

Journal of the House

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

At ten o'clock in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. John O'Brien of Tunbridge.

Pledge of Allegiance

Page Heidi S. Thompson of Reading led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

House Bills Introduced

House bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time, and referred to committee or placed on the Notice Calendar as follows:

H. 491

By the Committee on Ways and Means,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to setting the homestead property tax yields and the nonhomestead property tax rate

Pursuant to House Rule 48, placed on the Notice Calendar.

H. 492

By Rep. Krasnow of South Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to animal cruelty crimes and penalties

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 493

By the Committee on Appropriations,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to making appropriations for the support of the government

Pursuant to House Rule 35(a), affecting the revenue of the State, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Referred to Committee**Proposal 3**

Subject: Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

Sec. 2. Article 23 of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 23. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer's employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in this proposal shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

Was referred to the Committee on General and Housing.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

S. 23

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 27

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports

To the Committee on Health Care.

S. 51

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

S. 59

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to amendments to Vermont's Open Meeting Law

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

S. 60

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

S. 109

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Ceremonial Readings**H.C.R. 27**

Offered by Representative Carris-Duncan of Whitingham

House concurrent resolution honoring Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program

Whereas, serving hot and nutritious meals to senior citizens benefits them both physically and emotionally by giving them high-quality nourishment and companionship, even for a brief period of time, and

Whereas, a quarter of a century ago, in the Town of Halifax, Joan Coursier, an outstanding cook and deeply caring human being, identified the need for a senior meal program in the community, and

Whereas, Joan Coursier established a senior meal service that provided the recipients with both food and a sense of belonging to the community, and

Whereas, she has performed multiple roles in this endeavor, including provisioning, preparing, and serving food, and Joan Coursier's superb cooking enhanced the program's quality and reputation, and

Whereas, her devotion to this project has continued unabated, greatly benefiting the appreciative Halifax community, and

Whereas, on March 21, 2025, Joan Coursier is concluding her service in this unique and personally created position, and she will be celebrated at a festive thank-you gathering, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Joan W. Coursier for her exemplary community service devising and leading the Halifax senior meal program, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Joan Coursier.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 7, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 50

Offered by Representative Cordes of Bristol

House concurrent resolution recognizing the unique role of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the Vermont health care system

Whereas, nurses have provided anesthesia to patients for over 150 years, and

Whereas, certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), also known as nurse anesthetists, were originally designated in 1956, and they are advanced practice registered nurses who are among the nation's most trusted health care professionals, and

Whereas, nationally, nearly 74,000 CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, including traditional hospital surgical suites; obstetrical delivery rooms; ambulatory surgical centers; and at the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, and pain management specialists, and

Whereas, in Pub. L. 99-509 § 9320, Congress extended Medicare coverage to CRNA services, and

Whereas, CRNAs are primary anesthesia providers in rural and underserved communities and for U.S. military personnel, and

Whereas, based on their formal education, field training, board certification, and State licensure, these health care professionals are qualified to make independent judgements regarding a broad scope of anesthesia care, and

Whereas, CRNAs are trusted anesthesia experts, caring for patients safely and compassionately, delivering specialized, cost-effective care to all patients—from newborns to seniors—for every type of procedure in all kinds of facilities, and

Whereas, in addition to anesthesia care, CRNAs are qualified to address the unique health care challenges of some of our sickest patients, including veterans, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the unique role of certified registered nurse anesthetists in the Vermont health care system, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 14, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 57

Offered by Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs

Offered by Senators Clarkson, Major, and White

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont

Whereas, on December 21, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution 82, the original Medal of Honor legislation, providing for a Navy Medal of Valor, which Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa had introduced, and in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln extended its eligibility to U.S. Army personnel, and

Whereas, the first recipients of the Medal of Honor were a group of soldiers known as Andrews' Raiders, who led a daunting mission to cross Confederate lines and steal a train, and six of those soldiers were honored on March 25, 1863, and

Whereas, during the Civil War, approximately 60 Vermonters were Medal of Honor recipients, and

Whereas, the most unusual recipient was Willie Johnston, a young resident of the Northeast Kingdom community of Salem, now Derby, who, despite being only 11 years of age when he enlisted, was accepted as a drummer in Company D of the 3rd Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and

Whereas, during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, when Union forces failed to invade the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, and were forced to flee down the Virginia peninsula, young Johnston proved to be the only drummer in his division to retain his instrument through the harrowing ordeal, and

Whereas, on September 16, 1863, when Willie Johnston was only 13 years of age, U.S. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented him with this special medal, and he remains the youngest recipient to this day, and

Whereas, other Vermonters have been awarded the Medal of Honor for their military valor, including during the Indian Wars (1), the Philippines Campaign (1), interim periods (2), World War II (3), and the Vietnam War (1), and

Whereas, Congress established National Medal of Honor Day, which was first observed in 1991, "to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients," *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Green Mountain Base Submarine Veterans; to Robert Burke, Director of the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs; and to Richard Lorenz, the President of the Vermont National Guard Library and Museum.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 21, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

H.C.R. 60

Offered by All Members of the House

Offered by Senators Lyons and Gulick

House concurrent resolution designating March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House

Whereas, all Vermonters, regardless of any disability they may have, desire to receive the highest attainable quality of health care, including support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and

Whereas, Sec. 1 of the Developmental Disabilities Act (1996 Acts and Resolves No. 174, codified as 18 V.S.A. § 8721) provides that individuals with a developmental disability are entitled to: a safe living environment; respect and dignity; residency in a home of their choice; the opportunity to make life-affecting decisions; attend neighborhood schools, be employed, and participate in activities, subject to the provisions of federal special education laws; and to have access to broadly available community support and services, and

Whereas, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities seek access to the necessary resources to lead full, independent, and dignified lives within the community, and they expect that all of these services will be delivered with the same degree of expertise and financial support as equivalent services for those who do not live with an intellectual or developmental disability, and

Whereas, today, March 25, 2025, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their advocates are visiting the State House to inform the General Assembly of their concerns regarding the provision of these State services that are critical to their health and well-being, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the intellectual and developmental disabilities advocacy organizations present today in the State House.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 21, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 342**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Marcotte of Coventry**, action on the bill was postponed until March 27, 2025.

**Committee Bill; Second Reading; Amendment Offered; Bill Amended;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 474

Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte spoke for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

Having appeared on the Notice Calendar and appearing on the Action Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. Sibilia of Dover, Donahue of Northfield, Headrick of Burlington, and Lipsky of Stowe** moved to amend the bill by adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Secs. 5a to read as follows:

* * * Independent Candidate Filing Deadline * * *

Sec. 5a. 17 V.S.A. § 2402 is amended to read:

§ 2402. REQUISITES OF STATEMENT

* * *

(d)(1) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form shall be filed:

* * *

(C) in the case of any other independent candidate, not earlier than the fourth Monday in April and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~Thursday preceding fourteenth day following~~ the primary election prescribed by section 2351 of this chapter, and not later than 5:00 p.m. of the ~~third day prior to fourteenth day following~~ the day of a special primary election.

* * *

Pending the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Sibia of Dover and others?, **Rep. Sibia of Dover** requested that the vote be by division. Pending the taking of the vote by division, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be amended as offered by Rep. Sibia of Dover and others?, was decided in the negative. Yeas, 36. Nays, 107.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Burditt of West Rutland	Greer of Bennington	Morgan, L. of Milton
Burrows of West Windsor	Headrick of Burlington	Morrissey of Bennington
Carris-Duncan of	Higley of Lowell	Nelson of Derby
Whitingham	Labor of Morgan	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Chapin of East Montpelier	LaMont of Morristown	Parsons of Newbury
Cina of Burlington	Laroche of Franklin	Pouech of Hinesburg
Cooper of Pownal	Lipsky of Stowe	Sibia of Dover
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Logan of Burlington	Southworth of Walden
Donahue of Northfield	Luneau of St. Albans City	Taylor of Milton
Duke of Burlington *	Marcotte of Coventry	Tomlinson of Winooski
Eastes of Guilford	McCann of Montpelier	Yacovone of Morristown
Feltus of Lyndon	McGill of Bridport	
Galfetti of Barre Town	Micklus of Milton	

Those who voted in the negative are:

Arsenault of Williston	Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	Minier of South Burlington
Austin of Colchester	Durfee of Shaftsbury	Morgan, M. of Milton
Bailey of Hyde Park	Emmons of Springfield	Morris of Springfield
Bartholomew of Hartland	Garofano of Essex	Morrow of Weston
Bartley of Fairfax	Goldman of Rockingham	Nielsen of Brandon
Berbeco of Winooski	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Nigro of Bennington
Birong of Vergennes	Goslant of Northfield	North of Ferrisburgh
Bishop of Colchester	Graning of Jericho	Noyes of Wolcott
Black of Essex	Gregoire of Fairfield *	Nugent of South Burlington
Bluemle of Burlington	Hango of Berkshire *	Ode of Burlington
Bosch of Clarendon	Harple of Glover	Olson of Starksboro
Bos-Lun of Westminster	Harrison of Chittenden	Page of Newport City
Boutin of Barre City	Harvey of Castleton	Pezzo of Colchester
Boyden of Cambridge	Holcombe of Norwich	Pinsonault of Dorset
Brady of Williston	Hooper of Randolph	Powers of Waterford
Branagan of Georgia	Hooper of Burlington	Priestley of Bradford
Brown of Richmond	Houghton of Essex Junction	Pritchard of Pawlet
Burke of Brattleboro	Howard of Rutland City	Quimby of Lyndon
Burkhardt of South	Howland of Rutland Town	Rachelson of Burlington
Burlington	Hunter of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph
Burt of Cabot	James of Manchester	Scheu of Middlebury
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Kascenska of Burke	Sheldon of Middlebury
Canfield of Fair Haven	Keyser of Rutland City	Squirrell of Underhill
Casey of Montpelier	Kimball of Woodstock	Steady of Milton

Casey of Hubbardton	Kleppner of Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury
Charlton of Chester	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Stone of Burlington
Coffin of Cavendish	Krasnow of South	Surprenant of Barnard
Cole of Hartford	Burlington	Sweeney of Shelburne
Conlon of Cornwall	Lalley of Shelburne	Tagliavia of Corinth
Corcoran of Bennington	LaLonde of South	Toof of St. Albans Town
Cordes of Bristol	Burlington	Torre of Moretown
Critchlow of Colchester	Long of Newfane	Waszazak of Barre City
Demar of Enosburgh	Malay of Pittsford	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Dickinson of St. Albans	Masland of Thetford	White of Waitsfield
Town	McCoy of Poultney	White of Bethel
Dodge of Essex	McFaun of Barre Town	Winter of Ludlow
Dolan of Essex Junction	Mihaly of Calais	Wood of Waterbury

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Christie of Hartford	Mrowicki of Putney	Walker of Swanton
Maguire of Rutland City	Oliver of Sheldon	Wells of Brownington

Rep. Duke of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I’m voting yes because our current system of low turnout primaries and fusion candidates increases campaign tactics that can undermine the representation of the majority of voters.”

Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I agree with the principle but not the deadline chosen.”

Rep. Hango of Berkshire provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I was hopeful that an agreeable date could have been negotiated ahead of this vote, but it was not.”

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Reps. McCoy of Poultney, Toof of St. Albans Town, and Higley of Lowell** moved to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 2, 17 V.S.A. § 2381, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

Second: By striking out Sec. 3, 17 V.S.A. § 2386, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

Third: By striking out Sec. 9, 17 V.S.A. § 2370, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 9 to read as follows:

Sec. 9. 17 V.S.A. § 2370 is amended to read:

§ 2370. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

(a) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under subdivision 2587 of this title, not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the primary election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's Office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

(b) A write-in candidate shall not qualify as a primary winner unless ~~he or she~~ the candidate receives ~~at least one-half the same~~ number of votes as the number of signatures required for ~~his or her~~ the candidate's office on a primary petition, except that if a write-in candidate receives more votes than a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot, ~~he or she may~~ the write-in candidate shall qualify as a primary winner. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a candidate who has not filed in accordance with subsection (a) shall qualify as a primary winner if the candidate otherwise complies with the provisions of this subsection.

~~(b)(c)~~ The write-in candidate who qualifies as a primary winner under this section must still be determined a winner under section 2369 of this chapter before ~~he or she~~ the candidate becomes the party's candidate in the general election.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 10, 17 V.S.A. § 2472, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 10 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. 17 V.S.A. § 2472 is amended to read:

§ 2472. CONTENTS

* * *

(b)(1) Each office to be voted upon shall be separately indicated and preceded by the word "For," as: "For United States Senator." Beneath the office to be voted upon shall appear the instructions: "Vote for not more than (the number of candidates to be elected)."

* * *

(5)(A) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under subdivision 2587 of this title, not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the primary election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's Office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (5), a candidate who has not filed in accordance with subdivision (A) shall qualify as the winner of an election if the candidate otherwise complies with the provisions of this chapter.

* * *

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 11, 17 V.S.A. § 2587, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 11 to read as follows:

Sec. 11. 17 V.S.A. § 2587 is amended to read:

§ 2587. RULES FOR COUNTING VOTES

* * *

(e)(1) In the case of "write-in" votes, the act of writing in the name of a candidate, or pasting a label containing a candidate's name upon the ballot, without other indications of the voter's intent, shall constitute a vote for that candidate, even though the voter did not fill in the square or oval after the name.

(2) A vote for a write-in candidate shall be counted as a write-in vote that is without requisite filings unless the write-in candidate filed in accordance with section 2370, 2472, or 2702 of this title. The clerk shall record the name and vote totals of a write-in candidate who has complied with this section.

(3)(A) The election officials counting ballots and tallying results shall list every person who receives a "write-in" vote and the number of votes received only the names and votes received of those write-in candidates who filed in accordance with section 2370, 2472, or 2702 of this title. Any write-in votes for candidates who have not filed in accordance with section 2370, 2472, or 2702 of this title shall be listed as "other write-ins."

~~(A)~~(B) On each tally sheet, the counters shall add together the names of candidates that are clearly the same person, even though a nickname or last name is used.

~~(B)~~(C) Names of ~~fictitious or deceased~~ persons who have not filed in accordance with section 2370, 2472, or 2702 of this title shall not be listed individually and shall be recorded on the tally sheet as a blank vote in aggregate as "other write-ins."

(f) When the same number of persons are nominated for the position of justice of the peace as there are positions to be filled, the presiding officer may declare the whole slate of candidates elected without making individual tallies, providing each person on the slate has more votes than the largest number of write-in votes for any one registered write-in candidate.

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 12, 17 V.S.A. § 2702, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 12 to read as follows:

Sec. 12. 17 V.S.A. § 2702 is amended to read:

§ 2702. NOMINATING PETITION

(a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with the written consent of the person to the printing of the person's name on the ballot.

(b) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of December preceding the primary election.

(c) The petition shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(d) A person's name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot of more than one party in the same election.

(e) Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, which shall be available for public inspection, that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of State shall waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate.

(f)(1) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under subdivision 2587 of this title, not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the primary election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under

subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary of State's Office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a candidate who has not filed in accordance with subdivision (1) shall qualify as the winner of an election if the candidate otherwise complies with the provisions of this chapter.

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 13, 17 V.S.A. § 2921, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 13 to read as follows:

Sec. 13. 17 V.S.A. § 2921 is amended to read:

§ 2921. CANDIDATES; REGISTRATION; CHECKING ACCOUNT;
TREASURER

(a)(1) Each candidate who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more in an election cycle files a consent to the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot, as provided in section 2361 of this title, shall register with the Secretary of State within 10 days of reaching the \$500.00 threshold or on the date that the next report is required of the candidate under this chapter, whichever occurs first, prior to filing the consent stating his or her the candidate's full name and address, and the office the candidate is seeking.

(2) Each candidate who accepts or expends any campaign funds shall file with the Secretary of State at the time of expending the funds the name and address of the bank in which the candidate maintains his or her the campaign checking account; and the name and address of the treasurer responsible for maintaining the checking account. A candidate's treasurer may be the candidate or his or her the candidate's spouse.

* * *

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 14, 17 V.S.A. § 2964, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 14 to read as follows:

Sec. 14. 17 V.S.A. § 2964 is amended to read:

§ 2964. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE,
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE;
POLITICAL COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

(a)(1) Each candidate for State office, the General Assembly, or a two-year-term county office who has rolled over any amount of surplus into his or

~~her new campaign or who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the two-year general election cycle and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each political committee that has not filed a final report pursuant to subsection 2965(b) of this chapter, and each political party required to register under section 2923 of this chapter shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows:~~

* * *

(2) Each candidate for a four-year-term county office ~~who has rolled over any amount of surplus into his or her new campaign or who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the four-year general election cycle~~ shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows:

* * *

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, third reading was ordered.

Bill Committed

H. 483

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the expansion of existing income tax credits

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock**, the bill was committed to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Bill Committed

H. 141

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Was taken up, and pending the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction**, moved to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, which was agreed to.

Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 10

House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Bill Amended; Third Reading; Bill Passed

H. 319

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects

Was taken up and, pending third reading of the bill, **Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph** moved to amend the bill in Sec. 9, Solid Waste Plan; flexibility, in subdivision (a)(2), after the semicolon, by inserting the word “or”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 321

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

H. 484

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

H. 489

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 237

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

Was taken up and, pending second reading of the bill, on motion of **Rep. McFaun of Barre Town**, action on the bill was postponed until March 26, 2025.

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction presiding.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 401**

Rep. Burt of Cabot, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Vermont enhance its food resiliency through increased supply and distribution of locally produced food products;

(2) Vermonters have more access to the local food marketplace as both producers and consumers;

(3) local food producers are able to meet the demand for Vermont-made food products from visitors to the State;

(4) small-scale food producers, new business start-ups, and sole proprietors benefit from raising the limit of the existing licensing exemption for at-home bakery products to adjust for inflationary cost changes occurring since the initial statutory enactment; and

(5) supply-chain costs and inflationary considerations be addressed to bring risk management thresholds more in line with the economic conditions at the time of initial statutory enactment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4353 is amended to read:

§ 4353. FEES

(a) The Commissioner may establish by rule any requirement the Department needs to determine the applicable categories or exemptions for licenses. The following license fees shall be paid annually to the Department at the time of making the application according to the following schedules:

* * *

(3) Food manufacturing establishment — a fee for any person or persons that process food for resale to restaurants, stores, or individuals according to the following schedule:

(A) Food manufacturing establishments; nonbakeries

I ——— Gross receipts of \$10,001.00 to \$50,000.00; \$175.00

-
- H I — Gross receipts of over ~~\$50,000.00~~ \$30,000.00;
\$275.00
- II — Nonhome-operated food service establishment
with gross receipts of \$30,000.00 or less;
\$175.00
- III — ~~Gross~~ Home-operated food service establishment
with gross receipts of ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$30,000.00 or less
are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title

(B) Food manufacturing establishment; bakeries

- I — Home bakery with gross receipts over \$30,000.00;
\$100.00
- II — Small commercial; \$200.00
- III — Large commercial; \$350.00
- IV — Nonhome-operated bakery with gross receipts of
\$30,000.00 or less; \$50.00
- V — Home-operated bakery with gross receipts of
\$30,000.00 or less are exempt pursuant to section
4358 of this title

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4358 is amended to read:

§ 4358. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(b) ~~The provisions of licensure requirements and related licensure fees in this subchapter shall not apply to an individual manufacturing and selling bakery products from his or her own home kitchen~~ a food manufacturing establishment operating from a home kitchen whose average gross retail sales do not exceed \$125.00 per week are less than or equal to \$30,000.00 per year.

* * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Speaker presiding

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading; Bill Amended;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 481

Rep. Logan of Burlington spoke for the Committee on Environment.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to stormwater management

Rep. Ode Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended the bill ought to pass.

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction presiding.

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended the bill ought to pass when amended by striking out Sec. 8 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Clean Water Board shall recommend \$5,000,000.00 from the Clean Water Fund in fiscal year 2027 to the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program in 10 V.S.A. § 928 for costs of complying with permitting requirements under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including for residential subdivisions when the municipality assumes full legal responsibility for the stormwater system.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Appropriations agreed to, and third reading was ordered.

Message from the Senate No. 30

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part adopted joint resolution of the following title:

J.R.S. 19. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on March 28, 2025.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

Adjournment

At twelve o'clock and forty minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at one o'clock in the afternoon.