 30 V.S.A. § 256, by striking out subsection (g) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) A tenant shall provide at least 10 days' notice to the landlord of the tenant's intent to install a plug-in photovoltaic device in compliance with subsection (a) of this section in the building. The landlord shall respond within 10 days with any reasonable restrictions on the installation of the device, including requiring the tenant to pay for any required electrical work and hiring a licensed electrician to do the work. If the landlord does not respond within 10 days, the tenant may proceed with installation. A tenant shall not perform or hire someone to perform electrical work on the premises for the installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device without the landlord's permission. A landlord shall not be compelled to perform or pay for electrical work on the premises to allow for the installation of a plug-in photovoltaic device.

Second: In Sec. 5, 9 V.S.A. § 2795, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (6) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (6) to read as follows:

(6) In the rules, the Commissioner shall adopt minimum efficiency and water conservation standards for each product that is subject to a standard under 10 C.F.R. §§ 430 and 431 as those provisions existed on January 19, ~~2017~~ 2025 and amended in a final rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Expanded Scope Electric

Motors" signed on January 8, 2025, excluding any motor incorporated into a product to which a federal energy conservation standard applies under 10 C.F.R. § 430 or 431. The minimum standard and the testing protocol for each product shall be the same as adopted in those sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, except that for faucets, showerheads, and urinals, the minimum standard and testing protocol shall be as otherwise set forth in this section.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning.