

VBA Legislative Update – Week 2 January 18, 2025

Governor Scott has announced that his administration will be proposing sweeping omnibus bills addressing education, housing, and affordability. The governor is expected to provide details of these proposals during his budget address on Tuesday, January 28, setting the stage for extended debates in committees throughout the Statehouse about Vermont's core priorities and values. House and Senate committees spent last week getting oriented and laying the foundation for deeper conversations on these and other issues.

One X-factor that could derail lawmakers' orderly approach to tackling these and other major policy challenges is the potential chaos in state funding and policy that could result from potential actions by the incoming Trump Administration.

Last week, Treasurer Mike Pieciak announced the creation of the "Treasurer's Task Force on the Federal Transition." The Task Force includes policy experts, business and community leaders, and will assess the economic impact of anticipated federal policy changes under the incoming Trump administration. Its goal is to provide recommendations to prepare Vermont for potential disruptions in areas such as affordable healthcare, FEMA flood recovery support, housing production, climate resilience, and tariffs. The Task Force convened its first meeting on January 15 and will meet monthly for up to six months to share information and collect public input. We will keep you updated on the work of this Task Force over the coming months. You can find more details [here](#).

Headlines of Note

[Vermont Conversation: What comes next after losing the most Democratic seats in the U.S.? Sen. Phil Baruth & Rep. Jill Krowinski on compromise & change.](#)

[Clean heat standard is less expensive than previously thought, though not 'well suited to Vermont,' commission says](#)

[Vermont's civic health index shows high community engagement but room to grow](#)

[Vermont moves ahead with new federal health care payment model](#)

[The head of Vermont's largest insurance company says health care spending is out of control](#)

VBA Bill Report – Week 2

On Friday, Rep. Birong introduced a bill that makes two changes to alcohol laws of interest to the VBA. The bill, [H.51](#), would:

1. Authorize the holder of a fourth-class license to sell its products to not more than eight additional manufacturers or rectifiers. Current law allows the sale of products of not more than 5 additional manufacturers.

2. Authorize manufacturers of malt beverages to acquire a retail shipping license and ship up to 5,000 gallons of malt beverages to first- and second-class licensees. This change adds “manufacturers of malt beverages” to the law currently limited to vinous beverage manufactures.

No hearings are currently scheduled for this or other bills of interest.

Bill	Sponsors	Description	Status
H 24	Rep. Anne Donahue	<p>An Act Relating To Requiring Retail Businesses To Accept Cash</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit a retail business from refusing to accept cash payment.</p>	<p>Committees: House Commerce and Economic Development</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development (01/09/25)</p>
H 45	Rep. Mary-Katherine Stone; Rep. Tiffany Bluemle; Rep. Abbey Duke; Rep. Barbara Rachelson; Bram Kleppner; Rep. Kate Logan; Rep. Robert Hooper; Rep. Troy Headrick	<p>An Act Relating To Prohibiting Possession Of Firearms On Premises Where Alcohol Is Licensed To Be Served</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit possession of firearms on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served and to require that notice of the prohibition be posted at each premises.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/17/25)</p>
H 51	Rep. Lucy Boyden; Rep. Matthew Birong	<p>An Act Relating To Miscellaneous Amendments To The Statutes Governing Alcoholic Beverages</p> <p>This bill proposes to: (1) authorize the holder of a fourth-class license to sell its products to not more than eight additional manufacturers or rectifiers; and (2) authorize manufacturers of malt beverages to acquire a retail shipping license and ship malt beverages to first- and second-class licensees.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/17/25)</p>