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WELCOME TO

# GENERAL, HOUSING & MILITARY AFFAIRS

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INTRODUCTION

REP. TOM STEVENS JAN 7, 2021

NOT IN ROOM 44

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# WHAT DO WE DO?

## OUR PORTFOLIO OF SUBJECT MATTER

**“The House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs considers matters relating to alcoholic beverages; housing; claims against the state; labor relations; military matters, including those relating to civil defense and discharged veterans, their dependents, and survivors; and all matters relating to subjects for which there is no other appropriate committee.”**

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# ALCOHOL

- › **The Department of Liquor and Lottery**
    - › **Over \$200 million in sales. Approx. \$60m in profits combined.**
    - › **Alcohol profits go to the General Fund, Lottery profits to the Education Fund.**
  - › **Control State for spirits, but not beer & wine**
  - › **Enforcement and education**
  - › **Licensing**
  - › **Cigarettes**
  - › **No role yet in cannabis**
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# HOUSING

- **Primarily, but not solely, interested in “affordable housing” as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as “housing that is affordable”, meaning that is built for those above a certain salary range and usually by private developers.**
  - **Landlord/Tenant law, including mobile homes**
  - **Homelessness mitigation and policy. We spearheaded the policy relating to using \$85 million plus for rental and mortgage arrearages, the eviction moratorium, and allowed projects to help provide upwards of 450 units of housing for the homeless.**
  - **Discrimination policy**
  - **Services (financial education, rental assistance) available to this demographic**
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# CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE

- **An anachronism. We have not handled a “claim against the state” in years. It refers to claims against the State for personal injury, which are covered by 12 V.S.A. chapter 189. In practice, it is no longer a part of our portfolio and the description has not been updated.**

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# LABOR RELATIONS

- **Both union and non-union labor issues**
  - **Union legislation is primarily but not solely restricted to Vermont-based public sector unions**
  - **Worker-oriented legislation can include minimum wage, paid family leave, and other appropriate issues that deal with employees in the work place, including discrimination.**
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# MILITARY MATTERS

- **Adjutant General election biennially**
  - **Issues and some benefits related to the Vermont National Guard, their members and their families**
  - **Upcoming deployments and programs to help with families**
  - **Veteran's issues can include providing service officers for Vermont veterans, some issues related to the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the Veterans Home**
  - **Licensing issues for veterans and spouses of active duty personnel**
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# ALL MATTERS, NO OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE

› **Examples:**

- › **Abenaki relations (recognition, fishing licenses, state park signage, apology)**
  - › **Electrical and plumbing licensing (public safety) and elevator safety**
  - › **Cemetery law (recently, natural burials)**
  - › **Changing standard time**
  - › **Regulating the appearance of disabled or disfigured at state or county fairs**
  - › **State designation (for example, snow sports)**
  - › **On occasion, bills that are tangential to other committees, but not quite a good fit for them**
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# STAFF

- › **Ron Wild: Committee Assistant**
  - › **Joint Fiscal Office is nonpartisan and responds to specific requests for financial research and/or fiscal notes**
  - › **Legislative Counsel is subject based**
    - › **Damien Leonard**
    - › **David Hall**
    - › **Tucker Anderson**
    - › **Others with a specific practice**
    - › **Nonpartisan**
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