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Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 5:45 PM

To: Allen, Susan; Clasen, Michael; Coriell, Scott; Davis, Austin; Green, Geoff; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Mishaan, Jessica; Nease, Floyd; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; GPS; Byrne, Emily

Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for Friday, February 6

Senate Reconvenes at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10

House Reconvenes at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10

HOUSE:

Passed Committee:

- [H.86](#), uniform interstate family support act, passed the House Judiciary Committee. The act limits the jurisdiction that can properly establish and modify child support orders and addresses the enforcement of child support obligation.

Third Reading; Bill Passed:

- [H.73](#) Rep. Baser, An act relating to the corporate governance structure of insurers, passed a third reading, and is headed to the Senate.

SENATE:

Passed Senate Committee:

- [H.16](#), relating to requiring an inmate to report to the sex offender registry prior to release from a correctional facility, passed Senate Judiciary today, notice Tuesday, floor Wednesday.

Scheduled for second reading:

- BAA scheduled for second reading Tuesday.

COMMITTEE INTEL:

Quick Updates:

- [H.40](#), energy bill, continues with mark up. It will be out by Friday or early into the following week.
- Mary Hooper wants to move certain older criminals to the vet's home.
- Child Protection: Sen Sears invited DCF to testify on the new crime, section 2, and stated that he believes DCF still has concerns about this section. Parent-child centers will also testify. Sen Jud is taking testimony on Tues and Wed next week on S.9. Sen H&W is taking testimony on Tuesday. Not sure yet about Gov Ops.
 - Final draft will be discussed by all three committees next Friday.
- Circ Alternative testimony in Trans Committees: went well, Degree, Mazza, Kitchell were all on board. Testimony also went well in House Transportation.

House Commerce:

House Commerce will take up Heidi Scheurmann's bill, [H.83](#), Vermont: innovative by nature, which is all about promoting the Vermont brand. Seventy-five percent of the amount by which the total meals and rooms tax revenue exceeds the revenue collected in the fiscal year two years before, would go towards funding this initiative (up to \$2 million). The committee also agreed it would take up:

- [H.43](#), relating to repeal of the State law requiring broadcasters to report to the Attorney General retransmission fees charged to Vermont cable companies.
- [H.55](#), relating to automatic renewal provisions in consumer contracts.
- [H.124](#), promoting economic development (admin proposal).
- [H.146](#), cloud tax. Senate Finance is also interested in pursuing reforms, but it would likely be different from the House approach.

Water Quality:

- In Senate Agriculture, Farm Bureau members characterized admin policies as assault on farmers. Doesn't like any current use proposals.
- House Agriculture meanwhile is doing a walk through of the bill and has many substantive questions. There is a general concern over what all the proposals will mean for a small farm operation.
- In H F&W tonnage fee has not been met well and the committee is searching for alternatives to fund positions, yet another new proposal involves permit fees for LFO, MFOs and in the future, small farms.

House Health Care:

- Cost shift: Joyce Manchester, JFO Manchester previewed the JFO's upcoming Issue brief, which should be out next week.
Presentation covered synopsis of cost shift, national data on medicaid-medicare cost shift ratios, and Vermont's unique regulatory system = GMCB.
Most questions were just clarifying.
- Robin, Lawrence and Michael testified on Franco proposals. Testimony went well. Robin and Michael were able to present their side of the Franco proposals and the committee seemed to understand their perspective.

Jeb and his team did a great job presenting to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Ed committees.

They were very impressed and all appreciative of the State Colleges. A few students presented (one from VT Tech, who now works at All Earth Renewables).

Main takeaways:

- VSC serves more VTers than all other VT institutions combined
- CCV is bigger feeder school to UVM
- VSC used to get 50% of funding from state, now only 17%
- VSC only has limited revenue streams – State/Tuition/Private
- Jeb is pushing all VSC institutions hard to diversify funding/find new revenue sources
- Legislative agenda
 - UVM/VSAC/VSC working very well together
 - All three will be pitching a 3% bump in their appropriation this year

- Won't be picking pockets of other needy services/programs, but will outline a plan through creative revenues of how we can afford 3% bump this year
- Didn't get into this appropriation mess overnight, won't get out of it overnight, but this would be a good start
- Interested in dual enrollment funding – supports Governor's change in his budget on how we pay for this
- Bill will be introduced in both House and Senate to change composition of VSC board from 9 Gov appointments to 5, to have more control over the board/a new way to raise revenue – and he added a plea to not jeopardize this simple bill by making it a vehicle to get rid of legislative VSC trustees
- VT Tech labs need serious upgrade (1990s were last upgrade), will be bringing forward a plan for this as well, asking for about \$3 million in one-time funds (he didn't say this, but I'm pretty sure they are eyeing higher ed trust fund, and working to get support from VSAC and UVM on the proposal)