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Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 5:06 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; Gray, Laura

Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for Friday, April 17

**On the phones today lots of calls regarding S.141, the gun bill. More calls supporting the bill than opposing. The opposing calls did ask the governor “not to go back on his promise and to veto the bill.”

Anti-vaxxers are starting to call/email.

Senate reconvenes Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

House reconvenes Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

HOUSE:

House Bill Introduced:

- [H.503](#), relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington. This doesn't look like gun charter stuff.

Bill Passed Third Reading:

- [S.141](#), gun bill, passed the House 80-62.

Passed House Committee notice Tuesday, consideration Wednesday::

- [H.8](#), oversight of the transfer of military equipment to law enforcement agencies passed House Government Operations.
- [H.187](#), earned leave bill, passed House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee. 5-3, straight party-line vote. It's expected to be on the House floor for second reading Wednesday.
- [H.497](#), Colchester Charter, passed House Government Operations.
- [H.280](#), school lighting requirements, passed House Education.
- [H.494](#), Weybridge Charter, passed House Government Operations.
- [H.496](#), Fairlee Charter, Passed House Government Operations
- [H.499](#), Salisbury Charter, Passed House Government Operations.

SENATE:

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment:

- [H.51](#), relating to group-wide supervision of internationally active insurance groups and the establishment of domestic insurers in Vermont. House will now consider Senate amendments.

Bill Passed in Concurrence:

- [H.73](#), An act relating to the corporate governance structure of insurers, bill done.

Passed Second reading, third reading Tuesday:

- [H.483](#), relating to home improvement fraud.

Passed Senate Committee, notice Tuesday, consideration Wednesday:

- [H.105](#), revenge porn bill, passed Senate Judiciary.
- [H.120](#), Vermont false claims act, passed Senate Judiciary.
- [H.488](#), T-Bill, passed Senate Finance.

COMMITTEE INTEL:

Education: Late Tuesday committee vote is planned. A public hearing on Wednesday is planned.

Energy Siting: According to PSD most of the HNRE bill seems workable (some tweaks needed). Bray is considering whether House might just concur with further amendment and add this to H.40. So this is a live one now for this session.

Energy Bill in Senate Natural: VPIRG, VNRC, CLF all testified in support of the bill except for freezing the energy efficiency charge.

House Fish and Wildlife on \$25/per parcel fee: The Committee heard testimony from Ernie Saunders of NEMRC. NEMRC programs and sells municipal software for most Vermont towns for taxes, payroll, accounting, and other uses. The company stressed that to be collected this year, the fee would have to be treated like a tax in how towns can bill and collect it. Tax told the Committee after his testimony that the accounting issue is serious. Even if NEMRC can program property tax bills in time for collecting the fee this year, without an established system for receivables, there is no way to know whether the correct amount of money would be remitted to the State Treasurer for the Clean Water Fund. Sen. Starr was in Senate Finance yesterday and testified that the mayors were all "super supportive of the plan." Endorsed the per parcel fee 100%. Sen. Starr said they heard that if the fee was \$25 then they would get no pushback from their residents.

Water bill, VAAF has some issues with Small Farm Certification: There are concerns that the definition of small farm and the rulemaking authority for the Agency to define the process for certification need some refinement. The definition is clear as to who is in but not clear on how much authority the Agency has to further refine what farm operation may be allowed to be exempt from the certification process. The agency is worried it won't be able to inspect the universe of farms and would like authority to define that universe. Another minor issue is that the bill sends all fees to the Clean Water Fund. The preference is for certain fees to go directly to the Agency for positions.

Comm. Pallito in House Corrections yesterday:

- Public records - the committee would like to change the public records exemption from privileged to confidential. Second, they are interested in having a public rule on inmate files.
- Work force study - They are interested in adding the doc o the pilot study to address one or two facilities. Still a work in progress at this time. Mike?
- Windsor - the committee is opposed to closing the facility. We talked about risk factors of a decision to release 100 offenders, as proposed in the House Approps plan.

Fee Bill in Senate Finance – Being Finalized today:

If you are interested in reviewing the draft fee bill you can find it [here](#)

Changes from House include:

- Reduction to Food and Lodging associated with Bakeries and Shellfish (now \$156K short).
- Adds back the VSNIP fee.
- Changes to ANR Sec 248 fees.
- Judiciary fees will be included, under \$500K.
- Committee to meet today to finalize fee bill.

Budget in Senate Appropriations:

They started with Military and chronologically went down the sections in the Bill. They closed most sections except for the following:

- Military - Admin
- Agriculture – questions around why Ag needs an additional Water Quality position as well as the 7 that are in the Water Quality Bill
- Sen. Starr is looking for money in the Ag budget to give back to fairs.
- Agriculture Food and Market - Why is the increase so high in Personal Services?
- Will keep E-911 open to see if the Gov Ops bill regarding consolidation goes anywhere.
- Liquor Control - 2 items related to moving the enforcement piece to Public Safety and would like more information regarding Liquor Control authorization of OT, and how many more people may have been involved.
- AHS left open include the Secretary’s office, DVHA administration and DVHA Medicaid program, GC.
- The remaining portion of AHS will be reviewed next week.

Other topics:

- Travel and tourism \$510,000 is on their wish list
- Committee would like to talk more about changing classification process in relation to how it can have a significant impact on the budget when there are reclassifications department wide.

They lost their quorum around 2pm and will meet on Monday 4/20 at 1:30pm. Sen Kitchel stated they will work late on Thursday night. Target to have the bill out of SAC is 4/24 or 4/27.

Sen. Snelling stated she doesn't like how little time they have to work on the budget.

Sen Kitchel wrapped up the discussion by telling everyone she turned the radio on in her car the other day when a song came on with the lyrics; “I want you, I need you, I can’t live without you...” and she felt it was a great way to describe people’s reaction to the budget this year.