

H. 449: Registration Requirement and Registry for Short-Term Rentals

Amy Spear, Vice President of Tourism

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The Vermont Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of all sizes, from every industry, across every region of Vermont. Member engagement is critical to informing our advocacy work – our lodging council is a direct conduit to the industry and is comprised of varying sizes and types of properties from across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on H. 449.

Licensed lodging properties and short-term rentals both serve the primary purpose of offering temporary overnight accommodations to guests. Ultimately, the choice between a short-term rental and a licensed lodging property depends on the traveler’s needs and preferences.

The two types of overnight accommodations both support Vermont’s visitor economy which welcomes 13 million visitors each year; however, they operate under very different regulatory landscapes. For example, the [Licensed Lodging Establishment Rule](#) in Vermont encompasses comprehensive health and safety regulations, inspections, and licensing requirements for lodging properties. It ensures these properties adhere to strict standards for the safety and well-being of guests. While it is regulatory in nature, it is also an educational tool and a clear roadmap for operations. Short-term rental operators are encouraged to complete a [Short Term Rental Safety, Health and Financial Obligations form](#); however, it currently does not need to be submitted and there is no feedback loop to confirm compliance or participation.

The foundation set by establishing a short-term rental housing registry would be a positive step forward to ensure a safe rental environment while providing information for future pragmatic policy decisions. With public health and safety top of mind, the Vermont Chamber is supportive of the creation of a registry or other regulatory solutions.

Collecting basic information would be a necessary first step to improve communications and would also provide data if the State chose to enforce health and safety regulations in the future. We appreciate the continued dialogue and efforts to pursue safe overnight accommodations for the traveling public and look forward to remaining a resource.