

VBA 2024 Legislative Report Week 13

→ POST-CROSSOVER PUSH TO ADJOURNMENT

This week House and Senate committees started to review and prioritize the bills they received from the other chamber. After crossover, the policy landscape becomes a bit clearer. The world of bills under consideration narrows and lawmakers focus on the priorities that they want to, or that must pass before adjournment.

While the policy landscape has narrowed the fiscal forecast remains unclear. The Senate Appropriations Committee is finishing work on their version of the FY25 budget, and it is unlikely to align with the House passed budget. At the same time, the House passed tax proposals that we reviewed last week are getting a cool reception in the Senate. Over the next few weeks Senate money committees will finalize their taxing and spending proposals. After, we'll watch the tough negotiations between the House and Senate to find some common ground to present to the Governor.

While the House and Senate try to work out their differences, Governor Phil Scott's message has been consistent – he does not support the House tax package. He has repeatedly said that any increase in the corporate tax, property transfer tax or a tax on high earners will harm businesses, homeowners and the economy of the state. He also continues to remind lawmakers that the childcare payroll tax passed last year will go into effect this summer, as well as projected property tax increases.

One thing that does seem clear – the end of the session will be long and fraught.

→ MISCELLANEOUS ALCOHOL BILL

There were no hearings related to the miscellaneous alcohol bill last week.

→ HEADLINES OF NOTE

[Capitol Recap: Vermont lawmakers propose dozens of new positions for court system 'in crisis'](#)

[In review: Eclipse preparation, flavored tobacco ban veto, climate superfund Binge drinking, alcohol use disorder in Vermont ranked among the highest in the nation](#)

[Citing 'inconsistencies,' Phil Scott vetoes flavored e-liquid and tobacco ban Vermont Senate Advances Bill to Make Big Oil Pay for Climate Crisis](#)

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>
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>

			Included in the Miscellaneous Alcohol Bill H.867 – limited to 12 annually.
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 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.</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Economic Development Housing and General Affairs</p> <p>Status: Passed by the House</p> <p>AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE</p>
BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2023 THAT ARE STILL “ALIVE”			
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 option tax data to the town manager or legislative body of that municipality, provided that the disclosure subjects</p>	<p>Committees: Senate Finance; House Government Operations and Military Affairs; Senate Finance?</p> <p>Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government</p>

		the recipient to the penalties for unauthorized disclosure of confidential tax data.	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>