

**From:** Dudley, Jahala [Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 3:22 PM

**BCC:** Allen, Susan; Clasen, Michael; Coriell, Scott; Green, Geoff; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Miller, Lawrence; Mishaan, Jessica; Trombley, Shana; 'GPS'; Dudley, Jahala; Gingras, Jessica; Pepper, James; Byrne, Emily; Gray, Laura; Springer, Darren

**Subject:** Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for Friday, January 22, 2016

**House Reconvenes Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.**

**Senate Reconvenes Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.**

HOUSE

**House Bills Introduced:**

H. 612 An act relating to the licensure of speech-language pathologists and audiologists;  
*Referred to the committee on Government Operations.*

H. 613 An act relating to preventing child identity theft;  
*Referred to the committee on Commerce & Economic Development.*

H. 614 An act relating to murder and manslaughter;  
*Referred to the committee on Judiciary.*

H. 615 An act relating to National and State Park special registration plates;  
*Referred to the committee on Transportation.*

H. 616 An act relating to requiring notice when conveying property on which a  
*Referred to the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.*

H. 617 An act relating to probation, parole, and furlough conditions;  
*Referred to the committee on Corrections & Institutions.*

H. 618 An act relating to group life insurance;  
*Referred to the committee on Commerce & Economic Development.*

H. 619 An act relating to the Commissioner of Financial Regulation and information-sharing agreements;  
*Referred to the committee on Commerce & Economic Development.*

H. 620 An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for contraceptives;  
*Referred to the committee on Health Care.*

H. 621 An act relating to the motor fuel tax and diesel tax;  
*Referred to the committee on Transportation.*

H. 622 An act relating to obligations for reporting child abuse and neglect and cooperating in investigations of child abuse and neglect;

*Referred to the committee on Human Services.*

H. 623 An act relating to compassionate release and parole eligibility;

*Referred to the committee on Corrections & Institutions.*

H. 624 An act relating to the appraisal of open land under the Use Value Appraisal Program;

*Referred to the committee on Ways & Means.*

H. 625 An act relating to extending the exemption from encumbrance on title of properties subject to a pretransition stormwater permit;

*Referred to the committee on Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources.*

H. 626 An act relating to the Unused Prescription Drug Repository Program;

*Referred to the committee on Human Services.*

H. 627 An act relating to the definition of “excess spending” for allowable growth calculation;

*Referred to the committee on Education.*

**Committee Not Relieved of Consideration of a Bill:**

H. 627 An act relating to the definition of “excess spending” for allowable growth calculation.

*Shall House Committee on Education be relieved of H.627 and the same be placed on notice calendar? was decided in the negative. Yeas, 57. Nays, 85.*

**Bill Referred to Committee on Ways and Means:**

S. 233 An act relating to amending Act 46

*Affecting the revenue of the state, under the rule, was referred to the committee on Ways and Means.*

**Bill Amended, Read Third Time and Passed:**

H. 399 An act relating to the Department for Children and Families’ Registry Review Unit

Was taken up and pending third reading of the bill, moved to amend the bill which was agreed to.

*Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed.*

**Third Reading; Bills Passed:**

H. 524 An act relating to seeking a waiver to permit businesses to continue to purchase Exchange plans directly from insurers;

H. 538 An act relating to captive insurance companies

## SENATE

### Bills Introduced & Referred:

- H. 65. An act relating to designating the Gilfeather turnip as the State Vegetable.  
*Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.*

## COMMITTEE INTEL/TESTIMONY

SENATE EC DEV: [H.187 paid sick] They did not markup & vote as they hoped. **Annie Noonan** (did not testify) spoke to Senator Mullin and made it clear that there was not state implementation required to implement paid sick leave.

JOIN HEALTH COMMITTEE [Pharmaceutical Industry]: **Rep. Peter Welch** gave testimony at join meeting with House Health Care and Human Services regarding drug prices. Focused around questions “What can be done in Washington?” and “What can states do?” Establish true cost of drugs. Medicare Part D plans need to be able to buy wholesale and negotiate prices. Address patent issues and price drugs based on efficacy were some DC angers. In states, increase transparency, allow consumers to make more informed decisions based on cost. Ensure realized savings are passed on to consumers, require plans to provide comprehensive pricing info, and allow doctors to have real-time access to the cost of various drugs so they can go through pro/cons with patient prior to choosing prescription. {Press attended.}

HOUSE HEALTH CARE [Pharmacists as Health Care Providers] **Aaron French, Deputy Commissioner** among others testified. Pharmacists as providers can improve care, reduce ED use, reduce system costs. Some pharmacists already doing this work as hospital pharmacists or part of community health team but not being paid for this work. Believe no appropriation required. DVHA conceptually supports this but asks that it not be mandatory. Would require some time for DVHA to figure out how to enroll pharmacists as providers, add CPT codes, SPAs and policy on this. Lippert would like to know what other state Medicaid programs are doing related to this.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS [Provider Tax] **Robin Lunge, Steven Costantino, Devon Green** all testified. Lots of questions. Primary themes were understanding what we are getting out of this tax and what we are taking away from providers and consumers when this tax is applied.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION [VTrans Budget Address]: YESTERDAY, **Secretary Chris Cole** provided a presentation on the Agency Budget. The Chair complemented the Agency on their budget presentation, as well as their response to Results Based Accountability, noting that the Agency was a leader in this area for Agencies and the Legislature. Representative Potter expressed concerns regarding the declining Rail Budget given the current uncertainty regarding rail bridges which had yet to be load rated. The Secretary noted that there are funds in the FY16 budget to address emergency repairs as they arise and that an FY17 budget adjustment could be contemplated to address future needs if they arise.

HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE, WATER [H.552 – Threatened and Endangered Species]: YESTERDAY, **Tim Follansbee of VELCO** testified and gave overview. VELCO has 730 miles of transmission lines across 13,000 acres and has 50 different threatened and endangered species across 86

different populations. **Commissioner Louis Porter** testified and said it's important to deal with habitat designation for a way to restore a species that has been extirpated. Would prefer not to incorporate BMP document from VELCO into statute because BMPs need to be more flexible and long term. They will go through rule-making public-process for habitat designations.

HOUSE HEALTH CARE [Universal Primary Care] YESTERDAY, Richter discusses the benefits of primary care, such as quality of care. Physician burnout is reduced as well as the longevity of life, according to a study of Spain's UPC system. Richter's main concern is to prevent expensive hospital visit and increase the endurance of our current registered physicians. While the number of visits may waver, primary care physicians can discuss other necessities with their patients that may not have been considered (mammograms, vaccinations, etc.). Rep. Lippert would like to invest into primary care, however is concerned how this may fit with One Care or All Payer models, how does UPC fit in? {VT Digger covered.}