

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Reverend Ed Sunday-Winters of Greensboro.

Message from the House No. 10

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Alona Tate, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The Governor has informed the House that on January 25, 2023, he approved and signed a bill originating in the House of the following title:

H. 42. An act relating to temporary alternative procedures for annual municipal meetings and electronic meetings of public bodies.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution Introduced

The Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont designated as Proposal 1 was introduced, read the first time and referred:

By Senators Hardy, Sears, Clarkson, Hashim, Lyons, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

PROPOSAL 1

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to allow the General Assembly to establish by law qualifications for individuals to be elected to and hold the office of sheriff. Currently, there are no specific qualifications for being a sheriff in Vermont, including no requirement that a sheriff have or maintain law enforcement officer certification.

Sec. 2. Section 50 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 50. ELECTION OF ASSISTANT JUDGES, SHERIFFS, AND STATE'S ATTORNEYS

The Assistant Judges shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as established by law. Their judicial functions shall be established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election.

Sheriffs shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General Assembly may establish by law qualifications for the election to and holding of such office.

State's Attorneys shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendment set forth in Sec. 2 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.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

Bills Introduced

Senate bills of the following titles were severally introduced, read the first time and referred:

S. 38.

By Senators McCormack, Brock, Chittenden, Gulick, MacDonald, Vyhovsky, Weeks, White and Williams,

An act relating to Act 250 downtown master plan permits.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

S. 39.

By Senators Hardy, Clarkson, Gulick, Hashim, Norris, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

An act relating to compensation and benefits for members of the Vermont General Assembly.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 40.

By Senators Clarkson, Hardy, Gulick, Harrison, McCormack, Ram Hinsdale, Watson and White,

An act relating to firearms procedures.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 41.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Gulick, Hardy, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

An act relating to eliminating life without parole.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 42.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Clarkson, Hardy, McCormack, Perchlik, Vyhovsky, Watson and White,

An act relating to divestment of State pension funds of investments in the fossil fuel industry.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

S. 43.

By Senators Ram Hinsdale, Campion, Gulick, Hardy, Hashim, McCormack, Vyhovsky and White,

An act relating to the Child and Parent Representation Working Group.

To the Committee on Judiciary.

**Joint Resolutions Adopted on the Part of the Senate; Joint Resolutions
Messaged**

Joint Senate resolutions entitled:

J.R.S. 10. Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms, and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

J.R.S. 11. Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2023.

Having been placed on the Calendar for action, were taken up and adopted severally on the part of the Senate.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Baruth, the rules were suspended and the joint resolutions were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Baruth, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.