

## **Economic Development Bill – Suggested language from JFO**

I have rewritten Tom's recommendations to reflect the nature of the Minimum Wage Study Committee as a working policy group that will meet for a short time.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall take testimony on the following issues:

- (1) the minimum wage in Vermont and livable wage in Vermont in relation to the real cost of living;
- (2) the economic effects of small to large increases in the Vermont minimum wage;
- (3) how the potential for improving economic prosperity for Vermonters with low and middle income through the Vermont Earned Income Tax Credit might interact with raising the minimum wage;
- (4) specific means of mitigating the "benefits cliff," especially for those earning below the livable wage, to enhance work incentives;
- (5) the effects of potential reductions in federal transfer payments as the minimum wage increases as well as impacts of possible reductions in federal benefits to come from the new administration in D.C.;
- (6) ways to offset losses in state and federal benefits through state benefit programs or state tax policy; and
- (7) implications of a greater differential between the minimum wage in Vermont and that in New Hampshire.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Labor, Tax Department, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Agency of Human Services and the Joint Fiscal Office and its associated contractors.