

Journal of the House

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

At three o'clock in the afternoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Tony Micklus of Milton.

Message from the Governor

“January 2, 2026

The Honorable Jill Krowinski
Speaker of the House
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-2301

Dear Speaker Krowinski:

I have the honor to inform you that I have appointed Valorie Taylor, of Mendon, to serve in the Vermont House of Representatives, representing House District Rutland-11.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp

cc: Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
BetsyAnn Wrask, Clerk of the House”

New Member Announced, Seated and Appointed to Committee

Rep. Taylor of Mendon, who was recently appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rep. Harrison of Chittenden, having taken and subscribed the oath administered by the Clerk, as required by the Constitution and laws of the State, was seated and then appointed by the Speaker to the Committee on Health Care.

Rules Suspended, House Bills Introduced

Pending first reading of House bills, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and the bills were read the first time by number and referred to committee as follows:

2750

H. 584

By Rep. Casey of Montpelier,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to excluding public safety pension and survivor benefit income from income taxation

To the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. 585

By Reps. McCoy of Poultney and McFaun of Barre Town,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to health insurance reforms

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 586

By Rep. Berbeco of Winooski,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting facility fees for certain hospital outpatient department services

To the Committee on Health Care.

H. 587

By Rep. Burrows of West Windsor,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to board and commission member per diems

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 588

By Rep. Birong of Vergennes,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

To the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.

H. 589

By Rep. Holcombe of Norwich,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to a six-year statute of repose for actions arising out of improvements to real property

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 590

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to prohibiting detention and incarceration of minors under 18 years of age in adult correctional facilities

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 591

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to limiting the circumstances under which an asset is subject to judicial forfeiture

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 592

By Rep. Rachelson of Burlington,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the appointment of legal counsel and record keeping in civil forfeiture actions

To the Committee on Judiciary.

H. 593

By Reps. Sibilio of Dover and Campbell of St. Johnsbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Public Utility Commission approval of interregional transmission agreements

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 594

By Reps. Maguire of Rutland City and Wood of Waterbury,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to establishing the Temporary Emergency Housing and Accountability Program and the Return Home Program in fiscal years 2027 and 2028

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 595

By Reps. Sibilia of Dover, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, and Cooper of Pownal,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to Child Care Financial Assistance Program eligibility

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 596

By Rep. Boutin of Barre City,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to completion of a mental health screening after administration of an opioid antagonist

To the Committee on Human Services.

H. 597

By Reps. Campbell of St. Johnsbury and James of Manchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the study of expediting renewable energy development

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 598

By Rep. James of Manchester,

House bill, entitled

An act relating to portable solar energy generation devices

To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 599

By Reps. Campbell of St. Johnsbury and James of Manchester,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to substantial change to a net metering system
To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 600

By Rep. James of Manchester,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to appliance efficiency
To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 601

By Reps. McCoy of Poultney and Southworth of Walden,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to the Clean Energy Standard
To the Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure.

H. 602

By Reps. McCoy of Poultney and Bartley of Fairfax,
House bill, entitled
An act relating to housing and land use
To the Committee on Environment.

**Petition Regarding the Security of Schools
Referred to Committee**

This Petition was introduced and referred to the Committee on Education pursuant to House Rule 82.

Joint House Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 6

Offered by Representative Marcotte of Coventry

Joint resolution authorizing the Green Mountain Boys State educational program to use the State House facilities on June 25, 2026

Whereas, the American Legion Department of Vermont sponsors the Green Mountain Boys State educational program, providing a group of boys entering the 12th grade a special opportunity to study the workings of State government, including conducting a mock legislative session at the State House, and

Whereas, this special experience is a unique civic lesson of lasting value for the participants, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That subject to the determination of and limitations that the Sergeant at Arms may establish, the Green Mountain Boys State educational program is authorized to use the chambers and committee rooms of the State House on Thursday, June 25, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the American Legion Department of Vermont.

Was read by title and placed on the Action Calendar on the next legislative day pursuant to House Rule 52.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 29

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 29. Joint resolution relating to weekend adjournment on January 9, 2026.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, January 9, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Joint Senate Resolution Adopted in Concurrence

J.R.S. 31

By Senator Baruth,

J.R.S. 31. Joint resolution relating to Town Meeting adjournment.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That when the two Houses adjourn on Friday, February 27, 2026, or Saturday, February 28, 2026, it be to meet again no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Was taken up, read, and adopted in concurrence.

Joint Fiscal Committee Appointment

Pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 501, the Speaker appointed the following member to the Joint Fiscal Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rep. Harrison of Chittenden:

Rep. Feltus of Lyndon

**Committee Relieved of Consideration and Bill Committed to
Other Committee****H. 541**

Rep. Birong of Vergennes moved that the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs be relieved of House bill, entitled

An act relating to interference with voters and election officials

And that the bill be committed to the Committee on Judiciary, which was agreed to.

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction presiding.

House Resolution Adopted**H.R. 10**

House resolution amending House Rules relating to bill draft request and approval deadlines in the second year of the biennium

Was taken up and adopted.

Adjournment

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