

VBA 2024 Legislative Report Week 10

Friday was crossover – the day that policy bills must be voted out of their committee of original jurisdiction if they are to survive and possibly be considered by the other body this session. Business in the Statehouse was busy and tense all week.

Earlier this week the [H.876, the Miscellaneous Tax Bill](#) was considered by the House Ways and Means committee. The bill was required under the rules to be reviewed by Ways and Means because of the Master License fee in the bill. The Ways and Means Committee is also the committee that would have had to weigh in on any tax proposal. The bill was voted out of the committee 11-0-0. Before the vote, the Chair noted to her committee members that H.876 was the bill that they likely received a lot of email about. And she added that “this is now the end of any talk of beer taxes for the year.” The committee all acknowledged having heard about the possibility of a tax proposal. Good work VBA, your voices were heard.

Early next week the bill should be considered by the full House. There has been some talk that some members of the House Human Services committee want to amend the bill to require 2nd class licenses, mostly convenience stores, to physically separate the alcoholic beverages from the nonalcoholic beverages. Stakeholders have been working to appease these public health advocates with some language that would enhance DLL’s education to licensees about the “best practice” of separating the beverages, instead of a statutory mandate.

After the bill passes the House, it will head to the Senate Economic Development Housing and General Affairs Committee. Unlike House members who sit on one committee that meets in both the morning and the afternoon, each Senator is on two committees, a morning committee and an afternoon committee. Consequently, the Senate generally has ½ as much time as the House to consider the same number of bills. As a result, the Senate often approaches their work differently than the House. While the House is often slow and deliberate, the Senate is often rushed and frantic.

The Senate Economic Development Committee will have a few big bills that will be consuming their attention, including a major consumer data privacy bill. The committee does have a couple of alcohol related bills from last year that are still technically alive, but no alcohol related bills were introduced in the Senate this year. However, just because there are no bills in the committee doesn’t mean they couldn’t decide to consider new ideas or additions to the bill. But given their time constraints, it is unlikely that they will try to tackle any controversial additions to the bill. We will keep you posted.

HEADLINES OF NOTE

[Vermont House passes bill to create new retail theft penalty](#)

[Vermont House passes ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products and substitutes State to Open Temporary Homeless Shelter in Downtown Burlington](#)

[While state stands up shelters, some Vermonters exit motels without a plan](#)

[Capitol recap: Vermont lawmakers assess spending priorities against stark fiscal realities](#)

VBA 2023/2024 BILL REPORT			
Bill	Sponsors	Description	Status
H 601	Rep. Lawrence Satcowitz	<p>An Act Relating To Prohibiting The Presence Of Toxic Chemicals In Plastic Packaging</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit the presence of certain high priority materials and high priority chemicals in packaging or packaging components sold or distributed in the State.</p>	<p>Committees: House Environment and Energy</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Energy (01/03/24)</p>
H 643	Rep. Lucy Boyden	<p>An Act Relating To The Sale Of Closed Containers Of Alcoholic Beverages Within A First- Or Third-class License Serving Area</p> <p>This bill proposes to allow the holder of any combination of first-, second-, and third-class licenses to sell closed containers of alcoholic beverages, for off-premises consumption, anywhere in first- or third-class licensed premises.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/04/24)</p> <p>Included in the H.867</p>

H 662	Rep. Michael Marcotte; Rep. Woodman Page	<p>An Act Relating To The Merger Of Entities That Hold Separate Alcoholic Beverage Licenses</p> <p>This bill proposes to allow two or more licensed entities that have merged and formed a parent corporation to continue to hold separate alcoholic beverage licenses while operating under a unified payroll and administrative system.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/04/24)</p>
H 680	Rep. Katherine "Kari" Dolan; Rep. Matthew Birong; Rep. Stephanie Jerome	<p>An Act Relating To Expanding Access To Special Venue Serving Permits</p> <p>This bill proposes to allow any retail establishment to acquire a special venue serving permit from the Division of Liquor Control.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/04/24)</p> <p>Included in the Miscellaneous Alcohol Bill H.867 – limited to 12 annually.</p>
H 726	Rep. Kate Nugent	<p>An Act Relating To Compliance Checks By The Division Of Liquor Control</p> <p>This bill proposes to require the Division of Liquor Control to perform regular compliance checks of alcoholic beverage licensees.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/10/24)</p>
H.867	Committee on Government Operations sand Military Affairs	<p>An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the laws governing alcoholic beverages and the Board of Liquor and Lottery</p> <p>This bill proposes to authorize retail establishments to acquire special venue serving permits; allow a sampling event permit holder to purchase invoiced volumes of alcoholic beverages from wholesale dealers; increase the limit on special event permits that may be acquired by</p>	<p>Committees: House Ways and Means</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on House Ways and Means (02/28/24)</p> <p>As Approved by HGOMA</p>

		an individual licensee from 10 to 20; amend provisions related to the annual report concerning the State Lottery; extend the effective date for required liquor liability insurance to July 1, 2026; and to establish a retail master license for parent corporations that are formed for purposes of merging licensed retail dealers or manufacturers.	
BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2023 THAT ARE STILL "ALIVE"			
H 7	Rep. Anne Donahue	<p>An Act Relating To Replacing The Term "cider" With "hard Cider" Within Title 7</p> <p>This bill proposes to replace the term "cider" with "hard cider" within Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/05/23)</p>
H 78	Rep. Matthew Birong	<p>An Act Relating To Repealing The Sunset Of 7 V.S.A. § 230</p> <p>This bill proposes to repeal the sunset of 7 V.S.A. § 230 (sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption) to allow licensees to sell alcoholic beverages for pick up or delivery beyond July 1, 2023.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (01/20/23)</p>
H 225	Rep. Joseph "Chip" Troiano; Rep. Avram Patt; Rep. Brian Cina; Rep. Dennis LaBounty; Rep. Emma Mulvaney-Stanak; Rep. James Carroll; Rep. James Masland; Rep. John Arrison; Rep. Josie Leavitt; Rep. Kate Logan; Rep. Kate McCann; Rep. Kristi Morris; Rep. Leslie Goldman; Rep. Michael Mrowicki; Rep. R. Scott Campbell; Rep. Robert "Bobby" Farlice-Rubio; Rep. Troy Headrick	<p>An Act Relating To Eliminating The Tipped Minimum Wage</p> <p>This bill proposes to require that tipped employees are paid the standard minimum wage by 2024.</p>	<p>Committees: House General and Housing</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on General and Housing (02/10/23)</p> <p>VBA OPPOSES THIS BILL</p>

H 261	Rep. Logan Nicoll	<p>An Act Relating To Retail Delivery Of Alcoholic Beverages By Third-party Contractors</p> <p>This bill proposes to allow the holder of a second-class license and retail delivery permit to deliver certain alcoholic beverages to individuals 21 years of age or older through an approved third-party contractor and amend the provisions related to the permitted hours of sale.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (02/15/23)</p>
H 272	Rep. Matthew Birong	<p>An Act Relating To A Reciprocity Requirement For Out-of-state Consumer Shipping Licenses</p> <p>This bill proposes to limit the issuance of out-of-state malt beverage consumer shipping licenses to breweries that are located in states that allow Vermont brewers to acquire consumer shipping licenses.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (02/16/23)</p>
H 273	Rep. Matthew Birong	<p>An Act Relating To Direct-to-consumer Shipping Of Spirits And Fortified Wines</p> <p>This bill proposes to authorize a manufacturer of spirits or fortified wines to acquire a consumer shipping license and ship the manufacturer's products directly to consumers in Vermont.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (02/16/23)</p>
H 417	Rep. Kelly Pajala; Rep. Logan Nicoll	<p>An Act Relating To Drink Specials</p> <p>This bill proposes to permit a first-class licensee to sell malt and vinous beverages at a reduced price during a period of not more than two hours each day. It also proposes to permit a third-class licensee to sell spirits and fortified wines at a reduced price during a period of not more than two hours each day.</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (02/28/23)</p> <p>VBA SUPPORTS THIS BILL</p>
S 60	Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale; Sen. Thomas Chittenden	<p>An Act Relating To Local Option Taxes</p> <p>This bill proposes to authorize: (1) any Vermont municipality to adopt a one percent local option tax on sales, meals and alcoholic beverages, and rooms; and (2) the Commissioner of Taxes to disclose a municipality's local</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Finance; House Government Operations and Military Affairs; Senate Finance?</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and</p>

		option tax data to the town manager or legislative body of that municipality, provided that the disclosure subjects the recipient to the penalties for unauthorized disclosure of confidential tax data.	referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs (04/11/23)
S 86	Sen. Richard Westman	<p>An Act Relating To Replacing The Term "cider" With "hard Cider" Within Title 7</p> <p>This bill proposes to replace the term "cider" with "hard cider" within Title 7 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read 1st time & referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (02/16/23)</p>
S 107	Sen. Richard Westman	<p>An Act Relating To Authorizing Off-site Tasting Rooms For Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturers</p> <p>This bill proposes to allow holders of a manufacturer's or rectifier's license to acquire a first-class license to sell their products at a tasting room that is not located on property contiguous with the manufacturing location.</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Status: This bill was considered by the committee last year and essentially put on hold because of tied house concerns.</p>
S 110	Sen. Richard Westman; Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale	<p>An Act Relating To Direct-to-consumer Shipping Of Spirits And Fortified Wines</p> <p>This bill proposes to authorize a manufacturer of spirits or fortified wines to acquire a consumer shipping license and ship the manufacturer's products directly to consumers in Vermont.</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read 1st time & referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (02/28/23)</p>