

VBA 2024 Legislative Report Week 14

→ POST- ECLIPSE

Although the economic impact numbers are not all in yet, it seems clear that last week’s once-in-a-lifetime celestial event was a major shot in the arm to Vermont’s economy and spirit. Clear weather and months of planning resulted in a relatively smooth and peaceful influx of around 160,000 people to Northern Vermont to enjoy the total eclipse. During a year in Vermont marked by catastrophic flooding, waning federal COVID-19 funds and giant property tax hikes, the boon to local businesses as well as state tax coffers lifted the mood in the statehouse for a few days.

→ SENATE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Senate Appropriations Committee will be finishing work on their 2025 budget proposal early next week. At this point, it doesn’t look like the Senate will be proposing to raise the amount of taxes that the House passed. As a result, the Senate will also not be proposing the kind of spending on housing, public safety and health care as passed by the House. These competing taxing and spending proposals will be worked out in conference committees in the coming weeks. We will keep you posted.

→ MISCELLANEOUS ALCOHOL BILL

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

→ HEADLINES OF NOTE

[Lawmakers slow down on education finance overhaul](#)

[Capitol Recap: Vermont lawmakers, governor at odds over how much to invest in housing](#)

[Final Reading: Committee expected to vote on Act 250 reform next week](#)

[With weeks to go, could lawmakers radically reimagine Vermont’s education finance system?](#)

[Zoie Saunders, Gov. Scott’s Pick for Education Secretary, Faces Questions About Her Qualifications](#)

[Ethics Panel Dismisses Complaint Against Ram Hinsdale](#)

VBA 2023/2024 BILL REPORT – BILLS THAT ARE STILL “ALIVE”			
Bill	Sponsors	Description	Status
H 680	Rep. Katherine "Kari" Dolan; Rep. Matthew Birong; Rep. Stephanie Jerome	An Act Relating To Expanding Access To Special Venue Serving Permits This bill proposes to allow any retail establishment to acquire a special venue serving permit from the Division of Liquor Control.	Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs Status: Read First Time and referred to the Committee on Government

			<p>Operations and Military Affairs (01/04/24)</p> <p>Included in the Miscellaneous Alcohol Bill H.867 – limited to 12 annually.</p>
H.867	Committee on Government Operations and 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>
S 60	Sen. Keshia 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 the recipient to the penalties for unauthorized disclosure of confidential tax data.</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 Operations and Military Affairs (04/11/23)</p>
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</p>

			to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (02/16/23)
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>