

H.595 Agency of Controlled Substances Study
House Committee on Government Operations

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H.595 Agency of Controlled Substances Study Why?

Currently the Division of Liquor Control and the Division controlling the Lottery are overseen by boards.

The Study would look at merging the two profit making divisions into an Agency of Controlled Substances (Products) that are limited for purchase by age. Currently the Liquor Control profits go into the General Fund and the Lottery profits go into the Education Fund but there are concerns that indicate that this siloing should be studied and possibly removed. Break away tickets might be sold by liquor control establishments.

The Vermont liquor, beer and wine industries are growing. There is pressure to re-evaluate the way we update regulation of production and sales.

Vermont is not ready to respond to the digital age of gaming. This needs to be addressed.

Studying this merger will create a taxation foundation for other controlled substances the State may consider for sale at some future time like marijuana.

The Department of Liquor Control operates as an island of its own, independent with little oversight, accountability. As an Agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor there would be more timely accountability.

The Lottery sits in Entertainment not really the most appropriate location also with a Board.

Some question linking the funding of Education with Gambling perhaps funding would be better from the General Fund.

There are many questions on how to best regulate our profit products limited by age. Let's fund a study that looks at putting them together.

Thanks.

Rep. Joanna Cole, with thanks to Rep. Tom Stevens and others.