

VBA Legislative Update – Week 6 February 15, 2025

Business Leaders Call on Lawmakers to Reject Efforts to Divert Payroll Tax Away from Childcare

The Governor's FY26 budget proposes to take \$20m from the proceeds of the child care pay roll tax and use it for purposes unrelated to childcare. This week [a powerful group of business leaders](#) from around the state called on lawmakers to reject the Governor's proposal and to instead use the payroll tax proceeds for their intended purposes. The leaders noted the many gains that have been made since the passage of Act 76, Vermont's historic comprehensive child care law, and urged lawmakers to stay the course in order to fully realize the goals of the law.

The House Appropriations Committee is working through the Governor's proposed budget and should have a proposal ready for consideration by the full House by the end of March.

Headlines of Note

[Vermont Aid Workers Reel in Wake of Rapid USAID Cuts](#)
[Layoffs, furloughs and callbacks. Almost daily drops of new White House policies disrupt Vermont's workforce.](#)
[Bill Shouldice to replace Craig Bolio as Vermont tax commissioner](#)
[Attorney General Charity Clark sues Trump four times and counting](#)
[Democrats throw cold water on Scott's school choice proposal](#)
[Lawmakers try to address limitations of Vermont's hate crime law](#)

Hearing to Consider whether to repeal the scheduled sunset on to-go drinks.

On Wednesday afternoon, [House Government Operations and Military Affairs](#) will be considering draft legislation regarding the scheduled repeal of the pandemic-era law authorizing to-go drinks ([7 VSA §230](#)).

Under current law, first- and third-class licensees may sell malt beverages, vinous beverages, and spirits-based prepared drinks for off-premises consumption when accompanied by a food order and when otherwise in compliance with the provisions of [7 VSA §230](#). The law was enacted during the pandemic and is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2025.

VBA Bill Report

VBA Bill Report – Week 6 2/15/25			
Bill	Sponsors	Description	Status

<u>H 24</u>	Rep. Anne Donahue	<p>An Act Relating To Requiring Retail Businesses To Accept Cash</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit a retail business from refusing to accept cash payment.</p>	<p>Committees: House Commerce and Economic Development</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development (01/09/25)</p>
<u>H 45</u>	Rep. Mary-Katherine Stone; Rep. Tiffany Bluemle; Rep. Abbey Duke; Rep. Barbara Rachelson; Bram Kleppner; Rep. Kate Logan; Rep. Robert Hooper; Rep. Troy Headrick	<p>An Act Relating To Prohibiting Possession Of Firearms On Premises Where Alcohol Is Licensed To Be Served</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit possession of firearms on premises where alcohol is licensed to be served and to require that notice of the prohibition be posted at each premises.</p>	<p>Committees: House Judiciary</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary (01/21/25)</p>
<u>H 51</u>	Rep. Lucy Boyden; Rep. Matthew Birong	<p>An Act Relating To Miscellaneous Amendments To The Statutes Governing Alcoholic Beverages</p> <p>This bill proposes to: (1) authorize the holder of a fourth-class license to sell its products to not more than eight additional manufacturers or rectifiers; and (2) authorize manufacturers of malt beverages to acquire a retail shipping license and ship malt beverages to first- and second-class 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 (01/21/25)</p>
<u>H 110</u>	Rep. Lucy Boyden	<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 (01/28/25)</p>

H 119	Rep. Carolyn Branagan	<p>An Act Relating To The Beverage Container Redemption System</p> <p>This bill proposes to expand the scope of the beverage container redemption system to include cider, hard kombucha, noncarbonated water, and noncarbonated soft drinks. The bill also would increase the deposit for a container from five cents to 10 cents.</p>	<p>Committees: House Environment</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Environment (01/29/25)</p>
H 144	Rep. Brian Minier; Bridget Burkhardt; Rep. Emilie Krasnow; Rep. Kate Logan; Rep. Laura Sibilia; Rep. Leonora Dodge; Rep. Lisa Hango; Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun	<p>An Act Relating To Enhancing Food Allergen Awareness In Food Service Establishments</p> <p>This bill proposes to require owners and operators of food service establishments to designate employees to complete a food allergen training program. It further proposes to require food service establishments to post signage regarding food allergens.</p>	<p>Committees: House Human Services</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services (02/05/25)</p>