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Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for March 17, 2016

Senate will reconvene tomorrow at 11:00am

SENATE:

Bills Passed:

S. 91. An act relating to qualifications of judicial officers and judicial selection and retention.

S. 132. An act relating to the prohibition of conversion therapy on minors.

S. 176. An act relating to an income tax credit for home modifications required by a disability or physical hardship.

S. 215. An act relating to the regulation of vision insurance plans.

S. 216. An act relating to prescription drug formularies.

S. 224. An act relating to warranty obligations of equipment dealers and suppliers.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered:

S. 257 An act relating to residential rental agreements.

TESTIMONY/COMMITTEE INTEL:

Senate Finance: Ken Schatz had a check in, and let us know that the committee expresses a lot of concern about LIHEAP weatherization issue. Child welfare they asked about but not major challenge. Vastine said Ken was put .

House Ways & Means: *H.853, the Yield Bill:* Education committee gave an overview of their amendments to Ways & Means. See [here](#). More or less, bill intact. Found favorable 9-0-2. Till & Donovan absent.

In the first, second, third instances of amendment changed "associated direct cost" to "related direct cost" around unfunded mandate language.

Fourth instance of amendment added that JFO must include an annotated copy of the education fund outlook. This should be presented to joint fiscal. Also asks for it to go to e board so they have more information around the education fund.

Fifth instance of amendment changes language around debt provision. Done in coordination with Ancel. Remove reference to assets.

Sixth and seventh instances of amendment offer two new reports around education funding proposals. Beck and Pearson proposals. Appear to be promising - don't have huge transition costs. Backs proposal seems to move the conversation forward without violating Brigham. Changes how we calculate taxes across the state.

House Ways & Means CONT: Economic Development bill will be dealt with next week. It is not high priority at the moment. Brandon charter will be on the list of bills to deal with before Friday. Condon moves to find draft 3.2 favorable. Masland seconded. Condon said he's hoping beyond hope that we can shave \$8-9M off this before we're all said and done, especially employer assessment, FGR, bank, etc. Komline said it always ends up with the senate fixing the problem, not the House. Why can't we stop it here?

Currently it is 6-4-1. Rep. Donovan will be returning shortly to vote. Canfield, Branagan, Komline, Greshin (no's)

CONT: *Employer Assessment:* Current level is the same as for proposed smallest tier-- \$151.12, so that wouldn't change. Would only change for medium and large employers. Also medium and large employers would not have the benefit of the under 5 employee exemption they currently have.

House General: *J.R.H. 22 - Joint resolution supporting the merger of the Vermont Veterans' Home into the U.S. Veterans Health Administration beginning in federal fiscal year 2018:* By combining the two institutions, more onus on federal government to take care of vets. Committee thinks intention is good but no strong opinion.

A rep from the VSEA was strongly opposed to the bill. Believes its better to work on the betterment of the state institution rather than push responsibility onto the federal government. Concerned that this would complicate situation and lead to worse scenario for vets.

House Human Services: S.20 An Act Relating to Regulating Dental Therapists: The bill is in House Human Services and has the votes to get out but will go to Government Operations where the vote isn't nearly as strong. Fiscal note will likely show that it will increase Medicaid utilization but will bring dental emergency room visits down by an unquantifiable amount.

Committee made the following changes and will receive additional testimony as needed:

- Change dental therapist licensure exam from exam on VT dental rules to VT statute
- Determine why the initial limitation to areas of access need.
- Start rules right away
- Confirm professional responsible for liability

House Health Care: *Amendments to H.182 - An act relating to submitting a false claim to the State:* Quick overview of 4 proposed amendments then testimony from Browning on her amendment will take up for discussion later today.

House Health Care FYI: H.812 An act relating to consumer protections for accountable care organization: Browning/Gage have an amendment that house health care is taking up at some point when they get off the floor. Ena is covering. Donahue will have a counter amendment to address their concerns that we've reviewed with her and are ok with.

House Appropriations: *Connecticut River Valley Flood Commission:* The amount that the delegates get reimbursed is based on the federal compact, which right now allows for a \$2000 reimbursement to the delegates, yet the delegates routinely bill for \$2500 in expenses. They are asking for a line created to the law that would allow for a permanent \$500 increase in that reimbursement. The council was worried it would have to be a "notwithstanding" payment, while the Watershed commission thinks that it should be a permanent amount to be added.

Senate Finance: S.243 Opioid Bill: Chiropractors want to reduce co-pays to PCP levels
