

VBA Legislative Update – Week 19 May 25, 2026

→ **Miscellaneous Alcohol Bill.**

[H.921 An act relating to alcoholic beverages](#). Last week, the House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee held a final hearing on the [Senate's proposed amendments](#) to H.921. The committee heard testimony in support of the Senate's proposed changes from the VBA, the Distilled Spirits Council and the DLL. The committee also heard testimony in opposition to a number of provisions in the bill from The Alchemist. You can watch the hearing [here](#).

Later that day, the committee voted 9-0-2 (2 members were absent) to recommend that the House concur with the [Senate's proposed amendments](#) to H.921. And, finally, on Thursday, the full House, on a unanimous voice vote, concurred with the Senate's proposed amendments.

The bill will now make its way to the Governor's desk. It could be 2-3 weeks before he receives and signs the bill.

We will provide a complete summary of the bill as passed in our next report, which, *hopefully* will be our final report for the session. We expect the legislature will adjourn on June 1st or 2nd.

Thanks to everyone who reached out to your lawmakers about this bill! Your voices made a difference.

→ **Bottle Bill.**

[H.915 An act relating to establishing an extended producer responsibility program for beverage containers](#). Last week, the Senate gave preliminary approval to the [Senate Natural Resources Committee's proposed changes to H.915](#). The bill is up for final approval on Tuesday, May 26. After which it will return to the House for consideration of the Senate's proposed amendments.

As previously reported, **H.915** as recommended by Senate Natural Resources, includes a \$.01 increase in the handling fee. This increase will be in place at least until the **Producer Responsibility Organization** mandated by the bill is in place and begins negotiating with redemption centers on "fair compensation." See previous reports for a detailed summary of the bill.

Despite strong opposition to the increase in the handling fee from manufacturers and wholesalers, many Senators felt that the temporary increase was a fair compromise necessary to support the beverage redemption industry.

If the House concurs with the Senate's amendments, which seems likely, the bill will head to the Governor's desk for consideration. In a recent press conference, the Governor did signal that he believes that a temporary increase in the handling fee may be a reasonable compromise.

→ **Headlines of Note**

- [Lawmakers, Scott Work to Hammer Out an Education Reform Deal](#)
- [House Bill Does Not Include Mask Rules for Federal Agents](#)
- [Cannabis Grower Faces Ban From Industry for Illegal Operation](#)
- [Vermont's Lawmakers Push Big Ideas — but Struggle to Fund Them](#)
- [Vermonters will vote on equal protection amendment to state constitution this fall](#)
- [Facing financial strain, Northeast Kingdom waste district raises rates](#)
- [Lawmakers Reject Wetland Rule, Saying Agency Cannot Weigh Housing Against Wetland Protection](#)