

Helen Argraves

HCED Legislative Intern

UVM '25

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## WEEKLY REPORT

8:45 AM, January 24, 2025, Room 35

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

### I. Bills in Committee

A. Bill S.16 – An act relating to infant changing stations in restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation

- Sponsors include Sen. Clarkson.
- Read 1st time and referred to committee on Jan. 17, 2025

B. Bill S.6 – An act relating to repealing the Commissioner of Labor's authority to recommend a subminimum wage for individuals with a disability

### II. Key Points

A. Agricultural Worker Labor & Employment Laws Study (2024)

- Rep. Durfee, House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency & Forestry
- Recommendations to the committee: The legislature should prioritize work on minimum wage and overtime before collective bargaining.
  - Sen. Hinsdale: will be drafting a proposal addressing these points

B. Office of the State Treasurer Initiatives Updates

- *Undue Medical Debt*

- *Vermont Saves Program*
- *Baby Bonds*

C. Special Oversight Committee on Workforce Strategy & Development

- Rep. Marcotte, House Committee on Commerce & Economic Development
  - Legislation addressing separation of duties between Dept. of Labor Commissioner and Executive Director of Workforce Strategy & Development
  - Working closely with Sen. Clarkson

D. Joint Fiscal Office, Basic Needs Budget continued...

- Debate continues around livable wage, demographics and the transition from shared housing to home-ownership
- State demographics overview

E. Department of Labor, Economic and Labor Market Information Division

- Labor force participation and unemployment rate updates
  - Unemployment at approximately 2.4%
  - Approximate 2:1 ratio of job openings to unemployed Vermonters
  - General contraction of labor force participation with participation highs noted in Franklin and Chittenden counties