

## VBA Legislative Update – Week 19 May 24, 2025

→ **Overtime.** Last Wednesday the Governor signed the FY 26 budget bill ([highlights here](#)). In a normal year, lawmakers would be home now tending their gardens. This is definitely NOT a normal year – in more ways than one. Two major areas of policy reform are keeping lawmakers in session: an overhaul of the education tax and governance systems ([H.454](#)), and a housing and development bill ([S.127](#)). Both bills should be in conference committees by the middle of next week. It could take a week or longer for the House and Senate to sort out their differences on each bill. Adjournment is now looking like June 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>.

### → Local Headlines of Note

- [Vermont Senate passes landmark education bill after days of debate and uncertainty](#)
- [Divided lawmakers keep housing bill hobbling toward finish line](#)
- [Summer's Back, but Canadian Tourists Are Not](#)
- [School Leaders Speak Against Ed Reform Bill Ahead of Vote](#)
- [Lt. Gov. and Weed Farmer Rodgers Pushes a Bill That Would Slash His Costs](#)
- [Just before a key vote, Scott administration's position on motel program overhaul is unclear](#)
- [Final Reading: Gov. Phil Scott says he'll veto proposed gun ban in Burlington bars](#)
- [Federal government cancels Vermont's \\$5.3 million digital equity grant](#)
- [Scott promotes housing legislation, action at weekly press conference](#)
- [PAI: Vermont job-seekers find fewer options](#)

### → VBA Bill Report

VBA BILL REPORT – WEEK 19 May 24, 2025			
Bill	Sponsors	Description	Status
MOVING BILLS			
<a href="#">H 339</a>	House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs	An Act Relating to Removing the Repeal Of 7 VSA § 230  This bill proposes to remove the repeal of 7 V.S.A. § 230 (sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption).	Status: <b>Passed by House and Senate Delivered to Governor on 5/21 Awaiting signature by Governor</b>

<a href="#"><u>S.131</u></a>	Sen. Phil Baruth	<p>An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington relating to the possession of firearms</p> <p>This bill proposes to approve an amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington to prohibit the possession of firearms in any building or on any real property or parking area under the ownership or control of an establishment licensed to serve alcohol for on- premises consumption.</p>	<p>Committee: House Government Operation and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: <a href="#"><u>Passed the Senate</u></a></p>
<b>BILLS NOT MOVING THIS YEAR</b>			
<a href="#"><u>H 24</u></a>	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>
<a href="#"><u>H 45</u></a>	Rep. Mary-Katherine Stone; Rep. Tiffany Bluemle; Rep. Abbey Duke; Rep. Barbara Rachelson; Rep. 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>
<a href="#"><u>H 51</u></a>	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>

<a href="#"><u>H 110</u></a>	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>
<a href="#"><u>H 119</u></a>	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>
<a href="#"><u>H 144</u></a>	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>
<a href="#"><u>H 260</u></a>	Rep. Esme Cole; Rep. Monique Priestley; Rep. Ela Chapin; Herb Olson; Rep. Jubilee McGill; Rep. Kate McCann; Rep. Kate Nugent; Rep. Mary Howard; Robert "Rob" North; VL Coffin	<p>An Act Relating to Prohibiting Certain Substances in Food Manufactured, Sold, Or Distributed in Vermont</p> <p>This bill proposes to prohibit the manufacture, sale, delivery, or distribution in commerce of food containing brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben, or red dye no. 3.</p>	<p>Committees: House Human Services</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services (02/19/25)</p>
<a href="#"><u>H 376</u></a>	Rep. Kate Nugent; Rep. Brian Cina; Rep. Carol Ode; Rep. Jubilee McGill; Rep. Mari Cordes; Rep. Michelle Bos-Lun; Rep. Monique Priestley; Rep. Phil Pouech; Rep. Troy Headrick	<p>An Act Relating to The Creation Of The Treatment And Recovery Fund And The Labeling And Taxation of Alcoholic Beverages</p> <p>This bill proposes to (1) require all alcoholic beverages sold in the State to bear a label containing a</p>	<p>Committees: House Government Operations and Military Affairs</p> <p>Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Government</p>

		statement of the alcohol content in U.S. Standard Drinks; (2) increase the gallonage taxes on malt beverages and vinous beverages; (3) increase the excise tax on spirits; (4) create the Treatment and Recovery Fund, dedicate the proceeds of the gallonage tax to the Fund, and establish the purposes for which monies from the Fund may be disbursed; and (5) require the Division of Liquor Control t...	Operations and Military Affairs (02/26/25)
<a href="#">H 377</a>	Rep. Barbara Rachelson; Rep. Chea Waters Evans	An Act Relating to The Local Media Advertising Tax Credit  This bill proposes to create an income tax credit for small businesses that purchase advertising in local media outlets.	Committees: House Ways and Means  Status: Read first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means (02/26/25)
<a href="#">S 88</a>	Sen. Wendy Harrison; Sen. Alison Clarkson; Sen. Anne Watson; Joseph "Joe" Major; Sen. Randolph Brock; Sen. Rebecca White; Robert "Rob" Plunkett	An Act Relating to Creating an Enhanced Growth Incentive For Employee-owned Businesses  This bill proposes to create a new enhanced incentive for locally owned and controlled employee-owned businesses within the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program (VEGI).	Committees: Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs  Status: Read 1st time & referred to Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs (02/25/25)