



The
UNIVERSITY
of VERMONT

The Vermont Legislative Research Service

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Policy research assistance for 2016 legislative session

The Vermont Legislative Research Service (VLRS) is taking requests from legislators for policy research during the 2016 session. The VLRS operates several student research teams to answer your policy questions working directly under the supervision of University of Vermont Political Science Professor Anthony Gierzynski (VLRS Director), Professor Robert Bartlett and Professor Eileen Burgin. The VLRS exists to provide nonpartisan information for you on issues before the legislature.

What can we do for you?

The types of research requests we should be able to fill include:

- investigations into practices and programs in other states (through the Web, the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), and phone contact with other state officials);
- reports summarizing the latest academic studies on a particular topic;
- information on federal programs and grants;
- and, information regarding the state of Vermont.

In the last couple of years students have done numerous reports including analyses of:

- Soda Taxes and Obesity <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Health/soda%20tax%20and%20obesity.pdf>
- The Costs of Obesity <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Health/Overall%20costs%20of%20obesity.pdf>
- Issues Involving Children of Incarcerated Parents
<http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/CriminalJusticeandCorrections/childrenofincarceratedparents.pdf>
- The Sale of Raw Milk <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Agriculture/rawmilk.pdf>
- Rural Broadband Development <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/EconomicIssues/ruralbroadband.pdf>
- School Bus Idling Policies <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Education/schoolbusidling.pdf>
- LEED Building Standards <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Energy/LEED.pdf>
- Pharmaceutical Residues in the Water <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/Environment/pharmaceuticalresidues.pdf>
- The Role of Taxes in Business Location Decisions <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/EconomicIssues/capitalgainstax.pdf>
- Ballot Order Effects in Election Outcomes <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/PoliticalProcess/ballotordereffects.pdf>

All of the policy reports are posted on our Web page: <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/>. Legislators should please keep in mind that we will not be able to fill all requests due to time constraints and/or difficulty in finding the requested information, but we will do our best to get the information you request to you in a timely manner.

How to contact the VLRS?

Requests should be submitted via our webpage <http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/?Page=VLRSAutoForm.html> or directly to Professor Gierzynski's email agierzyn@uvm.edu. Professor Gierzynski can also be reached at 802-656-7973 or 802-999-9339 (cell). Requests for information should be as specific as possible. Include the type of report (a full policy report or a quick memo or both) the date by which you need the information, your name and how to contact you. Also let us know if you want to remain anonymous as the requester. We will mail three paper copies of the completed reports to the legislator making the request (unless requested otherwise) and the reports will be posted on our Web page.