

Legislative Prep Worksheet - ACCD

1. Pro-active

-  **JOBS PACKAGE**
 - i. *Description:* Workforce training, expand on VT Training program, match training to specific needs of employers
 - ii. *Partners:* VDOL/AOE, biz associations, businesses, higher ed especially VSC
 - iii. *Action:* ACCD creating menu of options to share with Governor
 - iv. *Problems:* A “workforce plan” was called for under S.220 last year, without timeline. It will take longer than one year to create a comprehensive “workforce plan” for the full state – is this something that ACCD should start work on?
-  **HOUSING PACKAGE**
 - i. Jen/Angus working on plan for Governor review – includes spectrum of affordable housing from low to middle income, may be able to include outstanding issues on evictions law (easier to evict bad tenants to encourage more people to become landlords) and Capital Bill Funding for affordable housing (working with BGS on this).
- Series of VT Biz 101 Presentation for legislature, including CEDS overview, can also include Gov Priorities, HC plan, LEAN process etc – no statute/money needed, pro-active engagement of legislators
-  Marketing Money for VT recruitment – Great Jobs in VT etc – if made a priority with money, can expand efforts
-  2 new positions at ACCD
-  R & D Tax Credit back to 30% (was downgraded this past legislative session)

2. Defensive

- Paid Sick – another example of death by 1,000 cuts for biz community (should commend biz that already offer paid sick, many do – even if businesses DO offer it already, they aren’t necessarily for the change in law, because then they will lose market advantage)
- Evictions – shorten eviction process, opens up housing (will come up – should we make it part of housing package?)
- Maintain off-site mitigation option (working with Ron Shems)
- Dedicated funding for Tourism/Marketing – comes up every year, continue to say we are against dedicated funding streams, everything comes through Gov proposed budget

3. House-Keeping/Neutral

- Downtown transportation grant salary clarification
- CMO Statute out of session law, into green books
- Tax garages under TIF clarification
-  10 year plan for Capital Bill, include plan for historic sites

- \$30,000 for Municipal Planning Manual
- Neighborhood Development Area Designation "local character" in Act 250
- VEGI tweak – decouple from minimum wage

4. Interagency

- Better customer service for fire regulations at Dept. of Public Safety
- BGS/VT Business Registry – one-stop shot portal
- Section 248 issues – PSD/ANR

5. Questions

- Made in VT – ready to pull the plug? Or scale down scope?
- VCGI – statute moves it to ACCD, are we pro/con? Do we proceed to comply with statute? Will cost a lot of money – was supposed to go to DII, which has billback authority, ACCD does not, so would eat cost. Pat put her proposal of how to proceed in her 8/15 Weekly Report.
- Chief Marketing Office Authority – should CMO have authority over agency websites/templates/marketing contracts? As of now, CMO has no control so no consistent branding of websites across State of VT and serves as rubber stamp to marketing contracts because they come to Nancy so late in process for approval.
- Auction tax credits to targeted sectors?? Do we like this idea?
- No income tax under 25? Do we like idea enough for them to run numbers – will likely not cost much, but sends signal.
- Cloud Tax Repeal – ACCD would like to pursue repeal/not complying with law, wonder if Shap/Janet Ancel have loosened up position on this issue.
- Pursue position for grant writer shared across agencies?? (Note: DOL just filled grant writer position, potentially could be shared?)
- Is it possible to create a tenant/Landlord mediation process to save money in court proceedings? Ask Sarah London

Legislative Prep Worksheet – Dept. of Labor

1. Pro-active

§ "Jobs Bill" - Workforce Training

- i. Gov Office will set up a meeting with ACCD and DOL to go through potential options for a Workforce Training Jobs Bill to put forward proactively this session
- ii. Clear delineation between DOL and ACCD roles: ACCD focused on economic development and growing business, provides link to employers for workforce training. DOL uses federal money to train workers.
- iii. A lot of good work on S.220 and VT Training Program happening right now, but can be more specific and pull out strategies for a workforce training bill
- iv. Lots of federal money in VT now for sophisticated job training including linking trainees with job openings (under federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)), but we need to focus on alignment (between Workforce Investment Board, VT state training plan, WIOA) and have one State of VT message on workforce training

§ Prevailing Wage for State Construction

§ Worker's Comp

- v. Rules are re-done, looking at them through lens of how business community will react
- vi. Has been no rate increase for Voc Rehab Counselors since 2006
- vii. Recommend an increase paid for by workman's comp, but increase must be tied to results

• Minimum Wage Exemption

- i. Mike Hoyt at DOL is looking at overhaul of all minimum wage exemptions
- ii. Cleaning up language and definition so people don't get slammed in audits
- iii. DOL will be sending letter to help clarify exemptions for employers
- iv. Still working on this, looking at law, and Peg Flory letter which asks DOL to send letter to clarify this issue for employers

• Abridged version of H.762 – Independent Contractors and misclassification

• WET Fund Training Initiatives

2. Defensive

- **Migrant Farm Workers** – good interagency work, handling checklist as each case comes through
- **Unemployment Insurance**
 - i. Proposal to eliminate one week waiting period a year early, which is not wise at this juncture. We will possibly see some nibbling around edges on UI but don't anticipate problems)

3. House-Keeping/Neutral

- Potential federal fixes for Unemployment Insurance
- Expand Labor Advisory Council (minimum of 12 total right now)

4. Interagency

- Workforce Training – ACCD
- Prevailing Wage for State Construction - BGS

5. Overarching Themes

- Pro-active work on pro-business agenda and message

6. Questions

- Who is running the interim study on establishing a Public Retirement Plan?
- What is the status of bringing the union healthcare plans into the state plan?
- FYI – State of VT runs very effective job fairs with their own money, keep in mind for linking employee to employer initiatives

Legislative Prep Worksheet – Dept. of Financial Regulation

1. Pro-active

- Insurance
 - i. Principle-Based Reserving (PBR) accounting formula imposed on life insurance, a National Standard is rolling out away from formulas that we should conform to
 - ii. Adopt NAIC Model Laws on Corporate Governance – Susan Donegan helped craft this national guidance, wants VT to be an early adopter, should sail through, asks for additional disclosure on the corporate governance structure of insurance companies, so more details on senior management and Board level
- [§] Position – Susan owes her Captives Division an examiner, she raided this vacancy but she really needs this position created and filled as it will help save/recover more money for the state
- Securities - MAYBE Crowd-Funding legislation – might be premature. Probably don't need it given good track record with VISBO, but crowd-funding does do cross-border, but we need to figure out if we need it. If we do it, VISBO does stay relevant and will still exist. DFR report due on this, will get to us by December, not sure yet how it will look, but will answer whether or not we need this

2. House-Keeping/Neutral

- **ALL of these are very technical, can move through DFR technical corrections bill, one bill for each main area like they do every year (Captives, Insurance, Banking, Securities)**
- Move a position to Green Mountain Care Board – DFR doesn't do it anymore, was left at DFR by accident, and move ½ of Regulation 903 into statute
- Banking Division – needs technical corrections to match statutes
- Captives – many tweaks needed due to accreditation standards and response to the market
 - i. Adopt 3 new accreditation standards: Form F, Reinsurance collateral modernization, add corporate governance standards for Risk Retention Groups to captive statute
 - ii. Allow landfill operators to use insurance and captive insurance as assurance for closure/post-closure obligations
 - iii. Misc suggestions from VCIA
- Accreditation – talking to Jim Condos, right now the process pings from DFR, to Sec. of State, back to DFR – better to streamline process or let DFR just incorporate companies directly
- Possible amendment to licensed lender statute, could be added to Jobs Bill, report due in January that may suggest changes that would liberalize this statute, it continues to be liberalized each year. Cairn Cross is very interested in this, so is Mayor Lauzon and anyone that engages in entrepreneurial lending

- Banking – Technical corrections needed
- Insurance –
 - i. Repeal 8 V.S.A. 4089b(g0) - correction to something that no longer exists
 - ii. Possible amendment to rate review authority
 - iii. Confidentiality technical correction
 - iv. Possible amendment to Surplus Lines Compact
 - v. Possible amendment to Holding Company law (state jurisdiction of group supervision)
 - vi. Bulletin Authority

3. Interagency

- Secretary of State collaboration on accreditation for captives

4. Questions

- FYI – Tim Ashe a bit hard to work with, wishy washy on DFR issues, hasn't confirmed Susan yet (ever, since she has been in the position!)
- Clare Ayer would be a welcome addition to Senate Finance
- FYI – DFR Securities Division is doing great work! Re-organized and running well.
- Is David Reynolds position still in budget?
- Is it a fee year for DFR? Want to keep fees low, can make more money from "retaliation" using other states rates.