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Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 5:40 PM

To: Allen, Susan; Clasen, Michael; Coriell, Scott; Davis, Austin; Johnson, Harriet; Johnson, Justin; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Miller, Elizabeth; Miller, Lawrence; Mishaan, Jessica; Nease, Floyd; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Byrne, Emily; Gray, Laura; GPS; Green, Geoff

Subject: Conf. Exec Priv: Daily Legislative Report for Friday, April 24

House Reconvenes at 10:00 AM

Senate Reconvenes at 9:30 AM

HOUSE:

No action today.

TUESDAY:

House will consider Senate proposal of amendments on:

- [H.98](#), reportable disease registries and data. This bill is supported and promoted by VDH. This is also the vehicle for removing the philosophical exemption.
- [H.241](#), rulemaking on emergency involuntary procedures.

SENATE:

Bill passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

- [H.488](#), T-Bill, passed 30-0. A conference committee is expected.

Passes second reading:

- [JRS 20](#), express appreciation to fed delegation for its effort with VSAC to lower costs of higher ed for Vermonters. Urges fed del to continue working with the IRS and other to enable VSAC to sue tax-exempt bonds to make new, and to refinance existing, higher education loans.

Passed Senate committee, notice Tuesday, consideration Wednesday:

- [H.62](#), prohibiting life sentence without parole for minors, passed Senate Judiciary.
- [H.282](#), professions and occupations regulated by OPR, passed Senate Government Operations.

TUESDAY:

Second reading Tuesday:

- [H.25](#), natural burial grounds, passed Senate Economic Development Committee.

COMMITTEE INTEL:

- **H.40, energy bill**, was voted out of Senate Natural 4-1 (Rodgers). It does have solar setback language on it that Darren will work to remove in Senate Finance. The good news is the Efficiency Vermont reduction language was removed.

- **Raw Milk**, the Senate will likely put raw milk language on the miscellaneous agriculture bill. The House has vetted language and suggested it to the Senate. Good summary is available [here](#).
- **Economic Development:** VEGI changes are still very much in play and the committee is very interested in all the proposals including value-added VEGI. Tourism money is also still in play. The bill will likely be voted out on Tuesday or Wednesday. The VEGI hearing last night went well businesses were very supportive as well as RDCs. David Mickenberg was the only negative testimony on behalf of unions because of lowering the wage threshold. Shap is very worried about timing on the economic development bill. It will go to Ways and Means then Appropriations.
- **S.9, child protection bill:** Ken Schatz and the DCF team is working on two issues in the bill. First, the Judiciary Committee wants to increase the workload on social workers without (obviously) increasing the number of social workers. DCF is working to add a clause making it clear that would happen within budget ability. Second, the child advocate position is not in the bill but will be introduced as an amendment on the floor; Ken is pushing back on that and making it clear it's a \$200,000 appropriation with staff, etc., and even IF he got \$200,000 – which he won't – he's use it for social workers not an advocate.

House Ways and Means funding of House Health Care policy provisions:

- Increase cigarette tax by \$.10 per pack in FY16, the increase moves to \$.33 more per pack in FY17. This would raise 800k in FY16 and \$2.4 million in FY17.
- Remove sales tax exemption on candy and soft drinks which would raise \$10.4 million total between GF and EF.
- Vending machine meals and rooms tax: \$1 million for GF in FY16.
- **Total funding:** \$12.4 million in FY 16: \$8.8 million for GF and \$3.6 million for EF.

Rent to own:

- The stakeholders on both sides (John Hollar and David Mickenberg) have come to an agreement. However the bill has a number of ornaments and because of a financial literacy commission that is included in the bill, it has to go to Appropriations. Other provisions on the bill: automatic dialing service regulations, consumer litigation funding, romance fraud provisions and regulations on discount membership programs.

Senate Finance:

- Health care: likely more discussion Monday then a vote on Tuesday.
- Fee bill: so far all our fees are good. The committee grabbed the water quality fees from the water quality bill and stuck them in the overall fee bill. Unclear as to why fees were grabbed from the WQ bill.
- Revenue: the committee will move H.489. [Here](#) is a good section by section. The committee is proposing to extend the sales tax to services (exempts education, health care and social services) as well as to bottled water, soft drinks and candy. This will lower the sales tax rate to 4.75 percent. It would also:
 - cap the itemized deduction for mortgage interest at \$12,000.
 - Impose a minimum three percent agi tax with those over \$150,000.

- Impose a five percent credit for charitable contributions for those who itemize.
- Extend meals and rooms tax to vending machines.