

# House Calendar

Thursday, February 27, 2014

52nd DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 1:30 P.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Third Reading**

**H. 863**

An act relating to a Public Records Act exemption for the identity of whistleblowers

**S. 317**

An act relating to repealing the unconstitutional Vermont statutes related to the performance of abortions

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 217**

An act relating to smoking in partially enclosed structures, lodging establishments, and state lands

**Rep. Frank of Underhill**, for the Committee on **Human Services**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1421 is amended to read:

§ 1421. SMOKING IN THE WORKPLACE; PROHIBITION

(a) The use of lighted tobacco products is prohibited in any workplace.

(b)(1) ~~For the purposes of As used in~~ this subchapter, “workplace” means an enclosed structure where employees perform services for an employer ~~or, in, including restaurants, bars, and other establishments in which food or drinks, or both, are served.~~ In the case of an employer who assigns employees to departments, divisions, or similar organizational units, “workplace” means the enclosed portion of a structure to which the employee is assigned.

\* \* \*

(3) For schools, workplace includes any enclosed location where instruction or other school-sponsored functions are occurring ~~and students are present.~~

(4) For lodging establishments used for transient traveling or public vacationing, such as resorts, hotels, and motels, workplace includes the sleeping quarters and adjoining rooms rented to guests.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1741 is amended to read:

§ 1741. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(2) “A place of public access” means any place of business, commerce, banking, financial service, or other service-related activity, whether publicly or privately owned and whether operated for profit or not, to which the general public has access or which the general public uses, ~~including.~~ The term includes:

(A) buildings;<sub>2</sub>

(B) offices;<sub>2</sub>

(C) means of transportation;<sub>2</sub>

(D) common carrier waiting rooms;<sub>2</sub>

(E) arcades;<sub>2</sub>

(F) restaurants, bars,<sub>2</sub> and cabarets;<sub>2</sub>

(G) retail stores;<sub>2</sub>

(H) grocery stores;<sub>2</sub>

(I) libraries;<sub>2</sub>

(J) theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, and arenas;<sub>2</sub>

(K) barber shops, and hair salons;<sub>2</sub>

(L) laundromats;<sub>2</sub>

(M) shopping malls;<sub>2</sub>

(N) museums; and art galleries;<sub>2</sub>

(O) sports and fitness facilities;<sub>2</sub>

(P) planetariums;<sub>2</sub>

(Q) historical sites;<sub>2</sub>

(R) lodging establishments for transient traveling or public vacationing, such as resorts, hotels, and motels;

(S) common areas of nursing homes; and hospitals, ~~resorts, hotels and motels,~~ including the lobbies, hallways, elevators, restaurants, restrooms, and cafeterias;<sub>2</sub> and

(T) buildings or facilities owned or operated by a social, fraternal, or religious club.

(3) “Hospital” means a place devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of diagnostic and therapeutic facilities for inpatient medical or surgical care of individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury, or deformity, or for obstetrics.

(4) “Publicly owned buildings and offices” means enclosed indoor places or portions of such places owned, leased, or rented by state State, county, or municipal governments, or by agencies supported by appropriation of, or by contracts or grants from, funds derived from the collection of federal, state State, county, or municipal taxes.

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1742 is amended to read:

#### § 1742. RESTRICTIONS ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

(a) The possession of lighted tobacco products in any form is prohibited in:

(1) the common areas of all enclosed indoor places of public access and publicly owned buildings and offices;

(2) designated smoke-free areas of property or grounds owned by or leased to the State; and

(3) any other area within 25 feet of State-owned buildings and offices, except that to the extent that any portion of the 25-foot zone is not on State property, smoking is prohibited only in that portion of the zone that is on State property unless the owner of the adjoining property chooses to designate his or her property smoke-free.

(b) The possession of lighted tobacco products in any form is prohibited on the grounds of any hospital or secure residential recovery facility owned or operated by the State, including all enclosed places in the hospital or facility and the surrounding outdoor property.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the ability of residents of the Vermont Veterans’ Home to use lighted tobacco products in the indoor area of the facility in which smoking is permitted.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 140 is amended to read:

#### § 140. TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUNDS

No person shall be permitted to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on public school grounds ~~and no student shall be permitted to use tobacco~~ or at public school sponsored functions. Each public school board shall adopt policies prohibiting the possession and use of tobacco

products and tobacco substitutes by students at all times while under the supervision of school staff. These policies shall include confiscation and appropriate referrals to law enforcement authorities.

Sec. 5. 33 V.S.A. § 3504 is added to read:

§ 3504. TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED AT CHILD CARE FACILITIES

(a) No person shall be permitted to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on the premises, both indoor and outdoor, of any licensed child care center or afterschool program at any time.

(b) No person shall be permitted to use tobacco products or tobacco substitutes as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001 on the premises, both indoor and in any outdoor area designated for child care, of a licensed or registered family child care home while children are present and in care. If smoking occurs on the premises during other times, the family child care home shall notify prospective families prior to enrolling a child in the family child care home that their child will be exposed to an environment in which tobacco products or tobacco substitutes, or both, are used.

Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 1001 is amended to read:

§ 1001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(8) “Tobacco substitute” means products including electronic cigarettes or other electronic or battery-powered devices that contain and are designed to deliver nicotine or other substances into the body through inhaling vapor and that have not been approved by the ~~United States~~ U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation or other medical purposes. Products that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation or other medical purposes shall not be considered to be tobacco substitutes.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to smoking in lodging establishments, hospitals, and child care facilities, and on State lands”.

**( Committee Vote: 11-0-0)**

**Amendment to be offered by Reps. Komline of Dorset, Burditt of West Rutland, Clarkson of Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Devereux of Mount Holly, Koch of Barre Town, Masland of Thetford, Mitchell of Fairfax, Ram of Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Stevens of Shoreham, and Wilson of Manchester to the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Human Services to H. 217**

By renumbering Sec. 7, effective date, to be Sec. 8 and by adding a new Sec. 7 to read:

Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. § 1134b is added to read:

§ 1134b. SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLE WITH CHILD PRESENT

(a) A person shall not possess a lighted tobacco product in a motor vehicle that is occupied by a child required to be properly restrained in a federally approved child passenger restraining system pursuant to subdivision 1258(a)(1) or (2) of this title.

(b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00. No points shall be assessed for a violation of this section.

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Till of Jericho to the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Human Services to H. 217**

By striking out Sec. 7, effective date, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 7. FINDINGS

(a) Every day more than 1,200 persons in the United States die due to smoking. And every day at least two youths or young adults become regular smokers.

(b) The younger an individual is when he or she begins using tobacco, the more likely he or she will become addicted. Among youths who persist in smoking, one-third will die prematurely due to smoking.

(c) Compared with adults, adolescents appear to display evidence of addiction at much lower levels of cigarette consumption, and their attempts to quit smoking thus may be less successful.

(d) Persons 18 through 20 years of age are responsible for 90 percent of the cigarettes purchased on behalf of minors under 18 years of age. If their legal access is curtailed, the benefit will extend to much younger teens.

(e) Prevention efforts must focus on young adults 18 through 25 years of



age. Almost no one starts smoking after 25 years of age. Nearly nine out of 10 smokers began smoking by 18 years of age, and 99 percent started by 26 years of age. Progression from occasional to daily smoking almost always occurs by 26 years of age.

(f) Of all young adults 18 to 25 years of age in Vermont who had never smoked, 12.1 percent smoked a cigarette for the first time in 2008–2009. Vermont ranked 49th in the nation, with a range of 4.2 percent to 14.7 percent among the states.

Sec. 8. 7 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

§ 1003. SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS; TOBACCO SUBSTITUTES;  
TOBACCO PARAPHERNALIA; REQUIREMENTS;  
PROHIBITIONS

(a)(1) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a person shall not sell or provide tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to any person younger than 18 under 21 years of age.

(2) A person shall not sell or provide tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to any current member of the U.S. Armed Forces under 18 years of age.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. 7 V.S.A. § 1004 is amended to read:

§ 1004. PROOF OF AGE FOR THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS;  
TOBACCO SUBSTITUTES; TOBACCO PARAPHERNALIA

(a) A person shall exhibit proper proof of his or her age upon demand of a person licensed under this chapter, an employee of a licensee, or a law enforcement officer. If the person fails to provide such proof of age, the licensee shall be entitled to refuse to sell tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to the person. The sale or furnishing of tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to a person exhibiting proper proof shall be prima facie evidence of a licensee's compliance with section 1007 of this title.

(b) As used in this section, "proper proof" means a photographic motor vehicle operator's license, a valid passport, a ~~United States~~ U.S. Military identification card or a photographic nondriver motor vehicle identification card obtained from the ~~department of motor vehicles~~ Department of Motor Vehicles. For a person between 18 and 21 years of age purchasing tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia pursuant to subdivision 1003(a)(2) of this title, "proper proof" means a photographic U.S. Military identification card showing the person is a current member of the U.S. Armed

Forces. A U.S. Military dependent's identification and privilege card shall not constitute proper proof under this section.

Sec. 10. 7 V.S.A. § 1005 is amended to read:

§ 1005. PERSONS UNDER ~~THE AGE OF 18~~ 21 YEARS OF AGE;  
POSSESSION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS; MISREPRESENTING  
AGE OR PURCHASING TOBACCO PRODUCTS; PENALTY

(a)(1) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a person under ~~18~~ 21 years of age shall not possess, purchase, or attempt to purchase tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia unless the person is an employee of a holder of a tobacco license and is in possession of tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to effect a sale in the course of employment. A person under ~~18~~ 21 years of age shall not misrepresent his or her age to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia. A person who possesses tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia in violation of this subsection shall be subject to having the tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia immediately confiscated and shall be further subject to a civil penalty of \$25.00. In the case of failure to pay a penalty, the Judicial Bureau shall mail a notice to the person at the address in the complaint notifying the person that failure to pay the penalty within 60 days of the notice will result in either the suspension of the person's operator's license for a period of not more than 90 days or the delay of the initial licensing of the person for a period of not more than one year. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who, after expiration of 60 days from the date of notice and unless notified by the Judicial Bureau that the penalty has been paid shall either suspend the person's operator's license or cause initial licensing of the person to be delayed for the periods set forth in this subsection and the rules. An action under this subsection shall be brought in the same manner as a traffic violation pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 24. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to implement the provisions of this subsection, which may provide for incremental suspension or delays not exceeding cumulatively the maximum periods established by this subsection.

(2) For current members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to persons under 18 years of age.

(b) A person under ~~18~~ 21 years of age, or, for a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces, under 18 years of age, who misrepresents his or her age by presenting false identification to purchase tobacco products, tobacco

substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia shall be fined not more than \$50.00 or provide up to 10 hours of community service, or both.

Sec. 11. 7 V.S.A. § 1007 is amended to read:

§ 1007. FURNISHING TOBACCO TO PERSONS UNDER ~~EIGHTEEN~~  
THE LEGAL AGE

An individual who sells or furnishes tobacco products, tobacco substitutes, or tobacco paraphernalia to a person under ~~18~~ 21 years of age, or to a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces under 18 years of age, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$100.00 for the first offense and not more than \$500.00 for any subsequent offense. An action under this section shall be brought in the same manner as for a traffic violation pursuant to 23 V.S.A. chapter 24 and shall be brought within 24 hours of the occurrence of the alleged violation.

Sec. 12. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

(a) A Judicial Bureau is created within the Judicial Branch under the supervision of the ~~supreme court~~ Supreme Court.

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

\* \* \*

(4) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 1005(a), relating to possession of tobacco products by a person ~~less than 18~~ under 21 years of age.

(5) Violations of 7 V.S.A. § 1007, relating to furnishing tobacco products to a person under ~~the age of 18~~ 21 years of age.

\* \* \*

Sec. 13. 7 V.S.A. § 667(c) is amended to read:

(c) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to a violation of subsection 1005(a) of this title, relating to purchase of tobacco products by a person ~~less than 18~~ under 21 years of age.

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. McCormack of Burlington to the recommendation of amendment of the Committee on Human Services to H. 217**

In Sec. 3, 18 V.S.A. § 1742, in subsection (a), by adding a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

(2) any area within 10 feet of the entrance or exit of a place of public access;

and by redesignating subdivisions (2) and (3) to be subdivisions (3) and (4)

**H. 497**

An act relating to the open meeting law

**Rep. Townsend of South Burlington**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Deliberations” means weighing, examining, and discussing the reasons for and against an act or decision, but expressly excludes the taking of evidence and the arguments of parties.

(2) “Meeting” means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a public body for the purpose of discussing the business of the public body or for the purpose of taking action. “Meeting” shall not mean written correspondence or an electronic communication, including e-mail, telephone, or teleconferencing, between members of a public body for the purpose of scheduling a meeting, organizing an agenda, or distributing materials to discuss at a meeting, provided that such a written correspondence or such an electronic communication that results in written or recorded information shall be available for inspection and copying under the Public Records Act as set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title.

(3) “Public body” means any board, council, or commission of the ~~state~~ State or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the ~~state~~ State or one or more of its political subdivisions, or any committee of any of the foregoing boards, councils, or commissions, except that “public body” does not include councils or similar groups established by the ~~governor~~ Governor for the sole purpose of advising the ~~governor~~ Governor with respect to policy.

(4) “Publicly announced” means that notice is given to an editor, publisher, or news director of a newspaper or radio station serving the area of the ~~state~~ State in which the public body has jurisdiction, and to any ~~editor, publisher, or news director~~ person who has requested under subdivision 312(c)(5) of this title to be notified of special meetings.

(5) “Quasi-judicial proceeding” means a proceeding which is:

(A) a contested case under the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act; or

(B) a case in which the legal rights of one or more persons who are granted party status are adjudicated, which is conducted in such a way that all parties have opportunity to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses presented by other parties, which results in a written decision, and the result of which is appealable by a party to a higher authority.

Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 312 is amended to read:

#### § 312. RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

(a)(1) All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times, except as provided in section 313 of this title. No resolution, rule, regulation, appointment, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such open meeting, except as provided under ~~section 313(a)(2)~~ subdivision 313(b)(1) of this title. ~~A meeting may be conducted by audio conference or other electronic means, as long as the provisions of this subchapter are met.~~ A meeting of a public body is subject to the public accommodation requirements of 9 V.S.A. chapter 139. A public body shall electronically record by audio tape, all public hearings held to provide a forum for public comment on a proposed rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 840. The public shall have access to copies of such tapes electronic recordings as described in section 316 of this title.

#### (2) Participation in meetings through electronic or other means.

(A) As long as the requirements of this subchapter are met, one or more of the members of a public body may attend a regular, special, or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location.

(B) If one or more members attend a meeting by electronic or other means, such members may fully participate in discussing the business of the public body and voting to take an action, but any vote of the public body shall be taken by roll call.

(C) Each member who attends a meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location shall:

(i) identify himself or herself when the meeting is convened; and  
(ii) be able to hear the conduct of the meeting and be heard throughout the meeting.

(D) If a quorum or more of the members of a public body attend a meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the following additional requirements shall be met:

(i) At least 24 hours prior to the meeting, or as soon as practicable prior to an emergency meeting, the public body shall publicly announce the meeting, and a municipal public body shall post notice of the meeting in or near the municipal clerk's office and in at least two other public places in the municipality.

(ii) The public announcement and posted notice of the meeting shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the public body, or at least one staff or designee of the public body, shall be physically present at each designated meeting location.

(b)(1) Minutes shall be taken of all meetings of public bodies. The minutes shall cover all topics and motions that arise at the meeting and give a true indication of the business of the meeting. Minutes shall include at least the following minimal information:

(A) All members of the public body present;

(B) All other active participants in the meeting;

(C) All motions, proposals, and resolutions made, offered, and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and

(D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

(2) Minutes of all public meetings shall be matters of public record, shall be kept by the clerk or secretary of the public body, and shall be available for inspection by any person and for purchase of copies at cost upon request after five days from the date of any meeting.

(c)(1) The time and place of all regular meetings subject to this section shall be clearly designated by statute, charter, regulation, ordinance, bylaw, resolution, or other determining authority of the public body, and this information shall be available to any person upon request. The time and place of all public hearings and meetings scheduled by all Executive Branch State agencies, departments, boards, or commissions shall be available to the public as required under 3 V.S.A. § 2222(c).

(2) The time, place, and purpose of a special meeting subject to this section shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours before the meeting. Municipal public bodies shall post notices of special meetings in or near the municipal clerk's office and in at least two other public places in the municipality, at least 24 hours before the meeting. In addition, notice shall be given, either orally or in writing, to each member of the public body at least 24 hours before the meeting, except that a member may waive notice of a special meeting.

(3) Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.

(4) Any adjourned meeting shall be considered a new meeting, unless the time and place for the adjourned meeting is announced before the meeting adjourns.

(5) ~~An editor, publisher or news director of any newspaper, radio station or television station serving the area of the state in which the public body has jurisdiction~~ A person may request in writing that a public body notify the ~~editor, publisher or news director~~ person of special meetings of the public body. The request shall apply only to the calendar year in which it is made, unless made in December, in which case it shall apply also to the following year.

~~(d)(1) The~~ At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda for a regular or special meeting shall be:

(A) posted to a website, if one exists, that the public body maintains or designates as the official website of the body; and

(B) in the case of a municipal public body, posted in or near the municipal office and in at least two other public places in the municipality.

(2) A meeting agenda shall be made available to ~~the news media or concerned persons~~ a person prior to the meeting upon specific request.

(3)(A) Any addition to or deletion from the agenda shall be made as the first act of business at the meeting.

(B) Any other adjustment to the agenda may be made at any time during the meeting.

(e) Nothing in this section or in section 313 of this title shall be construed

as extending to the ~~judicial branch~~ Judicial Branch of the ~~government~~ Government of Vermont or of any part of the same or to the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board; nor shall it extend to the deliberations of any public body in connection with a quasi-judicial proceeding; nor shall anything in this section be construed to require the making public of any proceedings, records, or acts which are specifically made confidential by the laws of the United States of America or of this ~~state~~ State.

(f) A written decision issued by a public body in connection with a quasi-judicial proceeding need not be adopted at an open meeting if the decision will be a public record.

(g) The provisions of this subchapter shall not apply to site inspections for the purpose of assessing damage or making tax assessments or abatements, clerical work, or work assignments of staff or other personnel. Routine, day-to-day administrative matters that do not require action by the public body, may be conducted outside a duly warned meeting, provided that no money is appropriated, expended, or encumbered.

(h) At an open meeting the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the public body during the meeting as long as order is maintained. Public comment shall be subject to reasonable rules established by the chairperson. This subsection shall not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the ~~parole board~~ Parole Board from meeting at correctional facilities with attendance at the meeting subject to rules regarding access and security established by the superintendent of the facility.

Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. § 313 is amended to read:

### § 313. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

(a) No public body ~~described in section 312 of this title~~ may hold an executive session from which the public is excluded, except by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members present in the case of any public body of State government or of a majority of its members present in the case of any public body of a municipality or other political subdivision. A motion to go into executive session shall indicate the nature of the business of the executive session, and no other matter may be considered in the executive session. Such vote shall be taken in the course of an open meeting and the result of the vote recorded in the minutes. No formal or binding action shall be taken in executive session except for actions relating to the securing of real estate options under subdivision ~~(2)~~ (b)(1) of this ~~subsection~~ section. Minutes of an executive session need not be taken, but if they are, shall not be made public



subject to subsection 312(b) of this title.

(b) A public body may not hold an executive session except to consider one or more of the following:

~~(1) Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage;~~

~~(2)~~(1) The negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options;

~~(3)~~(2) The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee, including discussion, interview, and evaluation of the merits of a candidate for public office or employment, provided that a final decision to hire or appoint a public officer or employee shall be made in an open meeting;

~~(4)~~(3) A disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee; but nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair the right of such officer or employee to a public hearing if formal charges are brought;

~~(5)~~(4) A clear and imminent peril to the public safety;

~~(6)~~(5) Discussion or consideration of records or documents excepted Records exempt from the access to public records provisions of section 317 316 of this title.— Discussion or consideration of the excepted record or document; provided, however, that discussion of the exempt record shall not itself permit an extension of the executive session to the general subject to which the record or document pertains;

~~(7)~~(6) The academic records or suspension or discipline of students;

~~(8)~~(7) Testimony from a person in a parole proceeding conducted by the Parole Board if public disclosure of the identity of the person could result in physical or other harm to the person;

~~(9)~~(8) Information relating to a pharmaceutical rebate or to supplemental rebate agreements, which is protected from disclosure by federal law or the terms and conditions required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a condition of rebate authorization under the Medicaid program, considered pursuant to 33 V.S.A. §§ 1998(f)(2) and 2002(c);

(9) Municipal or school security or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety;

(10) After making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would place the public body or a person involved at a substantial

disadvantage:

(A) Contracts;

(B) Labor relations agreements with employees;

(C) Arbitration or mediation;

(D) Grievances, other than tax grievances; or

(E) Professional legal advice in connection with pending or imminent civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party.

~~(b)~~(c) Attendance in executive session shall be limited to members of the public body, and, in the discretion of the public body, its staff, clerical assistants and legal counsel, and persons who are subjects of the discussion or whose information is needed.

~~(e)~~(d) The Senate and House of Representatives, in exercising the power to make their own rules conferred by Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution, shall be governed by the provisions of this section in regulating the admission of the public as provided in Chapter II, § 8 of the Constitution.

Sec. 4. 1 V.S.A. § 314 is amended to read:

§ 314. PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

(a) A person who is a member of a public body and who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of this subchapter, a person who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of this subchapter on behalf or at the behest of a public body, or a person who knowingly and intentionally participates in the wrongful exclusion of any person or persons from any meeting for which provision is herein made, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$500.00.

~~(b)(1) The attorney general~~ Prior to instituting an action under subsection (c) of this section, the Attorney General or any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this subchapter shall provide the public body written notice that alleges a specific violation of this subchapter and requests a specific cure of such violation. The public body will not be liable for attorney's fees and litigation costs under subsection (d) of this section if it cures in fact a violation of this subchapter in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) Upon receipt of the written notice of alleged violation, the public body shall respond publicly to the alleged violation within seven business days by:

(A) acknowledging the violation of this subchapter and stating an intent to cure the violation within 14 calendar days; or

(B) stating that the public body has determined that no violation has occurred and that no cure is necessary.

(3) Failure of a public body to respond to a written notice of alleged violation within seven business days shall be treated as a denial of the violation for purposes of enforcement of the requirements of this subchapter.

(4) Within 14 calendar days after a public body acknowledges a violation under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection, the public body shall cure the violation at an open meeting by:

(A) either ratifying, or declaring as void, any action taken at or resulting from a meeting in violation of this subchapter; and

(B) adopting specific measures that actually prevent future violations.

(c) Following expiration of the seven-business-day response period of subdivision (b)(2) of this section and, if applicable, of the additional 14-calendar-day cure period for public bodies acknowledging a violation, the Attorney General or any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this subchapter may ~~apply to the superior court~~ bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which the violation has taken place for appropriate injunctive relief or for a declaratory judgment. An action may be brought under this section no later than one year after the meeting at which the alleged violation occurred or to which the alleged violation relates. Except as to cases the ~~court~~ Court considers of greater importance, proceedings before the ~~superior court~~ Civil Division of the Superior Court, as authorized by this section and appeals therefrom, take precedence on the docket over all cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(d) The Court shall assess against a public body found to have violated the requirements of this subchapter reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this subchapter in which the complainant has substantially prevailed, unless the Court finds that:

(1)(A) the public body had a reasonable basis in fact and law for its position; and

(B) the public body acted in good faith. In determining whether a public body acted in good faith, the Court shall consider, among other factors, whether the public body responded to a notice of an alleged violation of this subchapter in a timely manner under subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) the public body cured the violation in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

( Committee Vote: 9-0-2)

**H. 602**

An act relating to municipal budget committees

**Rep. Devereux of Mount Holly**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2646 is amended to read:

§ 2646. TOWN OFFICERS; QUALIFICATION; ELECTION

At the annual meeting, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters the following town officers, who shall serve until the next annual meeting and until successors are chosen, unless otherwise provided by law:

\* \* \*

(8) A collector of current taxes, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes;

(9) A collector of delinquent taxes, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes, for a term of one year unless a town votes that a collector of delinquent taxes shall be elected for a term of three years. When a town votes for a three-year term for the collector of delinquent taxes, that three-year term shall remain in effect until the town rescinds it by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose;

\* \* \*

(12) A trustee of public funds if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes;

\* \* \*

(14) A cemetery commissioner if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes;

(15) One or more patrol officers to patrol town highways under the direction of the selectboard, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes;

(16) One or two road commissioners who shall be elected by ballot if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes; otherwise they shall be appointed by the selectboard as provided in section 2651 of this chapter. The road commissioners shall be elected for a term of one year unless a town votes that the commissioners shall be elected for a term of two or three years. When a town votes for a two-year or three-year term for the office of road commissioner, that two-year or three-year term shall remain in effect until the town rescinds it by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose;

(17) Three water commissioners unless the town votes to elect additional selectboard members, in which case the number of water commissioners shall, at the discretion of the selectboard, be the same as the number of members that comprise the selectboard. The commissioners shall be elected by ballot if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes; otherwise they shall be appointed by the selectboard as provided in section 2651 of this chapter;

(18) Five members of an advisory budget committee, if the town so votes, unless the town votes to elect additional advisory budget committee members. The advisory budget committee members shall be elected by ballot, unless the town votes to have those members appointed by the selectboard.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. chapter 33, subchapter 14 is added to read:

Subchapter 14. Budget Committee

§ 1147. ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE CREATION; DUTIES

If a municipality creates an advisory budget committee as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2646, the committee shall evaluate the municipality's budget and make recommendations to the selectboard for the budget based on its findings.

Sec. 3. EFFECT OF ACT; PREVIOUS TOWN ORDERS

A town that has ordered the election of officers under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2646 prior to the effective date of Sec. 1 of this act may continue to elect those officers after the effective date of Sec. 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

( **Committee Vote: 9-0-2** )

**H. 685**

An act relating to identification and registration of moorings

**Rep. Quimby of Concord**, for the Committee on **Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 401 is amended to read:

§ 401. POLICY

(a) Lakes and ponds which are public waters of Vermont and the lands lying thereunder are a public trust, and it is the policy of the State that these waters and lands shall be managed to serve the public good, as defined by section 405 of this title, to the extent authorized by statute. For the purposes of this chapter, the exercise of this management shall be limited to encroachments

subject to ~~section 403 of this title~~ subchapter 2 and moorings subject to subchapter 3 of this chapter. The management of these waters and lands shall be exercised by the Department of Environmental Conservation in accordance with this chapter and the rules of the Department.

(b) For the purposes of regulation of encroachments under subchapter 2 of this chapter, jurisdiction of the Department shall be construed as extending to all lakes and ponds which are public waters and the lands lying thereunder, which lie beyond the shoreline or shorelines delineated by the mean water level of any lake or pond which is a public water of the State, as such mean water level is determined by the Department. For the purposes of regulation of encroachments under subchapter 2 of this chapter, jurisdiction shall include encroachments of docks and piers on the boatable tributaries of Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog upstream to the first barrier to navigation, and encroachments of docks and piers on the Connecticut River impoundments and boatable tributaries of such impounds upstream to the first barrier to navigation. No provision of this chapter shall be construed to permit trespass on private lands without the permission of the owner.

(c) For purposes of regulation of moorings regulated under subchapter 3 of this chapter, jurisdiction of the Department shall be construed as extending to all public waters of the State.

Sec. 2. 29 V.S.A. § 402(8) is added to read:

(8) “Mooring” means a buoy, piling, stake, or other apparatus used to secure, berth, or moor vessels in public water. It does not include fixed piers connected to the shore or accessory structures directly related thereto that are encroachments subject to the permitting requirements of section 403 of this title.

Sec. 3. 29 V.S.A. § 403(b) is amended to read:

(b) A permit shall not be required for the following uses provided that navigation or boating is not unreasonably impeded:

\* \* \*

(6) Moorings, as defined by subdivision 402(8) of this chapter.

Sec. 4. 29 V.S.A. § 406 is amended to read:

§ 406. APPEALS

Appeals of any act or decision of the ~~department~~ Department under this ~~chapter~~ subchapter shall be made in accordance with 10 V.S.A. chapter 220 ~~of Title 10.~~

Sec. 5. 29 V.S.A. § 409 is amended to read:

§ 409. INJUNCTION

Any person aggrieved by any violation of this ~~chapter subchapter~~, or the ~~attorney general~~ Attorney General at the request of the ~~department~~ Department, may institute any appropriate action in the ~~superior court~~ Superior Court of the county in which a proposed or existing encroachment is located to prevent, restrain, correct, or abate any violation of this ~~chapter subchapter~~ or of the conditions of any permit issued under this ~~chapter subchapter~~.

Sec. 6. 29 V.S.A. chapter 11, subchapter 3 is added to read:

Subchapter 3. Moorings

§ 416. IDENTIFICATION OF MOORINGS

(a) A person who places a mooring on or in the waters of the State shall paint on or attach to the mooring the owner's name and address.

(b) Any person may use a mooring not bearing the owner's name and address to secure his or her vessel.

§ 417. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOORINGS

A person who ties or otherwise attaches a vessel to an identified mooring of another without express permission of the mooring's owner is subject to an administrative penalty of not more than \$75.00.

§ 418. APPEALS

Appeals of any act or decision of the Department under this subchapter shall be made in accordance with 10 V.S.A. chapter 220.

§ 419. APPLICATION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

This subchapter shall not apply to a mooring subject to a validly issued municipal ordinance.

Sec. 7. RECODIFICATION

29 V.S.A. §§ 401–402 are recodified within chapter 11 to be subchapter 1, which is added to read:

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

Sec. 8. RECODIFICATION

29 V.S.A. §§ 403–410 are recodified within chapter 11 to be subchapter 2, which is added to read:

Subchapter 2. Encroachments

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

( Committee Vote: 9-0-0)

**Favorable**

**H. 718**

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Village of Derby Line

**Rep. Lewis of Berlin**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill ought to pass.

( Committee Vote: 9-0-2)

**H. 864**

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

(**Rep. Emmons of Springfield** will speak for the Committee on **Corrections and Institutions**.)

**Rep. Winters of Williamstown**, for the Committee on **Appropriations**, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

## **NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 227**

An act relating to licensing and regulating property inspectors

**Rep. Higley of Lowell**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 122 is amended to read:

§ 122. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

An Office of Professional Regulation is created within the Office of the Secretary of State. The Office shall have a director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of State and shall be an exempt employee. The following boards or professions are attached to the Office of Professional Regulation:

\* \* \*

(42) Landscape Architects

(43) Property Inspectors.



Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. chapter 19 is added to read:

CHAPTER 19. PROPERTY INSPECTORS

Subchapter 1. General Provisions

§ 1051. PURPOSE AND EFFECT

In order to safeguard the life and health of the people of this State, no person shall practice, or offer to practice, property inspecting unless currently licensed under this chapter.

§ 1052. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation.

(2) “License” means a current authorization granted by the Director permitting the practice of property inspecting.

(3) “Practice of property inspecting” means performing or offering to perform services involving the physical inspection of real property structures and other improvements for a fee or other compensation in order to evaluate the condition of the property, including any safety issues or material defects.

(4) “Property inspector” means a person who is licensed under this chapter to engage in the practice of property inspecting.

§ 1053. PROHIBITIONS; OFFENSES

(a) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to:

(1) sell or fraudulently obtain or furnish any property inspector degree, diploma, certificate of registration, license, or any other related document or record or to aid or abet in so doing;

(2) practice property inspecting under cover of any degree, diploma, registration, license, or related document or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or signed or issued unlawfully or under fraudulent representation;

(3) practice property inspecting unless currently licensed to do so under the provisions of this chapter;

(4) represent himself or herself as being licensed by this State to practice property inspecting or use in connection with a name any words, letters, signs, or figures that imply that a person is a property inspector when not licensed or otherwise authorized under this chapter; or

(5) practice property inspecting during the time a license or

authorization issued under this chapter is suspended or revoked.

(b) Any person violating this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in 3 V.S.A. § 127.

#### § 1054. EXCEPTIONS

This chapter does not prohibit:

(1) the practice of property inspection that is incidental to his or her program of study by a person enrolled in a property inspection training program approved by the Director; or

(2) the practice of any other occupation or profession by a person duly licensed or otherwise authorized under the laws of this State.

#### Subchapter 2. Administration

#### § 1071. DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR

(a) The Director shall:

(1) provide general information to applicants for licensure as property inspectors;

(2) receive applications for licensure and issue licenses to applicants qualified under this chapter;

(3) administer fees as established by law;

(4) refer all disciplinary matters to an administrative law officer;

(5) renew, revoke, and reinstate licenses as ordered by an administrative law officer; and

(6) explain appeal procedures to licensed property inspectors and to applicants, and complaint procedures to the public.

(b) The Director may adopt rules necessary to perform his or her duties under this section.

#### § 1072. ADVISOR APPOINTEES

(a) The Secretary of State shall appoint two property inspectors for five-year staggered terms to serve at the Secretary's pleasure as advisors in matters relating to property inspection. One of the initial appointments may be for less than a five-year term.

(b) An appointee shall have not less than five years' experience as a property inspector immediately preceding appointment; shall be licensed as a property inspector in Vermont; and shall be actively engaged in the practice of property inspecting in this State during incumbency.

(c) The Director shall seek the advice of the property inspector advisors in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

### Subchapter 3. Licenses

#### § 1091. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

Each applicant for licensure as a property inspector shall meet the following minimum requirements:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age and have successfully completed high school or its equivalent.

(2) Complete no less than 80 hours of education approved by the Director covering all of the following real property core components:

(A) heating systems;

(B) cooling systems;

(C) plumbing systems;

(D) electrical systems;

(E) structural components;

(F) foundations;

(G) roof coverings;

(H) exterior and interior components; and

(I) site aspects as they affect the building.

(3) Pass an examination required for licensure. The Director shall identify by rule an eligibility examination required for licensure that is an independent, nationally recognized proctored examination.

(4) Complete a minimum number of property inspections incidental to a program of study in a property inspection training program administered by an independent, nationally recognized organization. The Director shall identify by rule the minimum number of inspections and acceptable organizations required by this subdivision (4).

(5) Provide proof of certification issued by an independent, nationally recognized organization that provides certification for property inspectors. The Director shall identify by rule acceptable organizations for certification.

#### § 1092. LICENSE RENEWAL

(a) A license shall be renewed every two years on a schedule determined by the Director upon application and payment of the required fee. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall result in suspension of all

privileges granted to the licensee, beginning on the expiration date of the license.

(b) A license that has lapsed may be renewed upon payment of the biennial renewal fee and the late renewal penalty.

(c) The Director may adopt rules necessary for the protection of the public to assure the Director that an applicant whose license has lapsed or who has not worked for more than five years as a property inspector is professionally qualified for license renewal. Conditions imposed under this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

### § 1093. APPLICATIONS

Applications for licensure and license renewal shall be on forms provided by the Director. Each application shall contain a statement under oath showing the applicant's education, experience, and other pertinent information and shall be accompanied by the required fee.

### § 1094. LICENSURE GENERALLY

The Director shall issue a license or renew a license, upon payment of the fees required under this chapter, to an applicant or licensee who has satisfactorily met all the requirements of this chapter.

### § 1095. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay those fees set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 125.

## Sec. 3. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(a) Notwithstanding the provision of Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. § 1072(b) (advisor appointees; qualifications), that requires an advisor appointee to be licensed as a property inspector in Vermont, an initial advisor appointee may be in the process of applying for licensure if he or she otherwise meets the requirements for licensure as a property inspector and the other requirements of Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. chapter 19.

(b) A person who has been actively engaged in the business of property inspection in this State as the primary means of his or her livelihood for at least five years preceding the effective date of this subsection shall be eligible for licensure without completion of the licensure eligibility requirements of Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. § 1091(2)–(5) (eligibility for licensure). Such an applicant shall be issued a license by providing evidence satisfactory to the Director of the knowledge and experience equivalent to the licensure eligibility requirements of Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. chapter 19. All applicants shall pay an initial fee and fulfill all other license application requirements.

(c) Effective on July 1, 2016, all applicants for initial licensure or renewal shall meet the licensure eligibility requirements of Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. § 1091.

(d) The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation may adopt rules necessary to perform his or her duties under Sec. 2 of this act, 26 V.S.A. chapter 19, prior to the effective date of that section.

#### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014 except this section and Sec. 3 (transitional provisions), which shall take effect on passage.

**( Committee Vote: 11-0-0)**

**Rep. Branagan of Georgia**, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on **Government Operations**.

**(Committee Vote: 9-0-2)**

### **H. 631**

An act relating to lottery commissions

**Rep. Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh**, for the Committee on **General, Housing and Military Affairs**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 31 V.S.A. § 658 is amended to read:

§ 658. STATE LOTTERY FUND

\* \* \*

(b) Expenditures for administrative and overhead expenses of the operation of the lottery, except agent and bank commissions, shall be paid from lottery receipts from an appropriation authorized for that purpose. Agent commissions shall be set by the ~~lottery commission~~ Lottery Commission and may not exceed 6.25 percent of gross receipts and bank commissions may not exceed ~~± one~~ one percent of gross receipts. Any store that sells a winning draw ticket shall receive its commission in a manner consistent with the rules adopted by the Lottery Commission.

\* \* \*

#### Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

**( Committee Vote: 8-0-0)**

**Favorable**

**H. 683**

An act relating to the income tax checkoff for Vermont Green Up

**Rep. Clarkson of Woodstock**, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill ought to pass.

( **Committee Vote: 10-0-1**)

**Consent Calendar**

**Concurrent Resolutions**

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration before the end of the session of the next legislative day. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Secretary's office and/or the House Clerk's office, respectively. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar and Senate Calendar.

**H.C.R. 235**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Alexina Federhen on winning U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders's 2014 State of the Union Essay Contest

**H.C.R. 236**

House concurrent resolution honoring employees of municipal public works departments and designating May 18–24, 2014 as Public Works Week in Vermont

**H.C.R. 237**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Stephen A. Sampson on his selection as the 2013 Vermont Assistant Principal of the Year

**H.C.R. 238**

House concurrent resolution honoring Diane Marcoux-LaClair on her career accomplishments as an elementary school teacher

**H.C.R. 239**

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Town of Londonderry on its revitalization of Pingree Park

**H.C.R. 240**

House concurrent resolution honoring Lexa Clark for her leadership as captain of the Jamaica Rescue Squad

**H.C.R. 241**

House concurrent resolution congratulates CVS Caremark for the decision to terminate the sale of all tobacco products, including cigarettes

**H.C.R. 242**

House concurrent resolution honoring the federal TRIO programs in Vermont

**H.C.R. 243**

House concurrent resolution designating March 2014 as Myeloma Awareness Month in Vermont

**H.C.R. 244**

House concurrent resolution honoring the New Haven Town moderators

**H.C.R. 245**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Elaine Pinckney on her being named the 2013 Frederick H. Tuttle Superintendent of the Year

**H.C.R. 246**

House concurrent resolution designating April 2014 as Month of the Military Child in Vermont

**H.C.R. 247**

House concurrent resolution honoring the retiring Weybridge Selectboard members Gale Hurd, Steven Smith, and Peter James

**H.C.R. 248**

House concurrent resolution honoring Bridport's Collector of Delinquent Taxes Harry "Boo" Duffany

**H.C.R. 249**

House concurrent resolution recognizing the significant health care role of the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice

**H.C.R. 250**

House concurrent resolution congratulating U.S. Navy Ensign Matthew McVay on his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy with a 4.0 GPA

**H.C.R. 251**

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative and Senator Merritt S. Hewitt

**H.C.R. 252**

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Town of Corinth

**H.C.R. 253**

House concurrent resolution congratulating Edward Koren of Brookfield on his being named Vermont's newest Cartoonist Laureate

**H.C.R. 254**

House concurrent resolution honoring Laura Soares of Randolph for her contributions to public education policy and governance

**Information Notice**

**Deadline for Introducing Bills**

Pursuant to Rule 40(c) during the second year of the biennium, except with the prior consent of the Committee on Rules, no committee, except the Committees on Appropriations, Ways and Means or Government Operations, may introduce a bill drafted in standard form after the last day of March (March 31, 2014). The Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means bill may be drafted in standard form at any time, and Government Operations bills pertaining to city or town charters, may be drafted in standard form at any time.

If you are planning on a resolution for presentation at your Town Meeting, please see Michael Chernick with your information by February 14th or sooner, if possible. This will allow sufficient time for processing and passage by both bodies. Thank you.