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Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for Thursday: February 11, 2016

House will reconvene tomorrow at 2:30pm
Senate will reconvene tomorrow at 11:00am

HOUSE

House Bill Introduced

H. 846 An act relating to making changes to the calculation of the statewide education property tax.
Referred to the committee on Ways & Means

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 533 An act relating to victim notification
Reported in favor of its passage with amendment.

H. 608 An act relating to solid waste management.
Reported in favor of its passage with amended.

H. 622 An act relating to obligations for reporting child abuse and neglect and cooperating in investigations of child abuse and neglect.
Reported in favor of its passage with amended.

H. 765 An act relating to technical corrections.
Reported in favor of its passage with amended.

House Bill Released for Introduction

H.847	An act relating to authorizing a maximum compensation ratio for benefit corporations
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SENATE

Bill Passed

S. 171 Senate bill of the following title was read the third time and passed: An act relating to eligibility for pretrial risk assessment and needs screening.
Read a third time and passed.

TESTIMONY/COMMITTEE INTEL

HOUSE GOV OPS: [Treasurer, Beth Pearce] testified re **Divestment**. Agrees that climate change is active and a legitimate concern and is actively engaged with SEC to push fossil industries for transparency. Pearce focused on definition of coal in proposal, specifically. By this narrow definition of coal, the annual cost to VT is \$615 annually. She stated this proposal was “like killing a fly with a sledgehammer.” Pearce states that the office has sent notices concerning availability of fossil fuel free investment opportunities and has received very low interest by constituents. VPIC Chair and the President of Professional Firefighters (PFFV) stated their trust in Beth Pearce’s opinion and also oppose legislative divestment. There were no witnesses in support.

HOUSE GENERAL HOUSING MILITARY AFFAIRS: **H.369-- proposes all teachers go into VHC]. Bill was declared dead** b/c it violates federal law or runs into penalties if schools drop insurance. [Hubert testified:] Teachers union pushed for VHC and pushed small businesses into it, but they don't want to be part of the solution. They are one of the largest groups and one of the healthiest. Moving them in would lower the cost. There are a couple of hurdles on allowing or not allowing large groups in. There would be penalties. I don't think it's a bad idea. I just don't think it's ready for primetime.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS: **Ed Rates & Yields.** Jim DesMaris of leg council presented Rep. Komline’s language around unfunded mandates in the education fund. This is similar to what was proposed in H.50, but tweaked slightly. At the end of the session, JFO and AOE would figure out the unfunded mandates total. That amount is then vetted and applied to the FY after the next FY. For examples, bills passed this year would impact FY2018. The amount would be in addition to normal GF transfer and remain a part of it. Some members asked about how they would defined “unfunded,” as well as that is a “mandate.”

Discussion then turned to thresholds for FY18. Mark Perrault said that 25 districts will hit the excess spending threshold in FY17. Rep. Ancel was concerned that only small schools hit the excess spending threshold. Mark suggested adding a pupil number to the list of those over the threshold to see the size. Some further discussion around “protecting” small schools – though Rep. Ancel pointed out that that does contradict what Act 46 is about.

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE: Backus first walked the senate committee through the term sheet currently being reviewed by CMS. Kerr discussed the consumer protections currently in place, while setting standards in line with GMCB and Medicare. The committee was concerned as to how liberally this appeal process would be invoked. Moulton and Tessler, two mental health care chiefs, discuss their possible integration and collaboration with the construction of an APM. Cobb and Rousse discussed how Home Health & Hospice are currently being overtaken by infrastructure created by the ACOs. Cobb and Rousse affirm that they have home hospice clinicians that are qualified to already perform this service and there does not need to be duplication of grassroots organizations. Hall advocated for in the construction of the APM that the legislature set clear milestones for integrating physicians and organizations already in place. Moore elaborated on the plan for healthcare 3.0 with the combined ACO of Vermont Care Organization (VCO). He addresses the concerns expressed by the previous testimony by assuring community health workers they will be integrated into the APM. [*Members of press attending: WCAX*]

HOUSE HEALTH CARE: **Topic: H. 766 - An act relating to a study of expanding Dr. Dynasaur.** Directs AoA to study expanding Dr. D to all Vermonters under age 26, regardless of income. Need to study rate

increase and federal waivers needed to implement program. AARP would like to add language that looks at the health care cost savings for people over 50 who have kids under age 26 or grandkids under age 26.