



State to Main

The Voice of Vermont Business



February 7, 2020

In This Issue:

- [Investing in Vermont Tourism](#)
- [Non-Compete Bill Advances](#)
- [Changes to Corporate Income Tax Proposed](#)
- [Threat of Cloud Tax Continues](#)
- [Vermont Chamber Testifies on Workforce Development Initiative](#)
- [House Committee Reviews Remote Worker Bill](#)
- [Paid Leave Override Attempt Fails](#)
- [Protecting Vermont Agritourism](#)
- [Personal Care Products in Lodging Properties](#)
- [In Case You Missed It](#)

[Investing in Vermont Tourism](#)

Tourism Commissioner Heather Pelham delivered additional testimony before the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee in support of the proposed \$500,000 increase to the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing's budget.

[Non-Compete Bill Advances](#)

The Vermont Chamber has testified multiple times on a bill that seeks to limit the use of non-compete agreements. The bill advanced this week, moving out of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee after a 9-1-1 vote.

[Changes to Corporate Income Tax Proposed](#)

The House Ways and Means Committee is making progress on a bill to change the corporate income tax structure. Vermont already has one of the most aggressive tax structures on foreign source income compared to other states and this latest proposal will make it even stronger.

[Threat of Cloud Tax Continues](#)

Tech industry representatives again descended on the State House to express opposition to establishing a tax on software as a service (SAAS), commonly known as a cloud tax. Witnesses explained to the House Ways and Means Committee that such a tax would disincentivize the startup and growth of SAAS businesses.

[Vermont Chamber Testifies on Workforce Development Initiative](#)

The Vermont Chamber testified in support of removing the tax on military retirement incomes. There have been several bills introduced that would exempt military retirees' incomes from taxation, and Governor Scott has repeatedly highlighted removal of this tax as one of his priorities. The Vermont Chamber is supportive of removing this tax to better incentivize military retirees to move to Vermont and contribute to our workforce.

[House Committee Reviews Remote Worker Bill](#)

The Chair of the Senate Economic Development Committee briefed the House Commerce Committee on proposed changes to the remote worker grant program that would allow remote workers to also qualify for grants under the worker relocation program. Members of the House Commerce Committee expressed support for the changes. The Vermont Chamber is supportive, as well.

[Paid Leave Override Attempt Fails](#)

Despite full-court pressure by House leadership and pleas by elected business owners and other allies, the attempt to override Governor Scott's veto of the paid family leave bill failed to reach the 100 votes required for a two-thirds majority. If passed, H.107 would have mandated a \$29.7 million payroll tax.

[Protecting Vermont Agritourism](#)

The House Agriculture and Forestry Committee heard testimony on H.794 to address agritourism liability. If passed, this bill would make providers of agritourism activities immune from civil liability if a participant is injured as a result of risks inherent in the activity.

[Personal Care Products in Lodging Properties](#)

The Senate Natural Resources Committee discussed S.227, a bill introduced by Sen. Chris Bray (D-Addison) that proposes to prohibit lodging establishments from using personal care products in single-use, small plastic bottles.

[In Case You Missed It](#)

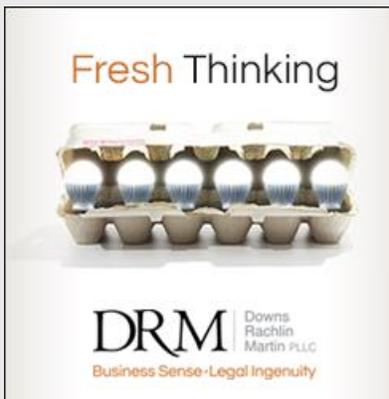
Politics: [Lawmaker Announces Run for State Auditor](#)

Regulation: [Vermont Receives National Recognition as Regulatory Outlier](#)

Legislation: [Elected Business Owners Support Paid Leave](#)

Legislation: [House Committee Advances Marijuana Sales Bill](#)

This Edition Sponsored By:



Want great exposure for your business? Sponsoring the weekly newsletter is an affordable and effective way to reach your target customers. Email [Megan Bullard](#) for pricing and more information.

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.

Vermont Chamber of Commerce, 751 Granger Road Barre, VT 05641, 802-223-3443

[Visit our website](#)



