

Senate Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2010
SENATE CONVENES AT: 9:30 A.M.

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

H.C.R. 220-229 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for January 29, 2010)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Third Reading

S. 196.

An act relating to processing the application for motor vehicle emergency light permits.

Second Reading

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 187.

An act relating to municipal financial audits.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Brock for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 1690 is amended to read:

§ 1690. CERTIFIED OR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT TO AUDIT TOWN ACCOUNTS; WARNING; FORM

(a) The ~~selectmen~~ legislative body of a city, town, and the trustees of an or incorporated village may, ~~and upon~~ upon its own motion contract with a public accountant, licensed in this state, to perform an annual financial audit of all funds of the town; or upon petition in writing of legal voters equal to five percent of the legal voters of the town or village, the legislative body shall, insert in the warning for any annual ~~town or village~~ meeting, or in the warning for a special ~~town or village~~ meeting, which shall be called upon such petition, an article in substantially the following form:

"To see if the [city, town, or village] will vote to instruct the ~~selectmen or trustees~~ [legislative body] to employ a certified public accountant or public accountant ~~to aid the work of the auditors~~ licensed in this state, to perform an annual financial audit of all funds of the [city, town, or village]."

(b) Audits performed by a public accountant under this section shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, including the issuance of a report on internal control over financial reporting that shall be provided to recipients of the financial statements. When there are material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal

control over financial reporting or the auditor's or public accountant's opinion is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed:

(1) the auditor or public accountant shall present the findings or opinion to the legislative body of the town and explain those material weaknesses or significant deficiencies or his or her opinion at a meeting duly warned for the purpose;

(2) after the audit report is delivered to the legislative body of a municipality, the notice for the next meeting of the legislative body shall also notify the voters of the availability of the audit report and the accompanying report on internal control over financial reporting;

(3) the next published annual report of the town shall include a summary of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal controls over financial reporting or a statement that the audit report sets forth an opinion that is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed; and

(4) the legislative body shall post the audit report and the accompanying report on internal control over financial reporting on the municipality's website, if the municipality has a website.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 218.

An act relating to voyeurism.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Campbell for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2605 is amended to read:

§ 2605. VOYEURISM

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Bona fide private investigator or bona fide security guard" means an individual lawfully providing services, whether licensed or unlicensed, pursuant to sections 3151 and 3151a of Title 26.

(2) "Female breast" means any portion of the female breast below the top of the areola.

(3) "Circumstances in which a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy" means circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that his or her intimate areas would not be visible to the public, regardless of

whether that person is in a public or private area. This definition includes circumstances in which a person knowingly disrobes in front of another, but does not expect nor give consent for the other person to photograph, film, or record his or her intimate areas.

(4) “Intimate areas” means the naked or undergarment-clad genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or female breast of a person.

(5) “Place where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy” means:

(A) a place in which a reasonable person would believe that he or she could disrobe in privacy, without his or her undressing being viewed by another; or

(B) a place in which a reasonable person would expect to be safe from unwanted intrusion or surveillance.

(6) “Surveillance” means secret observation of the activities of another person for the purpose of spying upon and invading the privacy of the person.

(7) “View” means the intentional looking upon another person for more than a brief period of time, in other than a casual or cursory manner, with the unaided eye or a device designed or intended to improve visual acuity.

(b) No person shall intentionally view, photograph, film, or record in any format:

(1) the intimate areas of another person without that person’s knowledge and consent while the person being viewed, photographed, filmed, or recorded is in a place where he or she would have a reasonable expectation of privacy; or

(2) the intimate areas of another person without that person’s knowledge and consent and under circumstances in which the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

(c) No person shall ~~disseminate~~ display or disclose to a third party any image recorded in violation of subsection (b), (d), or (e) of this section.

(d) No person shall intentionally conduct surveillance or intentionally photograph, film, or record in any format a person without that person’s knowledge and consent while the person being surveilled, photographed, filmed, or recorded is in a place where he or she would have a reasonable expectation of privacy within a home or residence. Bona fide private investigators and bona fide security guards engaged in otherwise lawful activities within the scope of their employment are exempt from this subsection.

(e) No person shall intentionally photograph, film, or record in any format a person without that person's knowledge and consent while that person is engaged in a sexual act as defined in section 3251 of this title.

(f) This section shall apply to a person who intentionally views, photographs, films, or records the intimate areas of a person as part of a security or theft prevention policy or program at a place of business.

~~(f)~~(g) This section shall not apply to:

(1) a law enforcement officer conducting official law enforcement activities in accordance with state and federal law; or

(2) official activities of the department of corrections, a law enforcement agency, the agency of human services, or a court for security purposes or during the investigation of alleged misconduct by a person in the custody of the department of corrections, a law enforcement agency, the agency of human services, or a court.

~~(g)~~(h) This section is not intended to infringe upon the freedom of the press to gather and disseminate news as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

~~(h)~~(i) It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (b) of this section that the defendant was a bona fide private investigator or bona fide security guard conducting surveillance in the ordinary course of business, and the violation was unintentional and incidental to otherwise legal surveillance. However, an unintentional and incidental violation of subsection (b) of this section shall not be a defense to a violation of subsection (c).

~~(i)~~(j) For a first offense, a person who violates subsection (b) ~~or~~ (d), or (e) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both. For a second or subsequent offense, a person who violates subsection (b) ~~or~~ (d), or (e) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than three years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both. A person who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 534.

An act relating to fiscal year 2010 budget adjustment.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Bartlett for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, in the section title, by striking out the word “heath” and inserting in lieu thereof the word health

Second: In Sec. 60(a), at the end of “21638 Atty Gen Fees-Reimbursements 1,500,000” by adding the word Approx.

Third: In Sec. 71, amending Sec. B.1101(a) of No. 1 of the Acts of the 2009 Special Session, by adding a new subdivision (15) to read as follows:

(15) To the treasurer’s office for Benefits For The Survivors Of Emergency Personnel to be used in accordance with the requirements of 20 V.S.A. § 3173. \$70,000

Fourth: After Sec. 71, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec 71a to read as follows:

Sec. 71a. Sec. D.104 of No. 1 of the Acts of the 2009 Special Session is amended to read:

Sec. D.104. TRANSFER OF TOBACCO TRUST FUNDS

(a) Notwithstanding 18 V.S.A. § 9502(a)(3) and (4), the actual amount of investment earnings of the tobacco trust fund at the end of fiscal year 2010 and any additional amount necessary to ensure the balance in the tobacco litigation settlement fund at the close of fiscal year 2010 is not negative, shall be transferred from the tobacco trust fund to the tobacco litigation settlement fund in fiscal year 2010.

Fifth: In Sec. 76, amending Sec. 10(b) of No. 2 of the Acts of the 2009 Special Session, by adding a sentence at the end of subsection (b) to read as follows:

The alternate plan may include fund transfers and shall be proportionate in terms of total general funds for the judicial and legislative branches.

Sixth: In Sec. 79, amending Sec. H.1(c) of No. 1 of the Acts of the 2009 Special Session, by striking out the number “15” and inserting in lieu thereof the number 16

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 82 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 82 to read as follows:

Sec. 82. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS

(a) Of the funds transferred to the municipal and regional planning fund in Sec. 10(a) of No. 178 of the Acts of 2006, \$20,951 shall be available for municipal planning grants in fiscal year 2010. Any additional amounts in the

municipal and regional planning fund from the above transfer that are deemed unencumbered through award recapture by the commissioner of finance and management shall be available for municipal planning grants in fiscal year 2010.

(b) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. 219(c) of No. 65 of the Acts of 2007 as amended by Sec. 64 of No. 90 of the Acts of 2008 (DeptID 7110010150), and Sec. 233a(a)(6)(B) of No. 65 of the Acts of 2007 (DeptID 7110890702), and Sec. 220 of No. 215 of the Acts of 2006 as amended by Sec. 361 of No. 65 of the Acts of 2007 (DeptID 7110010170); any amounts in the above appropriations that are deemed unencumbered through award recapture by the commissioner of finance and management shall be available for municipal planning grants in fiscal year 2010.

Eighth: By striking out Sec. 88 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to be numbered Sec. 88 and Sec. 88a to read as follows:

Sec. 88. 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b) is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the foregoing, the attorney general or a state's attorney may request and the court is authorized to render any other temporary or permanent relief, or both, as may be in the public interest including, but not limited to:

(1) the imposition of a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 for each violation;

(2) an order for restitution of cash or goods on behalf of a consumer or a class of consumers similarly situated;

(3) an order requiring reimbursement to the state of Vermont for the reasonable value of its services and its expenses in investigating and prosecuting the action;

(4) amounts other than consumer restitution recovered by the attorney general or department of state's attorneys under this chapter, ~~subject to appropriation each fiscal year,~~ but not to exceed amounts annually appropriated, or authorized pursuant to Sec. 167 of Title 3 or Sec. 511 of Title 32, shall be deposited into special funds which shall be available to the attorney general or department of state's attorneys, respectively to offset the costs of providing legal services.

Sec. 88a. 3 V.S.A. § 167 is added to read:

§ 167. PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTIGATION SPECIAL FUND

There is established a public funds investigation special fund, pursuant to subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32. At the end of each fiscal year revenue

available to the attorney general under 9 V.S.A. § 2458(b)(4) may be used to bring the unencumbered fund balance up to \$100,000.00. Monies in the fund shall be available for expenditure by the attorney general and state's attorneys to pay expenses, as the attorney general and the state auditor shall agree, for independent contractors, including accountants, necessary for investigation and prosecution of embezzlement or other financial crimes in which public funds are alleged to have been misused.

Ninth: After Sec. 95, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 95a to read as follows:

Sec. 95a. FIVE PERCENT PAY CUT; STATE'S ATTORNEYS

(a) For the remainder of fiscal year 2010 and for fiscal year 2011, the compensation of all states attorneys shall be reduced by five percent from the rate of compensation which would otherwise be paid under the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 1183.

Tenth: After Sec. 112, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 112a to read as follows:

Sec. 112a. EMERGENCY HOUSING FUNDING

(a) Of the additional funds provided to the General Assistance program in Sec. 32 of this Act, \$400,000 is for emergency housing as follows:

(1) \$150,000 for emergency shelters participating in the Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) to provide overflow shelter and services, and to be administered by the Office of Economic Opportunity; and

(2) \$250,000 for General Assistance targeted to those individuals and families who do not meet the income and/or sustainability criterion of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program. These funds may be used for rental assistance, security deposits, first month's rent and emergency housing in motels, to be administered directly by the secretary of human services.

Eleventh: After Sec. 112a, by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 112b to read as follows:

Sec. 112b. VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL; CANTEEN PLAN

(a) The director of the Vermont State Hospital, in collaboration with staff who provide professional mental health services to patients of the facility, shall develop a plan to be included in the fiscal year 2011 appropriations act to reopen the canteen or commissary on July 1, 2010, which shall be accessible to patients, staff, and visitors to the facility. The plan shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on appropriations and house committee on

human services and senate committee on health and welfare on or before March 15, 2010. The plan shall be cost neutral to the general fund, but shall recognize that patients may have limited funds to purchase products.

And by renumbering all of the sections of the bill to be numerically correct (including internal references) and adjusting all of the totals to be arithmetically correct.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for January 21, 2010, page 66.)

Committee Bill for Second Reading

S. 278.

An act relating to the department of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration.

By the Committee on Finance. (Senator Ayer for the committee.)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Committee Bill for Second Reading

S. 280.

An act relating to prohibiting texting while operating on a highway.

By the Committee on Transportation.

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 110.

An act relating to sheltering livestock.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Mullin for the Committee on Judiciary.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 365(a) is amended to read:

(a) All livestock and animals ~~which are to be predominantly~~ maintained out-of-doors ~~must be provided with adequate shelter to prevent direct exposure to the elements~~ shall be provided with shelter sufficient to protect the health of the animal.

Sec. 2. LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD;
GUIDELINES FOR SHELTERING LIVESTOCK

(a) The livestock care standards advisory board in consultation with the alliance for animal welfare, the humane society, and any other interested party shall develop and recommend comprehensive and detailed guidelines for providing appropriate shelter for livestock that protects the health and well-being of the animals to be sheltered. The primary purpose of the guidelines is to protect the health and assure good care of the animals. In order to develop the guidelines, the advisory board shall consider at least the following issues:

(1) The species, breed, age, health, and size of the animals to be sheltered.

(2) The landscape where the animals are kept.

(3) The appropriateness and effectiveness of available natural or constructed shelter to provide sufficient protection from all climactic conditions.

(b) The advisory board shall present written recommendations for these guidelines to the senate committees on agriculture and on judiciary and to the house committees on agriculture and on judiciary no later than January 1, 2011.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

S. 268.

An act relating to the building bright futures council.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ayer for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The general assembly finds that:

(1) While Vermont has a wide range of high-quality programs for families and young children, a report issued by the Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center states, "Vermont's early childhood system might be best described as many diverse patches, or pieces, ready to be linked and sewn together into a New England patchwork quilt."

(2) In order to address issues of overlap and fragmentation, program accountability, and equitable access to services across the state, engaged community members, policy-makers, early childhood service providers, and advocates agree that there is a need for a comprehensive and integrated system

for all children below the age of six and their families in Vermont who are in need of and desiring such services.

(3) Research shows that a child’s “environment of relationships” has a critical impact on developing brain architecture during the first months and years of life.

(4) There are approximately 39,000 children under the age of six in Vermont, including over 5,500 in poverty, 11,000 living in single-parent households, 20,489 living in two-parent households with both parents in the labor force, and approximately 1,300 young children with developmental delays.

(5) An estimated 23,000 children under the age of six are enrolled full- or part-time in over 1,900 registered or licensed child care programs funded by a combination of parent fees and public dollars such as the Child Care Financial Assistance Program and the Education Fund. Programs that receive no public funds generally have little to no formal connection to an overall early childhood system with established goals and policies for addressing the needs of young children.

(6) In addition to the care by their parents and families, thousands of Vermont children from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds receive services, support, or both from state, federal, and private programs. Many children are served by multiple programs with no mechanism in place to ensure a holistic, family-centered approach to service delivery. Early childhood services are important to the economic well-being of families throughout the state. They have a positive impact on the state’s labor supply and influence the overall economic competitiveness of the state.

(7) Section 642B of the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 mandates that the governor “designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry, and the Governor may designate an existing entity in the State to serve as the State Advisory Council.”

(8) In November 2009, the building bright futures state council adopted a conceptual framework based on the work of Dr. Jack Shonkoff, a Harvard University professor and one of the nation’s foremost experts on early childhood learning.

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. chapter 46 is added to read:

CHAPTER 46. BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES COUNCIL

§ 4601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Early care, health, and education” means all services provided to families expecting a child and to children up to the age of six, including child care, family support, early education, mental and physical health services, nutrition services, and disability services.

(2) “Regional council” means a regional entity linked to the state building bright futures council to support the creation of an integrated system of early care, health, and education at the local level.

§ 4602. BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES COUNCIL

(a) The building bright futures program shall be governed by a statewide council comprising no more than 23 members. The building bright futures council’s membership shall be as follows:

(1) the secretary of human services or designee;

(2) the secretary of commerce and community development or designee;

(3) the commissioner of education;

(4) the commissioner for children and families;

(5) the commissioner of health;

(6) the commissioner of mental health;

(7) two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house;

(8) at least one but no more than two members of the senate, appointed by the senate committee on committees;

(9) the Head Start collaboration office director; and

(10) 12 at-large members selected on the basis of their commitment to early childhood well-being and representing a range of perspectives and geographic diversity. One of the at-large members shall be a representative of a local Head Start program.

(b) In the event of a vacancy in one of the at-large member positions on the council, the remaining members shall endeavor to fill the vacancy with an individual representing a perspective or geographic area not currently represented on the council.

(c) Technical assistance to the council shall be provided by staff within the departments of health, of education, and for children and families.

(d) For council meetings held when the general assembly is not in session, the legislative members of the council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with section 406 of Title 2. Members of the council who are not state employees or whose participation is not supported through their employment or association may be entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses for attending meetings of the council under section 1010 of Title 32 to the extent funds are available.

(e) The council shall function as a public-private partnership with the ability to raise and disburse funds and shall be exempt from all Vermont taxation; provided, however, that the council shall be subject to Vermont taxation on income that is subject to federal taxation under Sections 511 and 514 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(f) The council shall establish and maintain relationships with regional councils providing regional capacity to further the council's goals.

§ 4603. POWERS AND DUTIES

The council established by section 4602 of this title shall have the following powers and duties necessary and appropriate to effectuating the purposes of this chapter:

(1) Advise the administration and general assembly on the status and needs of the early care, health, and education system by conducting a review of the status of young children in Vermont and the care, health, and education services and systems that support them and by submitting a report every two years to the governor and general assembly regarding the findings and activities of the building bright futures program.

(2) Monitor overall system performance by regularly tracking and reporting system data on the well-being of young children and the performance of the system of care related to the council's commitments to children and selected indicators.

(3) Develop an early care, health, and education system plan for Vermont to serve as the basis for policy and funding recommendations.

(4) Review and formulate recommendations for amendments or revisions to policies, rules, or regulations that may impede the ability to address state and local priorities and the ability to ensure system effectiveness.

(5) Work with the secretaries of human services and of commerce and community development and the commissioner of education to ensure the

coordination of existing budgets and policies that affect the care, health, and education of young children.

(6) Work with the agencies of human services and of commerce and community development, the department of education, and the regional councils to coordinate and integrate the development of an early childhood budget that reflects alignment of funding with priorities identified in the system plan.

(7) Contract with state agencies and departments to deliver services as agreed upon.

(8) Pursue and accept funding from diverse sources outside of state government to sustain, expand, and enhance the early care, health, and education system according to the early care, health, and education system plan.

(9) Disburse funds raised through fund development activities in accordance with priorities defined in the system plan.

(10) Increase the instances where the council convenes members of the child care community, medical community, education community, and other organizations, as well as state agencies serving young children, to ensure that families receive quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

(11) Work within the budget process to help ensure effective and efficient allocation of resources for early care, health, and education, and to identify and reduce duplication of services.

(12) Work with state agencies that provide early childhood services to avoid duplication of services by improving coordination across agencies.

(13) Select the key indicators to be tracked in early childhood and identify priority strategies to improve outcomes.

(14) Make sure children from birth to six years of age are included in data systems being developed by the department of education and in other state efforts aimed at streamlining and coordinating state services.

(15) Monitor and analyze data to assess progress in achieving outcomes and make recommendations for any necessary adjustments.

(16) Report to the governor and the legislative committees of jurisdiction during the first month of each legislative biennium on progress toward outcomes and recommendations for priorities for the biennium.

§ 4604. LIMITATION OF SCOPE

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede or usurp the statutory powers or authority of any state agency or department or any school district.

Sec. 2. COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

The members of the building bright futures council serving as of the effective date of this act shall continue to serve on the council after that date and shall adopt bylaws detailing the council's governance and procedures.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

ORDERED TO LIE

S. 99.

An act relating to amending the Act 250 criteria relating to traffic, scattered development, and rural growth areas.

PENDING ACTION: Third Reading

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Robert Kelley of Brandon - Member of the Board of Education - By Senator Flory for the Committee on Education. (1/14/10)

Steven Gurin of Barre - Member of the Vermont Educational & Health Buildings Financing Agency - By Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance. (2/3/10)

REPORTS ON FILE

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §20(c), one (1) hard copy of the following reports is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Effective January 2010, pursuant to Act No. 192, Adj. Sess. (2008) §5.005(g)

some reports will automatically be sent by electronic copy only and can be found on the State of Vermont webpage.

28. Vermont Center for Geographic Information Inc. Annual Report 2010. (January 2010)

29. Oversight and Implementation of the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules Annual Report. (January 2010)

30. Education Legislative Report. (Vermont School Boards Association/Vermont Superintendents Association/Vermont Principals' Association) (January 2010)

31. Vermont Labor Relations Board 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports. (January 2010)

32. Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loans Awarded to Certain Nonprofit Privately-Owned Community Water Systems. (Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation) (January 2010)

33. Regulation of Salvage Yards Report. (Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Compliance and Enforcement Division) (January 2010)

JFO NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

Joint Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2011 budget on Vermont Interactive Television Appropriations Committees

Monday, February 8, 2009, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. – The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will hold a joint public hearing on Vermont Interactive Television (V.I.T.) to give Vermonters throughout the state an opportunity to express their views about the state budget for fiscal year 2011. All V.I.T. sites will be available for the hearing: Bennington, Brattleboro, Castleton, Johnson, Lyndonville, Middlebury, Montpelier, Newport, Randolph Center, Rutland, Springfield, St. Albans, Waterbury, White River Junction and Williston. V.I.T.'s web site has an up-to-date location listing, including driving directions, addresses and telephone numbers, <http://www.vitlink.org/>.

For information about the format of this event, interested parties may call the House Appropriations Committee office at 802/828-5767. Requests for interpreters should be made to the office by 12:00 noon on Friday, January 29, 2010.