

# Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

### ACTION CALENDAR

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Third Reading

S. 105 An act relating to consumer justice enforcement.....	391
S. 244 An act relating to repealing the guidelines for spousal maintenance awards.....	391

##### Second Reading

##### Favorable

H. 694 An act relating to captive insurance companies Finance Report - Sen. Cummings .....	391
---	-----

##### Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 237 An act relating to providing representation to needy persons concerning immigration matters Judiciary Report - Sen. Sears .....	391
--	-----

##### House Proposal of Amendment

S. 103 An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances and hazardous materials .....	392
Health and Welfare Report - Sen. Lyons .....	402
Appropriations Report - Sen. McCormack .....	402
Amendment - Sen. Kitchel .....	403

##### Senate Resolution For Action

S.R. 11 Senate resolution encouraging its members, in 2019, to initiate an amendment to the Vermont Constitution regarding equal rights.....	404
---	-----

## NOTICE CALENDAR

### Second Reading

#### Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

- S. 40** An act relating to increasing the minimum wage  
Econ. Dev., Housing and General Affairs Report - Sen. Sirotkin ..... 406  
Appropriations Report - Sen. Sears ..... 407
- S. 175** An act relating to the wholesale importation of prescription drugs  
into Vermont, bulk purchasing, and the impact of prescription drug costs  
on health insurance premiums  
Health and Welfare Report - Sen. Ayer ..... 408  
Finance Report - Sen. Lyons ..... 417

---

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

---

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Third Reading**

**S. 105.**

An act relating to consumer justice enforcement.

**S. 244.**

An act relating to repealing the guidelines for spousal maintenance awards.

**Second Reading**

**Favorable**

**H. 694.**

An act relating to captive insurance companies.

**Reported favorably by Senator Cummings for the Committee on Finance.**

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

(No House amendments)

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 237.**

An act relating to providing representation to needy persons concerning immigration matters.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sears for the Committee on Judiciary.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5203 is amended to read:

§ 5203. FEDERAL COURTS

This chapter applies only to representation in or with respect to the courts of this ~~state~~ State. It does not prohibit the ~~defender-general~~ Defender General, the ~~deputy defender-general~~ Deputy Defender General, or public defenders from representing a needy person in a federal court of the United States, if:

- (1) ~~The~~ the matter arises out of or is related to an action pending or

recently pending in a court of criminal jurisdiction of the ~~state~~ State; or

(2) ~~Representation~~ representation is under a plan of the ~~United States~~ U.S. District Court as required by the Criminal Justice Act of 1964 (18 U.S.C. § 3006A); or

(3) representation is in or with respect to a matter arising out of or relating to immigration status.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 5241 is amended to read:

§ 5241. INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE CLAIM

\* \* \*

(b) In the performance of duties pursuant to a contract with or providing ad hoc legal services to the Office of the Defender General, an attorney shall have the benefit of ~~sovereign~~ immunity to the same extent as an attorney employed by the Defender General.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

### **House Proposal of Amendment**

#### **S. 103.**

An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances and hazardous materials.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Toxics Use Reduction and Reporting \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 6633 is added to read:

§ 6633. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

(a) Creation. There is created the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management in the State to:

(1) evaluate chemical inventories in the State on an annual basis;

(2) identify potential risks to human health and the environment from chemical inventories in the State; and

(3) propose measures or mechanisms to address the identified risks from chemical inventories in the State.

(b) Membership. The Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall be composed of the following nine members:

(1) one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) one member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

(4) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

(6) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(7) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(8) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(9) the Commissioner of Information and Innovation, or the Commissioner of the successor department, or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall:

(1) Convene a citizen advisory panel to provide input and expertise to the Committee. The citizen advisory panel shall consist of persons with expertise in;

(A) toxicology;

(B) environmental law;

(C) manufacturing products;

(D) environmental health;

(E) public health;

(F) risk analysis;

(G) maternal and child health care;

(H) occupational health;

(I) industrial hygiene;

(J) public policy;

(K) chemical management by academic institutions;

(L) retail sales; and

(M) development and administration of information reporting technology or databases.

(2) Monitor actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. chapter 53, and notify relevant State agencies of any EPA action relevant to the jurisdiction of the agency.

(3) Annually review chemical inventories in the State in relation to emerging scientific evidence in order to identify chemicals of high concern not regulated by the State.

(d) Assistance. The Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Natural Resources; the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; the Department of Health; the Department of Public Safety; the Department of Labor; the Agency of Commerce and Community Development; and the Department of Information and Innovation. The Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Council for legislative drafting and the assistance of the Joint Fiscal Office for the fiscal and economic analyses.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, and annually thereafter, the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall report to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy; on Health and Welfare; and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife; on Human Services; and on Commerce and Economic Development regarding the actions of the Committee. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) regarding expiration of required reports shall not apply to the report to be made under this section. The report shall include:

(1) an estimate or summary of the known chemical inventories in the State, as determined by metrics or measures established by the Committee;

(2) a summary of any change under federal statute or rule affecting the regulation of chemicals in the State;

(3) recommended legislative or regulatory action to address the risks posed by new or emerging chemicals of high concern; and

(4) recommended legislative or regulatory action to reduce health risks from exposure to chemicals of high concern and reduce risks of harm to the natural environment.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management.

(2) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall call the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management to occur on or before July 1, 2017.

(3) A majority of the membership of the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall meet no more than four times in a calendar year.

(g) Authority of agencies. The establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall not limit the independent authority of a State agency to regulate chemical use or management under existing State or applicable federal law.

## Sec. 2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT; REPORT ON TOXIC USE REDUCTION AND REPORTING

On or before February 15, 2018, after consultation with the citizen advisory panel and as part of the first report required under 10 V.S.A. § 6633(e), the Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management shall:

(1) Recommend how the State shall establish a centralized or unified electronic reporting system to facilitate compliance by businesses and other entities with chemical reporting and other regulatory requirements in the State. The recommendation shall:

(A) identify a State agency or department to establish and administer the reporting system;

(B) estimate the staff and funding necessary to administer the reporting system;

(C) propose how businesses and the public can access information submitted to or maintained as part of the reporting systems, including whether access to certain information or categories of information should be limited due to statutory requirements, regulatory requirements, trade secret protection, or other considerations;

(D) propose how information maintained as part of the reporting system can be accessed, including whether the information should be searchable by: chemical name, common name, brand name, product model, Global Product Classification (GPC) product brick description, standard industrial classification, chemical facility, geographic area, zip code, or address;

(E) propose how manufacturers of consumer products or subsets of consumer products shall report or notify the State of the presence of designated

chemicals of concern in a consumer product and how information reported by manufacturers is made available to the public;

(F) propose a method for displaying information or filtering or refining search results so that information maintained on the reporting system can be accessed or identified in a serviceable or functional manner for all users of the system, including governmental agencies or departments, commercial and industrial businesses reporting to the system, nonprofit associations, and citizens; and

(G) estimate a timeline for establishment of the reporting system.

(2) Recommend statutory amendments and regulatory revisions to existing State recordkeeping and reporting requirements for chemicals, hazardous materials, and hazardous wastes in order to facilitate assessment of risks to human health and the environment posed by the use of chemicals in the State. The recommendations shall include:

(A) the thresholds or amounts of chemicals used, manufactured, or distributed, and hazardous materials and hazardous wastes generated or managed in the State that require recordkeeping and reporting;

(B) the persons or entities using, manufacturing, or distributing chemicals and generating or managing hazardous materials and hazardous wastes that are subject to recordkeeping and reporting requirements; and

(C) any changes required to streamline and modernize existing recordkeeping and reporting requirements to facilitate compliance by businesses and other entities.

(3) Recommend amendments to the requirements for Toxic Use Reduction and Hazardous Waste Reduction under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159, subchapter 2 that shall include:

(A) The list of chemicals or materials subject to the reporting and planning requirements. The list of chemicals or materials shall include and be in addition to the chemicals or substances listed under Title III, Section 313 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 and 18 V.S.A. § 1773 (chemicals of high concern to children).

(B) The thresholds or amounts of chemicals used or hazardous waste generated by a person that require reporting and planning.

(C) The information to be reported, including:

(i) the quantity of hazardous waste generated and the quantity of hazardous waste managed during a year;

(ii) the quantity of toxic substances, or raw material resulting in hazardous waste, used during a year;

(iii) an assessment of the effect of each hazardous waste reduction measure and toxics use reduction measure implemented; and

(iv) a description of factors during a year that have affected toxics use, hazardous waste generation, releases into the environment, and on-site and off-site hazardous waste management.

(D) The persons or entities using chemicals or generating hazardous waste that are subject to reporting and planning;

(E) Proposed revisions to the toxic chemical or hazardous waste reduction planning requirements, including conditions or criteria that qualify a person to complete a plan.

(F) Any changes to streamline and modernize the program to improve its effectiveness.

(4) Draft legislation to implement the Committee's recommendations under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

\* \* \* Testing Groundwater \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 1982 is added to read:

§ 1982. TESTING OF GROUNDWATER SOURCES

(a) Definition. As used in this section, "groundwater source" means that portion of a potable water supply that draws water from the ground, including a drilled well, shallow well, driven well point, or spring.

(b) Testing prior to new use. Prior to use of a new groundwater source as a potable water supply, the person who owns or controls the groundwater source shall test the groundwater source for the parameters set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Parameters of testing. A water sample collected under this section shall be analyzed for, at a minimum: arsenic, lead, uranium, gross alpha radiation, total coliform bacteria, total nitrate and nitrite, fluoride, manganese, and any other parameters required by the Agency by rule. The Agency by rule may require testing for a parameter by region or specific geographic area of concern.

(d) Submission of test results. Results of the testing required under subsection (b) shall be submitted, on a form provided by the Department of Health, to the Department of Health and, when required by the Secretary pursuant to a permit, to the Secretary.

(e) Rulemaking. The Secretary, after consultation with the Department of Health, the Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee, private laboratories, and other interested parties, shall adopt by rule requirements regarding:

(1) when, prior to use of a new groundwater source, the test required under subsection (b) of this section shall be conducted;

(2) who shall be authorized to sample the source for the test required under subsections (b) and (c) of this section, provided that the rule shall include the person who owns or controls the groundwater source and licensed well drillers among those authorized to sample the source;

(3) how a water sample shall be collected in order to comply with the requirements of the analyses to be performed; and

(4) any other requirements necessary to implement this section.

(f) Marketability of title. Noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall not affect the marketability of title or create a defect in title of a property, provided water test results required under this section are forwarded, prior to the conveyance of the property, to the Department of Health and, when required by the Secretary pursuant to a permit, to the Agency.

#### Sec. 4. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; GROUNDWATER SOURCE TESTING; RULEMAKING

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall commence rulemaking under 10 V.S.A. § 1982 on or before July 1, 2017. The Secretary shall adopt rules under 10 V.S.A. § 1982 on or before January 1, 2018.

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 501b is amended to read:

#### § 501b. CERTIFICATION OF LABORATORIES

(a) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may certify a laboratory that meets the standards currently in effect of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference and is accredited by an approved National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program accrediting authority or its equivalent to perform the testing and monitoring:

(1) required under 10 V.S.A. chapter 56 and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; and

(2) of water from a potable water supply, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972(6).

(b)(1) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may by order suspend or revoke a certificate granted under this section, after notice and opportunity to be heard, if the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner finds that the certificate holder has:

(A) submitted materially false or materially inaccurate information; or

(B) violated any material requirement, restriction, or condition of the certificate; or

(C) violated any statute, rule, or order relating to this title.

(2) The order shall set forth what steps, if any, may be taken by the certificate holder to relieve the holder of the suspension or enable the certificate holder to reapply for certification if a previous certificate has been revoked.

(c) A person may appeal the suspension or revocation of the certificate to the ~~board~~ Board under section 128 of this title.

\* \* \*

(f) A laboratory certified to conduct testing of groundwater sources or water supplies from for use by a potable water supply, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972(6), including under the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 1982, shall submit the results of groundwater analyses to the ~~department of health and the agency of natural resources~~ Department of Health in a format required by the ~~department of health~~ Department of Health.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 1974 is amended to read:

§ 1974. EXEMPTIONS

Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter, the following projects and actions are exempt:

\* \* \*

(8) From the permit required for operation of failed supply under subdivision 1973(a)(4) of this title for the use or operation of a failed supply that consists of only one groundwater source that provides water to only one single family residence.

\* \* \* Chemicals of High Concern to Children \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 18 V.S.A. § 1775(b) is amended to read:

(b) Format for notice. The Commissioner shall specify the format for submission of the notice required by subsection (a) of this section, provided that the required format shall be generally consistent with the format for submission of notice in other states with requirements substantially similar to the requirements of this section. Any notice submitted under subsection (a) shall contain the following information:

(1) the name of the chemical used or produced and its chemical abstracts service registry number;

(2) a description of the product or product component containing the chemical, including: the brand name, the product model, and the universal product code if the product has such a code;

(3) the amount of the chemical contained in each unit of the product or product component, reported by weight or parts per million as authorized by the Commissioner;

(4) the name and address of the manufacturer of the children's product and the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for the manufacturer;

(5) any other information the manufacturer deems relevant to the appropriate use of the product; and

(6) any other information required by the Commissioner under rules adopted pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 1776 is amended to read:

§ 1776. RULEMAKING; ADDITIONAL CHEMICALS OF CONCERN TO CHILDREN; PROHIBITION OF SALE

\* \* \*

(b) Additional chemicals of concern to children. The Commissioner may by rule add additional chemicals to the list of chemicals of high concern to children, provided that the Commissioner of Health, on the basis of ~~the weight of credible independent, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence~~ has research, determined determines that a chemical proposed for addition to the list meets both of the following criteria in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection:

(1) The Commissioner of Health has determined that an authoritative governmental entity or accredited research university has demonstrated that the chemical:

(A) harms the normal development of a fetus or child or causes other developmental toxicity;

(B) causes cancer, genetic damage, or reproductive harm;

(C) disrupts the endocrine system;

(D) damages the nervous system, immune system, or organs or causes other systemic toxicity; or

(E) is a persistent bioaccumulative toxic.

(2) The chemical has been found through:

(A) biomonitoring to be present in human blood, umbilical cord blood, breast milk, urine, or other bodily tissues or fluids;

(B) sampling and analysis to be present in household dust, indoor air, drinking water, or elsewhere in the home environment; or

(C) monitoring to be present in fish, wildlife, or the natural environment.

\* \* \*

(d) Rule to regulate sale or distribution.

(1) The Commissioner, ~~upon the recommendation of~~ after consultation with the Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group, may adopt a rule to regulate the sale or distribution of a children's product containing a chemical of high concern to children upon a determination that:

~~(A) children will~~ may be exposed to a chemical of high concern to children in the children's product; ~~and~~

~~(B) there is a probability that, due to the degree of exposure or frequency of exposure of a child to a chemical of high concern to children in a children's product, exposure could cause or contribute to one or more of the adverse health impacts listed under subdivision (b)(1) of this section.~~

(2) In determining whether children ~~will~~ may be exposed to a chemical of high concern in a children's product, the Commissioner shall review available, credible information regarding:

(A) the market presence of the children's product in the State;

(B) the type or occurrence of exposures to the relevant chemical of high concern to children in the children's product;

(C) the household and workplace presence of the children's product; or

(D) the potential ~~and frequency~~ of exposure of children to the chemical of high concern to children in the children's product.

(3) A rule adopted under this section may:

(A) prohibit the children's product containing the chemical of high concern to children from sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the State; or

(B) require that the children's product containing the chemical of high concern to children be labeled prior to sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the State.

(4) In any rule adopted under this subsection, the Commissioner shall adopt reasonable time frames for manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to comply with the requirements of the rules. No prohibition on sale or manufacture of a children's product in the State shall take effect sooner than two years after the adoption of a rule adopted under this section unless the Commissioner determines that an earlier effective date is required to protect human health and the new effective date is established by rule.

(5) The Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group may, at its discretion, submit to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Health and Welfare the recommendations or information from a consultation provided to the Commissioner under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

#### Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 1 (Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management), 2 (report on toxic use reduction and reporting), and 4 (groundwater testing rulemaking) shall take effect on passage.

(b) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1982(e) in Sec. 3 shall take effect on passage.

#### **Reported favorably with proposal of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare**

The Committee recommends that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further amendments as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6633, in subdivision (f)(2), after “July 1,” and before the period by striking out “2017” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2018

Second: In Sec. 2 (Intergovernmental committee on chemical management report), in the first sentence, after “February 15,” and before “, after consultation” by striking out “2018” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2019

Third: In Sec. 4 (ANR groundwater source testing rule) in the first sentence, by striking out “2017” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2018 and in the second sentence, by striking out “2018” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 2019

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

#### **Reported favorably with proposal of amendment by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Appropriations.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment as a substitute for the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare:

First: by striking out the word “Intergovernmental” wherever it appears in the bill and inserting in lieu thereof the word Interagency

Second: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6633, in subsection (b), after the word “following” by striking out the word “nine” and inserting in lieu thereof the word seven

and by striking out subdivisions (b)(1) and (2) in their entirety and renumbering the remaining subdivisions in subsection (b) to be numerically correct

Third: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6633, in subdivision (f)(2), after “July 1,” by striking out “2017” and inserting in lieu thereof 2018

Fourth: In Sec. 2 (Intergovernmental committee on chemical management report), in the first sentence, after “February 15,” by striking out “2018” and inserting in lieu thereof 2019

Fifth: In Sec. 4 (ANR groundwater source testing rule), in the first sentence, by striking out “2017” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof 2018

and in the second sentence, by striking out “2018” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof 2019

Sixth: In Sec. 9 (Effective Dates), by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) Sec. 3 (groundwater source testing) shall take effect on July 1, 2019, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1982(e) shall take effect of passage.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

**Recommendation of Amendment to S. 103 to be offered by Senator Kitchel**

Senator Kitchel moves that the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment as a substitute for the proposal of amendment recommended by the Committee on Health and Welfare:

First: By striking out “Intergovernmental” wherever it appears in the bill and inserting in lieu thereof Interagency

Second: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6633, in subsection (b), after the word “following” by striking out “nine” and inserting in lieu thereof eight

and by striking out subdivisions (b)(1) and (2) in their entirety and renumbering the remaining subdivisions in subsection (b) to be numerically correct

and by striking out the period after the renumbered (b)(7) and inserting in lieu thereof a new semicolon

and by adding a new subdivision (b)(8) to read:

(8) the Secretary of Transportation or designee.

Third: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6633, in subdivision (f)(2), after “July 1,” by striking out “2017” and inserting in lieu thereof 2018

Fourth: In Sec. 2 (Intergovernmental Committee on Chemical Management report), in the first sentence, after “February 15,” by striking out “2018” and inserting in lieu thereof 2019

Fifth: In Sec. 4 (ANR groundwater source testing rule), in the first sentence, by striking out “2017” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof 2018

and in the second sentence, by striking out “2018” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof 2019

Sixth: In Sec. 9 (Effective Dates), by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b) Sec. 3 (groundwater source testing) shall take effect on July 1, 2019, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1982(e) shall take effect on passage.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

### **Senate Resolution For Action**

#### **S.R. 11.**

Senate resolution encouraging its members, in 2019, to initiate an amendment to the Vermont Constitution regarding equal rights.

**PENDING QUESTION:** Shall the Resolution be adopted?

#### **Text of Resolution:**

*Whereas*, equal protection is a fundamental legal principle of Vermont’s system of justice and a core societal value in the Green Mountain State, and

*Whereas*, the original Vermont Constitution of 1777, in Chapter I, Clause 1, placed restrictions on the continued holding of male slaves who were 21 years of age or older and female slaves once they reached 18 years of age, and

*Whereas*, Chapter I, Article 1 of the current Vermont Constitution declares “That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights,” and Chapter I, Article 7 states “That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people,” and

*Whereas*, in 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court held that the Vermont Constitution's Common Benefits Clause entitled couples of the same gender to the equivalent legal marital rights as those granted to couples of opposite genders, and

*Whereas*, in 2000, the General Assembly established civil unions, making Vermont the first State to recognize, in statute, the marital rights of same-sex couples, and

*Whereas*, nine years later, the General Assembly established marriage equality, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's statutes prohibit discrimination against a broad list of categories in the offering of public accommodations, the sale and rental of housing, and employment, and

*Whereas*, the most recent FBI report of hate crime statistics, released on November 13, 2017, indicates the occurrence, during 2016, of a high number of hate crimes based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and other factors, and

*Whereas*, even with federal and State statutory prohibitions, there are indications that pay inequity based on gender and race continues; a proposed Vermont constitutional amendment would reassert the broad principle of equality in our State's fundamental legal document, and

*Whereas*, despite Vermont's strong statutory protections for members of groups subject to discrimination, a statute still lacks the authoritative impact and longevity of a constitutional provision, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont encourages its members, in 2019, to initiate a Vermont constitutional amendment to read as follows: "Equal protection under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of race, sex, age, religion, creed, color, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin."

## NOTICE CALENDAR

### Second Reading

#### Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

##### S. 40.

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

(a) An employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than ~~\$9.15. Beginning January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$9.60. Beginning January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.00. Beginning on January 1, 2018, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$10.50, and beginning~~ Beginning on January 1, 2019, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$11.10. Beginning on January 1, 2020, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$11.75. Beginning on January 1, 2021, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$12.50. Beginning on January 1, 2022, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$13.25. Beginning on January 1, 2023, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$14.10. Beginning on January 1, 2024, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than \$15.00, and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest \$0.01. An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than one-half the minimum wage. As used in this subsection, “a service or tipped employee” means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than \$120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service. If the minimum wage rate established by the U.S. government is greater than the rate established for

Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the U.S. government.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. CHILD CARE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; STATE PLAN

To the extent funds are appropriated, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall amend the Department for Children and Families' federal Child Care and Development Fund State Plan to:

(1) adjust the sliding scale of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program benefit to correspond with each minimum wage increase required pursuant to this act to ensure that the benefit percentage at each new minimum wage level remains the same as the percentage applied under the former minimum wage; and

(2) adjust the market rate used to inform the fee scale in a manner that offsets the estimated increased cost of child care in Vermont resulting from the increase in the minimum wage required pursuant to this act.

Sec. 3. MINIMUM WAGE; ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2023, the Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding potential mechanisms for indexing the minimum wage established pursuant to 21 V.S.A. § 384 to inflation after 2024. In particular, the report shall:

(1) identify and examine mechanisms that other jurisdictions use to index their minimum wages to inflation and the potential benefits and disadvantages of each mechanism; and

(2) identify and examine any alternative mechanisms to index the minimum wage to inflation, including alternative measures of inflation, and the potential benefits and disadvantages of each mechanism.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

**Reported favorably by Senator Sears for the Committee on Appropriations.**

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

**S. 175.**

An act relating to the wholesale importation of prescription drugs into Vermont, bulk purchasing, and the impact of prescription drug costs on health insurance premiums.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Ayer for the Committee on Health and Welfare.**

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Wholesale Importation Program \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 4 is added to read:

Subchapter 4. Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program

§ 4651. WHOLESALE IMPORTATION PROGRAM FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS; DESIGN

(a) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with interested stakeholders and appropriate federal officials, shall design a wholesale prescription drug importation program that complies with the applicable requirements of 21 U.S.C. § 384, including the requirements regarding safety and cost savings. The program design shall:

(1) designate a State agency that shall either become a licensed drug wholesaler or contract with a licensed drug wholesaler in order to seek federal certification and approval to import safe prescription drugs and provide significant prescription drug cost savings to Vermont consumers;

(2) use Canadian prescription drug suppliers regulated under the laws of Canada or of one or more Canadian provinces, or both;

(3) ensure that only prescription drugs meeting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's safety, effectiveness, and other standards shall be imported by or on behalf of the State;

(4) import only those prescription drugs expected to generate substantial savings for Vermont consumers;

(5) ensure that the program complies with the tracking and tracing requirements of 21 U.S.C. §§ 360eee and 360eee-1 to the extent feasible and practical prior to imported drugs coming into the possession of the State wholesaler and that it complies fully after imported drugs are in the possession of the State wholesaler;

(6) prohibit the distribution, dispensing, or sale of imported products outside Vermont's borders;

(7) establish a fee on each prescription or establish another financing mechanism to ensure that the program is funded adequately in a manner that does not jeopardize significant consumer savings; and

(8) include a robust audit function.

(b) On or before January 1, 2019, the Secretary of Human Services shall submit the proposed design for a wholesale prescription drug importation program to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

#### § 4652. MONITORING FOR ANTICOMPETITIVE BEHAVIOR

The Agency of Human Services shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General to identify the potential, and to monitor, for anticompetitive behavior in industries that would be affected by a wholesale prescription drug importation program.

#### § 4653. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

(a) On or before July 1, 2019, the Agency of Human Services shall submit a formal request to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for certification of the State's wholesale prescription drug importation program.

(b) The Agency of Human Services shall seek the appropriate federal approvals, waivers, exemptions, or agreements, or a combination thereof, as needed to enable all covered entities enrolled in or eligible for the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to participate in the State's wholesale prescription drug importation program to the fullest extent possible without jeopardizing their eligibility for the 340B Program.

#### § 4654. IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Upon certification and approval by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency of Human Services shall begin implementation of the wholesale prescription drug importation program and shall begin operating the program within six months following the date of the Secretary's approval. As part of the implementation process, the Agency of Human Services shall, in accordance with State procurement and contract laws, rules, and procedures as appropriate:

(1) become licensed as a wholesaler or enter into a contract with a Vermont-licensed wholesaler;

(2) contract with one or more Vermont-licensed distributors;

(3) contract with one or more licensed and regulated Canadian suppliers;

(4) engage with health insurance plans, employers, pharmacies, health care providers, and consumers;

(5) develop a registration process for health insurance plans, pharmacies, and prescription drug-administering health care providers who are willing to participate in the program;

(6) create a publicly available source for listing the prices of imported prescription drug products that shall be made available to all participating entities and consumers;

(7) create an outreach and marketing plan to generate program awareness;

(8) starting in the weeks before the program becomes operational, create and staff a hotline to answer questions and address the needs of consumers, employers, health insurance plans, pharmacies, health care providers, and other affected sectors;

(9) establish the audit function and a two-year audit work-plan cycle; and

(10) conduct any other activities that the Agency determines to be important for successful implementation of the program.

#### § 4655. ANNUAL REPORTING

(a) Annually on or before January 15, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding the operation of the wholesale prescription drug importation program during the previous calendar year, including:

(1) which prescription drugs were included in the wholesale importation program;

(2) the number of participating pharmacies, health care providers, and health insurance plans;

(3) the number of prescriptions dispensed through the program;

(4) the estimated savings to consumers, health plans, employers, and the State during the previous calendar year and to date;

(5) information regarding implementation of the audit plan and audit findings; and

(6) any other information the Secretary of Human Services deems relevant.

(b) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

\* \* \* Bulk Purchasing of Prescription Drugs \* \* \*

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 91, subchapter 5 is added to read:

Subchapter 5. Bulk Purchasing

§ 4671. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Pharmacy benefit manager” shall have the same meaning as in section 9471 of this title.

(2) “Prescription drug claims processor” means a person who does one or more of the following:

(A) processes and pays prescription drug claims;

(B) adjudicates pharmacy claims;

(C) transmits prescription drug prices and claims data between pharmacies and the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter; or

(D) processes payments to pharmacies related to the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter.

(3) “Wholesale drug distributor” shall have the same meaning as in 26 V.S.A. § 2022.

§ 4672. PRESCRIPTION DRUG BULK PURCHASING PROGRAM

(a) Purposes. There is established a bulk purchasing program for prescription drugs in the Department of Health for the purposes of:

(1) purchasing prescription drugs or reimbursing pharmacies for prescription drugs, or both, in order to receive discounted prices and rebates;

(2) making prescription drugs available at the lowest possible cost to participants in the program; and

(3) maximizing the purchasing power of prescription drug consumers in this State in order to negotiate the lowest possible prices for these consumers.

(b) Administration. The Department of Health shall administer the program, with the assistance of a wholesale drug distributor if the Department deems it appropriate, by:

(1) negotiating price discounts and rebates on prescription drugs with prescription drug manufacturers;

(2) purchasing prescription drugs on behalf of participants in the program;

(3) determining program prices and reimbursing pharmacies for prescription drugs;

(4) developing a system for allocating and distributing among program participants the program's operational costs and any rebates obtained;

(5) cooperating with other states or regional consortia in the bulk purchase of prescription drugs; and

(6) establishing terms and conditions for pharmacies to enroll in the program.

(c) Contracts. The Department may enter into contracts with one or more of the following:

(1) pharmacy benefit managers;

(2) prescription drug claims processors; or

(3) wholesale drug distributors.

(d) Application process.

(1) The Department shall create and distribute an application for enrollment in the program.

(2) The Department may charge a participant a nominal fee to:

(A) process the application for enrollment in the program; and

(B) produce and distribute identification cards for the program.

(e) Program prices.

(1) The Department shall calculate and transmit to each enrolled pharmacy the program price for each prescription drug included in the program.

(2) An enrolled pharmacy shall charge a program participant the program price for a prescription drug if the participant presents a valid program identification card.

(f) Enrollment.

(1) Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department shall automatically enroll in the program all consumers receiving prescription drugs through any other State agency or department.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, if another State agency or department demonstrates to the Department that program enrollment would result in a net increase in costs to either the State or the consumers, the other agency or department shall be exempt from automatic enrollment in the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter.

§ 4673. FEDERAL WAIVER

If a federal waiver is necessary to enable the participation of any Vermont consumer in the bulk purchasing program established in this subchapter, the Department shall take all necessary steps to obtain the waiver, and any other State agency or department that provides prescription drugs to Vermont consumers shall cooperate with the Department in obtaining the waiver.

§ 4674. RULES

The Department shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 as needed to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. At a minimum, the rules shall address:

- (1) the enrollment of pharmacies in the program; and
- (2) the issuance of prescription drug identification cards to participants in the program.

§ 4675. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Annually on or before January 15, the Department of Health shall provide a report on the progress of program implementation to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

(b) Each report shall include the following information:

(1) the number of participants in the program during the previous calendar year and the number of participants the Department anticipates for the upcoming calendar year;

(2) the number of participants for whom the program has purchased prescription drugs during the previous calendar year and to date, as well as the number of participants for whom the program expects to purchase prescription drugs during the upcoming calendar year;

(3) the total and average individual savings on prescription drug prices for participants for the previous calendar year and to date, as well as the projected total and average individual savings on prescription drug prices for participants during the upcoming calendar year;

(4) progress toward expanding the program; and

(5) any recommendations for legislation that the Department feels are necessary to implement the program further and to expand program participation.

\* \* \* Health Insurance Plan Reporting \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 4062 is amended to read:

§ 4062. FILING AND APPROVAL OF POLICY FORMS AND PREMIUMS

\* \* \*

(b)(1) In conjunction with a rate filing required by subsection (a) of this section, an insurer shall file a plain language summary of the proposed rate. All summaries shall include a brief justification of any rate increase requested, the information that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requires for rate increases over 10 percent, and any other information required by the Board. The plain language summary shall be in the format required by the Secretary of HHS pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, Public Law 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152, and shall include notification of the public comment period established in subsection (c) of this section. In addition, the insurer shall post the summaries on its website.

(2)(A) In conjunction with a rate filing required by subsection (a) of this section, an insurer shall disclose to the Board:

(i) for all covered prescription drugs, including generic drugs, brand-name drugs excluding specialty drugs, and specialty drugs dispensed at a pharmacy, network pharmacy, or mail-order pharmacy for outpatient use:

(I) the percentage of the premium rate attributable to prescription drug costs for the prior year for each category of prescription drugs;

(II) the year-over-year increase or decrease, expressed as a percentage, in per-member, per-month total health plan spending on each category of prescription drugs; and

(III) the year-over-year increase or decrease in per-member, per-month costs for prescription drugs compared to other components of the premium rate; and

(ii) the specialty tier formulary list.

(B) The insurer shall provide, if available, the percentage of the premium rate attributable to prescription drugs administered by a health care provider in an outpatient setting that are part of the medical benefit as separate from the pharmacy benefit.

(C) The insurer shall include information on its use of a pharmacy benefit manager, if any, including which components of the prescription drug coverage described in subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (2) are managed by the pharmacy benefit manager, as well as the name of the pharmacy benefit manager or managers used.

(c)(1) The Board shall provide information to the public on the Board's website about the public availability of the filings and summaries required under this section.

(2)(A) ~~Beginning no later than January 1, 2014, the~~ The Board shall post the rate filings pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and summaries pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on the Board's website within five calendar days of following filing. The Board shall also establish a mechanism by which members of the public may request to be notified automatically each time a proposed rate is filed with the Board.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 4636 is added to read:

§ 4636. IMPACT OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS ON HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS; REPORT

(a) Each health insurer with more than 200 covered lives in this State shall report to the Green Mountain Care Board, for all covered prescription drugs, including generic drugs, brand-name drugs, and specialty drugs provided in an outpatient setting or sold in a retail setting:

(1) the 25 most frequently prescribed drugs and the average wholesale price for each drug;

(2) the 25 most costly drugs by total plan spending and the average wholesale price for each drug; and

(3) the 25 drugs with the highest year-over-year price increases and the average wholesale price for each drug.

(b) The Green Mountain Care Board shall compile the information reported pursuant to subsection (a) of this section into a consumer-friendly report that demonstrates the overall impact of drug costs on health insurance premiums. The data in the report shall be aggregated and shall not reveal information as specific to a particular health benefit plan.

(c) The Board shall publish the report required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section on its website on or before January 1 of each year. Information provided to the Board pursuant to this section is exempt from inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept confidential except to the extent it is aggregated and included in the report described in subsection (b) of this section.

\* \* \* Notice of New High-Cost Drugs \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 4637 is added to read:

§ 4637. NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIGH-COST  
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Manufacturer” shall have the same meaning as “pharmaceutical manufacturer” in section 4631a of this title.

(2) “Prescription drug” means a drug as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 321.

(b) A prescription drug manufacturer shall notify the Office of the Attorney General in writing if it is introducing a new prescription drug to market at a wholesale acquisition cost that exceeds the threshold set for a specialty drug under the Medicare Part D program. The manufacturer shall provide the written notice within three calendar days following the release of the drug in the commercial market. A manufacturer may make the notification pending approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) if commercial availability is expected within three calendar days following the approval.

(c) Not later than 30 calendar days following notification pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the manufacturer shall provide all of the following information to the Office of the Attorney General in a format that the Office prescribes:

(1) a description of the marketing and pricing plans used in the launch of the new drug in the United States and internationally;

(2) the estimated volume of patients who may be prescribed the drug;

(3) whether the drug was granted breakthrough therapy designation or priority review by the FDA prior to final approval; and

(4) the date and price of acquisition if the drug was not developed by the manufacturer.

(d) The manufacturer may limit the information reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to that which is otherwise in the public domain or publicly available.

(e) The Office of the Attorney General shall publish on its website at least quarterly the information reported to it pursuant to this section. The information shall be published in a manner that identifies the information that is disclosed on a per-drug basis and shall not be aggregated in a manner that would not allow identification of the drug.

(f) The Attorney General may bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court, Washington County for injunctive relief, costs, and attorney’s fees and to impose on a manufacturer that fails to provide the information

required by subsection (c) of this section a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00 per day for every day after the notification period described in subsection (b) of this section that the required information is not reported. In any action brought pursuant to this section, the Attorney General shall have the same authority to investigate and to obtain remedies as if the action were brought under the Consumer Protection Act, 9 V.S.A. chapter 63.

\* \* \* Disclosures by Pharmacists \* \* \*

Sec. 6. 18 V.S.A. § 9473(b) is amended to read:

(b) A pharmacy benefit manager or other entity paying pharmacy claims shall not:

(1) impose a higher co-payment for a prescription drug than the co-payment applicable to the type of drug purchased under the insured's health plan;

(2) impose a higher co-payment for a prescription drug than the maximum allowable cost for the drug; or

(3) require a pharmacy to pass through any portion of the insured's co-payment to the pharmacy benefit manager or other payer;

(4) prohibit or penalize a pharmacy or pharmacist for providing information to an insured regarding the insured's cost-sharing amount for a prescription drug; or

(5) prohibit or penalize a pharmacy or pharmacist for the pharmacist or other pharmacy employee disclosing to an insured the cash price for a prescription drug or selling a lower cost drug to the insured if one is available.

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 6 (18 V.S.A. § 9473; disclosures by pharmacists) shall take effect on July 1, 2018 and shall apply to all contracts taking effect on or after that date.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

**Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance.**

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

## CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Rachel Feldman of Middlesex – Member, Capitol Complex Commission (term 10/2/17 – 2/28/18) – By Sen. Mazza for the Committee on Institutions. (2/13/18)

Robert Simpson of Burlington – Chair, State Board of Health (term 12/5/17 – 2/28/23) – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Margaret Bolton of Addison – Member, State Board of Health (term 12/12/16 – 2/28/17) – By Sen. Ayer for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Margaret Bolton of Addison – Member, State Board of Health (term 12/5/17 – 2/28/23) – By Sen. Ayer for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Don Meals of Burlington – Member, State Board of Health (9/12/16 – 2/28/19) – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Gill Faisal of Winooski – Member, Board of Medical Practice (term 1/1/17 – 12/31/22) – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Patricia Hunter of Rutland – Member, Board of Medical Practice (1/1/17 – 12/31/22) – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Ryan Sexton of Montpelier – Member, Board of Medical Practice (term 6/14/16 – 12/31/18) – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

Alexandra Potter of Starksboro – Member, Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board (6/30/16 – 7/1/19) – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (2/15/18)

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

**February 14, 2018 - 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.** - Room 10 - Re: Governor's Recommended FY 2019 State Budget - House Committee on Appropriations.

**February 15, 2018 - 3:15 - 4:15 P.M.** - Room 11 - Re: Governor's Recommended FY2019 State Budget - House Committee on Appropriations.

**February 22, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.** - Room 11 - Re: Judicial Retention - Joint Committee on Judicial Retention.

## NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, February 15, 2018 - 10:30 A.M.** - Election of two (2) trustees for the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

Candidates for the positions of trustee must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** not later than Thursday, February 8, 2018, by 5:00 P.M. pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

## FOR INFORMATION ONLY

### CROSS OVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 2, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 16, 2018**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

**Note**: The Senate will not act on bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Fee Bill).**