



State to Main

The Voice of Vermont Business



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In This Issue:

- [Governor's Budget Address Prioritizes Tourism and Workforce Investment](#)
- [Consensus on More Housing But Not on Source of Funds](#)
- [State House Abuzz with Tourism Advocacy](#)
- [Senate Receives Update on Broadband Progress](#)
- [Minimum Wage Proposal May Cost Businesses and State \\$121 Million](#)
- [House Passes \\$31 Million Paid Leave Program](#)
- [House Committee Considers Implementing Cloud Tax](#)
- [Vermont Chamber Testifies on Latest Non-Compete Bill](#)
- [Vermont Chamber Addresses Advisory Council on Workforce Recruitment Initiative](#)
- [In Case You Missed It](#)

[Governor's Budget Address Prioritizes Tourism and Workforce Investment](#)

In his budget address, Governor Scott again identified reversing Vermont's declining workforce as his number one priority, and announced increased investment in tourism marketing funds, training, outdoor recreation, economic development marketing funds, downtowns, and workforce initiatives.

[Consensus on More Housing But Not on Source of Funds](#)

As the Senate Economic Development Committee looks at addressing the housing issue, the Treasurer issued a new report that suggested fully funding the VHCB, rather than issuing another housing bond. The Governor has agreed, leaving the Committee with the question of how to fully fund the VCHB.

[State House Abuzz with Tourism Advocacy](#)

Governor Scott announced an additional \$500,000 for destination marketing during his budget address, demonstrating the Administration's support for the tourism industry. The Vermont Chamber testified before the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development in support of the increased tourism marketing investment.

[Senate Receives Update on Broadband Progress](#)

The Senate Finance Committee heard from the Public Service Department on progress related to Act 79 that assists with building out broadband infrastructure in underserved communities. Forty-five towns are currently working with the Department of Public Service to access these resources.

[Minimum Wage Proposal Will Cost Businesses and State \\$121 Million](#)

Preliminary analysis conducted by the Joint Fiscal Office indicates current minimum wage proposals would cost the state and private sector \$53 million in 2021 and \$121 million in additional payroll allocation in 2022. The conference committee chose to proceed with the latest proposal and the bill passed in the House 93-52. It now moves to the Governor's desk for his consideration.

[House Passes \\$31 Million Paid Leave Program](#)

By a vote of 89-58, the House passed H.107, a bill that establishes a paid family leave insurance fund. H.107 mandates a \$29.7 million payroll contribution by employees, and an additional \$1.2 million allocation of state funds to properly administer the program.

[House Committee Considers Implementing Cloud Tax](#)

The House Ways and Means Committee heard renewed testimony on the impact of establishing a statewide tax on software as a service, commonly known as a "cloud tax." Industry representatives explained to House members that such a tax would hinder growth in Vermont's budding software industry.

[Vermont Chamber Testifies on Latest Non-Compete Bill](#)

The Vermont Chamber met with legislators to discuss the most recent version of a bill that proposes to further regulate the use of non-compete agreements. We will continue to oppose any bill that seeks to impose a blanket prohibition on the use of non-compete agreements, or forces employers into unsustainable financial or legal obligations.

[Vermont Chamber Addresses Advisory Council on Workforce Recruitment](#)

The Vermont Chamber addressed the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council on efforts to remove the tax on military retirement pensions. Removing the state's

tax on veteran pensions would incentivize former service members to move to Vermont or remain here after the conclusion of their military service.

[In Case You Missed It](#)

Child Care: [Dems Give Cool Reception to Scott's Lottery Expansion to Pay for Child Care Subsidies](#)

Housing: [Treasurer Gives Housing Bond Proposal Thumbs Down](#)

Workforce Recruitment: [Southern Vermont Attracts Young Professionals](#)

Business: [Threatened Tariff on European Wines Worries Vermont Food and Beverage Industry](#)

Legislature: [Legislators to Fast-Track Vermont Prison Release Reforms](#)

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