

Journal of the House

Thursday, April 23, 2026

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

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rep. Tom Stevens of Waterbury.

Rules Suspended, Immediate Consideration; Bill Committed

S. 313

On motion of **Rep. Marcotte of Coventry**, the rules were suspended and Senate bill, entitled

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

Pending entry on the Notice Calendar, was taken up for immediate consideration and committed to the Committee on Education.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 241

Offered by Representatives Austin of Colchester, Bishop of Colchester, Critchlow of Colchester, and Pezzo of Colchester

Offered by Senators Baruth, Brennan, Gulick, and Vyhovsky

House concurrent resolution congratulating University of Vermont Distinguished Professor and Vermont Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux on winning the Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science

Whereas, one of the truly remarkable faculty members of the University of Vermont (UVM) is Distinguished Professor of Geography and Geosciences and Vermont State Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, and

Whereas, a graduate of the University of Toronto, she holds graduate degrees from McGill University in Montreal, including a doctorate in climatology and geographic information systems, and her research interests encompass “hydroclimatic natural hazards and climate literacy, climate services, [and] geospatial climate and land-surface processes,” and

Whereas, Dr. Dupigny-Giroux is a leading expert on “floods, droughts and severe weather and the ways in which these affect the landscape and peoples of Vermont [and the northeastern United States],” and

Whereas, her teaching portfolio examines climatology, physical geography, and remote sensing, and beyond the UVM campus, she has worked extensively with K–12 teachers and students, incorporating satellite usage into pre-college climatology curriculums, and

Whereas, she is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society, currently serves on three National Academy of Sciences panels, and is a past president of the American Association of State Climatologists; as a researcher and applied climatologist, Professor Dupigny-Giroux has contributed to all five national climate assessments, including serving as the lead author for the northeast chapter of the rendition, and has held leadership positions on Vermont and federal climate-associated initiatives, and

Whereas, recently, the American Association for the Advancement of Science bestowed on her one of its premiere tributes, the Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science, recognizing the “demonstrate[d] excellence ... [of her] contribution to public engagement with science,” and her extraordinary career as an admired scholar and public official uniquely qualified her for this distinct honor, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates University of Vermont Distinguished Professor and Vermont Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux on winning the Mani L. Bhaumik Award for Public Engagement with Science, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to UVM Professor and Vermont State Climatologist Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, April 3, 2026 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

**Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 157

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to recovery residence certification

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

**Third Reading;
Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

S. 239

Senate bill, entitled

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

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment.

Senate Proposal of Amendment Concurred in

H. 410

The Senate proposed to the House to amend House bill, entitled

An act relating to the calculation of recidivism and other related criminology measures

The Senate proposed to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. chapter 233, in section 8121, in the fourth sentence, by striking out “clock for calculating” and after the word “recidivism” by inserting “calculation”

Which proposal of amendment was considered and concurred in.

Message from the Senate No. 47

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 considered House proposal of amendment to Senate bill of the following title:

S. 163. An act relating to the role of advanced practice providers in hospital care.

And has concurred therein.

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

H. 927. An act relating to technical corrections for the 2026 legislative session.

And has passed the same in concurrence.

The Governor has informed the Senate that on April 22, 2026, he returned without signature and *vetoed* a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 183. An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud.

Text of Communication from Governor

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. S. 183**, to the Senate is as follows:

April 22, 2026

The Honorable John Bloomer
Secretary of the Senate
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning S.183, *An act relating to home improvement and land improvement fraud* without my signature because of my objections described herein.

To be clear, I fully support this bill's intent, which makes necessary changes to Vermont's home and land improvement fraud statute to restore the original criminal intent standard — requiring prosecutors to prove a contractor knowingly intended to defraud at the time of contracting — after a 2015 amendment that changed the law in a likely-unconstitutional way that was recently flagged by two Vermont trial courts.

However, this bill was passed with a cross-reference that was struck in error and requires a legislative correction. I understand this error has been flagged for relevant committees of jurisdiction, and a corrected version of S.183 can be added to another bill that is moving through the process.

With several weeks remaining in the legislative session, there is time for the Legislature to make the appropriate correction, either as a new bill or as an amendment to a bill that is still currently under consideration. Again, to be clear I support this bill's intent and look forward to a version I can sign.

Based on this objection I must return S.183 without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

The Governor has informed the Senate that on the 22nd day of April, he approved and signed a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 210. An act relating to access to autopsy reports.

Adjournment

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