



State to Main

The Voice of Vermont Business



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[Take a 5-Minute Economic Survey](#)

Davis & Hodgdon Associates CPAs and the Vermont Chamber are seeking your input in our annual survey related to the economy and local businesses. Please take the annual 5-minute Vermont economic survey of small- to medium-sized businesses.

[Tourism Day Mobilizes Industry](#)

More than 150 people from the tourism sector attended the 2nd Annual Tourism Day at the State House to raise awareness of the industry important contribution to Vermont's economy. Rep. Heidi Scheuermann (R-Stowe) introduced H.705, a bill seeking an additional \$500,000 for destination marketing.

[Senate Reviews Minimum Wage Proposal](#)

The Senate Economic Development Committee reviewed the most recent proposal to raise the minimum wage that would cost the state \$3.8 million for the \$12.40 proposal, or \$4.1 million for the \$12.55 proposal to properly fund Medicaid subsidized wages.

[Economic Development Programs Under Fire](#)

In what developed into a heated exchange, the State Auditor (a critic of current workforce recruitment programs) and representatives from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development testified in the Senate on the remote worker program.

[First Up for Tax Committee: Business Tax Review](#)

It's always concerning to the Vermont Chamber when the first order of business for the House Ways & Means Committee is to review the impact of Federal tax cuts on state income tax revenues.

[House Contemplates Act 250 Changes](#)

In an unusual partnership, the Scott Administration and the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) presented the House Natural Resources Committee with a mutually supported plan to update the State's principal land use law.

[Engaging the Mature Workforce](#)

The House Human Services Committee has been working on a bill to address the needs of older Vermonters. While much of the focus is on how to provide services to Vermonters as they age, the Vermont Chamber has urged policymakers to consider mature workers an asset to our economy.

[House Reviews Software as a Service Tax Criteria](#)

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee are expressing support for a cloud tax again this session. Imposition of an additional tax on software as a service would threaten growth in Vermont's tech sector, an industry that elected leaders continually use as an example of a preferred growth sector given its high wages and low environmental footprint.

[Transportation Climate Initiative Reviewed in Senate](#)

The Senate Transportation Committee reviewed the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional program of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to establish a regional cap-and-invest program to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector by placing a cap on emissions from fossil fuel companies and use the revenue raised to help the states invest in cleaner transportation options.

[Bill Would Lower Legal BAC Level By .03](#)

A bill introduced in the Senate would reduce the state's blood alcohol concentration limit from 0.08 percent to 0.05 percent, which would make Vermont's legal limit the most restrictive threshold in the United States.

[Latest Paid Leave Proposal Faces Difficulties in Conference](#)

Consensus was lacking during the latest conference committee meeting designed to resolve differences between House and Senate paid family leave proposals. The latest version of the bill, which will cost \$29.7 million (borne by employees), now faces an uncertain path as it advances to the House and Senate for votes.

[Vermont Chamber Testifies to Protect Valuable Employer Protection](#)

The House Commerce and Economic Development Committee heard renewed testimony this week from the Vermont Chamber, attorneys, and other business representatives on the value of non-competes. We will continue to oppose any bill that seeks to impose a blanket prohibition on the use of non-compete agreements.

[In Case You Missed It](#)

Economy: [New Alliance Forms to Support Destination Marketing Funding](#)

Pensions: [Vermont Business Roundtable Takes On Troubled Pension System](#)

Business: [Darn Tough CEO Calls BS on Vermont Being a Hard Place to Do Business](#)

Business: [Lawmakers Seek to Limit Non-Compete Clauses](#)

Legislature: [Chef-Legislator Biron Balances Customers and Constituents](#)

Politics: [Ram, Giambatista Announce Chittenden County Senate Bids](#)

Politics: Zuckerman Officially Announces Run for Governor

Politics: Sen. Debbie Ingram Enters Race for Lieutenant Governor

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In business since 1912, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce is a private, not-for-profit business organization with 1,500 members employing 45,000 people and representing all sectors of the state's economy. Our mission is to create an economic climate conducive to business growth and the preservation of the Vermont quality of life. Copyright ©2018 The Vermont Chamber of Commerce. All Rights Reserved.

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