

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

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 1:47 PM

To: Mishaan, Jessica; London, Sarah

Subject: FW: H.548 Passed Senate Yesterday

Just want to flag from yesterday that H.548, an act relating to extraordinary dividends for life insurers, passed third reading in the Senate yesterday (passed in concurrence to [House Bill here](#)). Financial Regulation is getting us a bill review by early next week on final language.

From: Dudley, Jahala

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 4:40 PM

Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Schedule for Wednesday, March 30

House will reconvene tomorrow at 3:30pm

Senate will reconvene tomorrow at 1:00pm

HOUSE: (ongoing with electronic cigarette bill)

Passed Third Read:

H. 853 An act relating to setting the nonresidential property tax rate, the property dollar equivalent yield, and the income dollar equivalent yield for fiscal year 2017, and other education changes
Roll Call Results Passed -- Yeas = 98, Nays = 45 Details

H.876 An act relating to the transportation capital program and miscellaneous changes to transportation-related law
Roll Call Results Passed -- Yeas = 124, Nays = 19 Details

H.877 An act relating to transportation funding
Roll Call Results Passed -- Yeas = 104, Nays = 40 Details

SENATE:

Passed Third Reading:

H.548 An act relating to extraordinary dividends for life insurers

Passed Second Reading:

S.243 An act relating to combating opioid abuse in Vermont

S.230 An act relating to improving the siting of energy projects

H.622, relating to obligations for reporting child abuse was passed delayed.

Committee On-Goings:

Senate Health & Welfare – Nursing Shortage

Nick Nichols, Policy Director of DMH testified to let the committee know what the state is doing to address shortage of psychiatric nurses in Vermont. They are planning a working group around the issue, which Senator Ayer is involved in. Committee was happy to know this.

Senate Health & Welfare – H.74, Safety Protocols for Social & Mental Health Workers

Commissioner Ken Schatz testified. Overall agency is supportive of this bill. There are some tweaks we are hoping to make – although on surface/in title bill makes protocols for social and mental health works, the actual language broadens personnel coverage. Ken would love to have safety protocols in place for all of his workers (not just social and mental health) but would not want it to be mandated as such in this bill.

House Human Services – S.20 Dental Therapists

Draft 1.1 3/23 was reviewed, can be viewed [here](#). Geographical limitation was removed. Added a restriction for schedule II, III, IV drugs. There was a long discussion on which treatments should be allowed with ad hoc testimony from 3 dentists and 1 hygienist in room. Delta Dental response on billing in MN posted [here](#).

Intel from Laura- The bill will likely be voted out of HHS in the next few days. At the worst it will be a 9-2 vote. It then goes to Government Operations and then Ways and Means. Gov. Ops may be a challenge though it does have bipartisan support in that committee. If it hits any snags in Gov. Ops our office might want to think about getting more involved, as time is running short.

House Education – H.583 Amendments

Rep. Browning second amendment lowers each structural category by 300 students, loosens requirements for RED and side-by-side districts. meant to make it easier for districts to meet requirements of Act 46. House Ed found Browning's amendment unfavorable 8-0-3 (were waiting on Reps. Miller and Buxton to vote).

House Health Care – H.866, drug manufacturer cost transparency

PhRMA rep talked in circles for over an hour, providing little to no information to improve or revise the bill. He was willing to talk about reasons to not go forward with a bill at all, and was willing to discuss pricing transparency that didn't have to do with manufacturers.

Once pinned down to provide concrete info for what manufacturers could provide, he said he didn't have the info and needed to go back to the manufacturers. Committee wants manufacturers to testify or provide written info on ways to improve bill, like suggestions for what things to require to allow for pricing transparency. Committee is also getting info from pharma on price reporting to other countries.

James Love had a lot of technical suggestions and not much time to provide them. He said that he's willing to call in again, field written questions, or come in person.