

## **Project Economy: Vermont**

### **House Bills**

#### *H. 80 - Sales Tax Holiday*

This bill would enact a Sales Tax Holiday in Vermont on August 29-30, 2015, and has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the committee on which the lead sponsor, Rep. Jim Condon (D-Colchester), serves.

#### *H. 83 - Vermont: Innovative by Nature*

Rep. Heidi Scheuermann and others introduced this bill that would develop a full Vermont branding strategy and increase funding for the Department of Tourism and Marketing in order to do so. Scheuermann presented this bill to the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015. It is expected to be taken up after crossover as part of the larger economic development bill.

#### *H. 117 - Creation of a Division of Telecommunications and Connectivity*

This bill would eliminate the Vermont Telecom Authority and in its place would create a Division of Telecommunications and Connectivity within the Department of Public Service. This bill has passed out of the House Commerce Committee, and has been referred to the Appropriations Committee.

#### *H. 146 - Exempting Software as a Service from the Sales Tax*

This bill would exempt software as a service from the Vermont sales and use tax. Rep. Heidi Scheuermann introduced it, and it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. (See S. 97)

#### *H. 216 - Worker's Compensation*

Introduced by leader sponsor Rep. Curt McCormack to change the test to determine whether an individual is an employee. It has been referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

#### *H. 218 - Angel Investor Tax Credit*

This bill would create an Angel Investor Tax Credit program. It was

introduced by Rep. Heidi Scheuermann and referred the House Committee on Ways and Means.

*H. 219 – Fortified Wine*

This bill, introduced by Rep. Maxine Grad, would permit second-class licensees (wine stores) to sell fortified wine to the public. It has been referred to the Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs.

*H. 275 – Economic Development – “Start-Up Vermont”*

This bill, introduced by Rep. Topper McFaun, would provide economic and tax incentives to businesses to promote economic growth. It has been referred to the Committee on commerce and Economic Development.

*H. 331 – Worker’s Compensation*

Introduced by Rep. Jim Masland and others, this bill would clarify the definition of an employee/employer with regard to sole proprietorships and officers of a corporation or LLC. The bill is in the commerce and Economic Development Committee.

*H. 335 – Sole Contractor Program*

This bill was introduced by Rep. Bill Botzow, and would create a “Sole Contractor” authorization program, and would change various laws in the worker’s compensation statutes. This bill was referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

*H. 378 – Worker’s Compensation and Unemployment Insurance*

This bill would create a common definition of “independent contractor” for the worker’s compensation and unemployment insurance statutes. It was introduced by Rep. Heidi Scheuermann and others and has been referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

*H. 396 – Act 250 Reform*

This bill would make various reforms to the Act 250 permitting process, including providing designated assistance to all Act 250 applicants, and to require that in an appeal, the burden of proof is on the appellant. Introduced by Rep. Heidi Scheuermann, it has been referred to the Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

*H. 401 – First Time Homebuyer Program*

Introduced by Rep. Kesha Ram and others, this bill would create a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program. It was referred to the House General, Housing, and Military Affairs Committee.

*H. 419 – Act 250 Reform*

This bill proposes to expedite Act 250 permit review process for projects in counties with high unemployment. Introduced by Tom Burditt and others, the bill was referred to the General, Housing, and Military Affairs Committee.

*H. 465 – Act 250 and Designated New Town Centers*

Introduced by Rep. Pat Brennan, this bill would make a number of changes to Act 250 in relationship with Downtown New Town Centers. It has been referred to the Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

*H. 479 – Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone*

This bill would establish a Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone. Introduced by Rep. Oliver Olsen and other southern Vermont legislators, this bill has been referred to the Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

## **Senate Bills**

*S. 97 – To clarify that prewritten software is not subject to the sales and use tax.*

Introduced by members of the Senate Finance Committee, this bill passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

*S. 138 – Promoting Economic Development in Vermont*

This bill is the economic development bill introduced by the Senate Economic Development Committee. It is currently being considered in Senate Finance.