



LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

About VBSR's Fourth Scorecard

This scorecard was compiled as a service to VBSR members interested in seeing how their legislators voted on VBSR's business agenda. **For more than 25 years**, VBSR has advocated for policy initiatives that recognize that what is good for people, the environment and our communities is also good for Vermont business. Economic growth and good jobs require that we build on Vermont's unique strengths and support the development of our social, physical and natural infrastructure.

About the votes VBSR scored

The scorecard identified the priority votes of the 2015-2016 biennium. VBSR clearly identified our position on these issues through written handouts, legislative testimony, and email alerts prior to, and throughout, the legislative session. **We encourage readers to go beyond the scores and engage legislators regarding their votes.**

For more information

For more information on VBSR's policy agenda or the votes scored in this publication, please visit www.vbsr.org or contact **Public Policy Manager Daniel Barlow at (802) 355-7461 and danielb@vbsr.org**

LEGISLATION 2015-2016

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VBSR's 2015-16 Legislative Issues

ISSUE 1

H.35 Clean Water Economy

Water quality is an economic and environmental issue. With the EPA threatening federal action, the Legislature moved forward with a clean-up plan for Lake Champlain and other waterways in Vermont. This bill expands state authority and regulation on several forms of water pollution, including run-off from farms, parking lots, and other developments. Additionally, the law uses a 0.2 percent surcharge on the property transfer tax to create a state Clean Water Fund to help support water quality management projects, such as improvements to municipal water systems. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

ISSUE 2

H.40 Renewable Energy

This 2015 clean energy bill addressed a number of major issues, including requiring Vermont utilities to sell renewable energy and help their customers reduce their fossil fuel footprints. The new law launches a program called RESET (Renewable Energy Standard and Energy Transformation) that synchs state renewable energy programs with other New England states. Concerns over the siting of renewable energy also spilled over to this bill and lawmakers included provisions that give municipalities party status in Public Service Board deliberations for projects they host. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

ISSUE 3

H.187 Earned Paid Leave

VBSR believes that all Vermonters deserve access to paid time off – and this bill, first voted on in 2015 by the House and approved by the Senate in 2016, establishes a minimum standard of earned time off for employees working more than an average of 18 hours a week. The bill is phased in over a number of years and includes provisions such as a one-year waiting period for new hires and emerging businesses. VBSR scored the 2015 House vote on what we consider to be a stronger version of the bill and the 2016 Senate vote on the final compromise version of the bill, which included changes that left parts of the Vermont workforce uncovered by the law. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**



VBSR's 2015-16 Legislative Issues

ISSUE 4

S.73 Rent to Own

This bill cracks down on the predatory practices of the so-called rent-to-own industry – businesses that target low-income residents with “deals” on furniture and other household items. Lawmakers found that very few of the customers end up owning the merchandise after spending hundreds or thousands of dollars in weekly fees and hidden costs. The bill requires these businesses to be more transparent about their practices, including the total true cost of the merchandise, whether it was used or previously owned, and limits collection tactics that have been described as harassing. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

ISSUE 5

S.139 Health Care Reform

This was the biennium of diminished expectations for health care reform in Vermont. The prospect of a single-payer health care system were largely abandoned by Gov. Shumlin in late 2014. An attempt to address the Medicaid cost shift in 2015 only made it through a single committee before dying in the middle of the session. Instead, the Legislature passed a modest bill in 2015 that expanded the powers of the Green Mountain Care Board and funded a legislative study of creating a Universal Primary Care system in Vermont, a proposal supported by VBSR. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

ISSUE 6

H.261 Ban the Box

The “Ban the Box” bill removes the criminal history question from most private sector job applications in Vermont while also retaining an employer’s right to conduct background checks and to ask about convictions during job interviews. VBSR believes this bill matches modern hiring processes and allows Vermonters with criminal convictions the opportunity to tell their story in an interview and explain to a prospective employer what skills and qualifications they bring to a position. States and cities that have passed similar legislation have seen increased participation in the workforce from ex-offenders and reduced rates of recidivism. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

ISSUE 7

HR13 Fossil Fuel Divestment

This non-binding resolution from the Vermont House called for the state to fully divestment it’s pension funds from all coal and Exxon-Mobil holdings. VBSR believes the state should not invest Vermont’s money in companies that are damaging the environment and contributed greatly to global warming. Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pearce has since launched a study of divestment via the Vermont Public Investment Committee and a report later in 2016 should indicate if Vermont does decide to cease investing in fossil fuel stocks. The Senate did not pass a resolution, but a majority of that

chamber did sign a letter similar to the House language. **A “YEA” vote supported VBSR’s position.**

VBSR’S PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

VBSR Public Policy committee members meet monthly to develop policy and positions either proactively or in response to emerging issues. The committee gets feedback from the larger membership via member surveys, regional policy forums, and other VBSR events. Recommendations from the Public Policy Committee are made to the VBSR Board, and the Board votes on the committee’s recommendations.

2015-16 PPC Members

Russ Bennett, NorthLand Design & Construction (chair)

Jen Chiodo, Cx Associates (vice-chair)

Pat Heffernan, Marketing Partners (past chair)

Don Mayer, Small Dog Electronics (past chair)

Jen Kimmich, The Alchemist

David Blittersdorf, AllEarth Renewables

Leslie Nulty, Focal Point Advisory

Michael Burak, Burak, Anderson & Meloni PLC

James Ehlers, Lake Champlain International

Margi Swett, Vermont Trophy & Engraving

David Epstein, TruexCullins

Chris Miller, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream

Drew Kervick, Dunkiel Saunders

Heather Wright, WrightJones Law

Andrew Willis, Image Outfitters

Kristin Carlson, Green Mountain Power

Senate Votes Alphabetically

Member	1. Clean Water (H.35)	2. Renewable Energy (H.40)	3. Paid Leave (H.187)
	Passed: 27-2-1	Passed: 22-6-2	Passed: 21-8
Ashe of Chittenden District	NAY	YEA	YEA
Ayer of Addison District	YEA	Absent	YEA
Balint of Windham District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Baruth of Chittenden District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Benning of Caledonia District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Bray of Addison District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Campbell of Windsor District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Campion of Bennington District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Collamore of Rutland District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Cummings of Washington District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Degree of Franklin District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Doyle of Washington District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Flory of Rutland District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Kitchel of Caledonia District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Lyons of Chittenden District	YEA	YEA	YEA
MacDonald of Orange District	NAY	YEA	YEA
Mazza of Grand Isle District	YEA	YEA	NAY
McAllister of Franklin District	Absent	Absent	Excused
McCormack of Windsor District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Mullin of Rutland District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Nitka of Windsor District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Pollina of Washington District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Rodgers of Essex-Orleans District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Sears of Bennington District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Sirotkin of Chittenden District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Snelling of Chittenden District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Starr of Essex-Orleans District	YEA	NAY	NAY
Westman of Lamoille District	YEA	YEA	NAY
White of Windham District	YEA	YEA	YEA
Zuckerman of Chittenden District	YEA	YEA	YEA

House Votes Alphabetically

Member	1. Clean Water (H.35)	2. Renewable Energy (H.40)	3. Paid Leave (H.187)	4. Rent to Own (S.73)	5. Health Care Reform (S.139)	6. Ban the Box (H.261)	7. Fossil Fuel Divestment (HR13)
	Passed: 133-11-5	Passed: 121-24-4	Passed: 76-66	Passed: 131-13-5		Passed: 138-5-6	76-57-14
Ancel of Calais	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Bancroft of Westford	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Bartholomew of Hartland	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Baser of Bristol	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Batchelor of Derby	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Beck of St. Johnsbury	YEA	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Berry of Manchester	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Beyor of Highgate	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Bissonnette of Winooski	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Botzow of Pownal	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Branagan of Georgia	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Brennan of Colchester	YEA	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Briglin of Thetford	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Browning of Arlington	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Burditt of West Rutland	Absent	NAY	NAY	Absent	NAY	NAY	NAY
Burke of Brattleboro	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA
Buxton of Tunbridge	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	Absent
Canfield of Fair Haven	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Carr of Brandon	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Christie of Hartford	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	Absent
Clarkson of Woodstock	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Cole of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Condon of Colchester	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent	YEA	NAY
Connor of Fairfield	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Conquest of Newbury	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Corcoran of Bennington	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Cupoli of Rutland City	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY

House Votes Alphabetically, continued

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Dakin of Chester	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	NAY
Dakin of Colchester	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Dame of Essex	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY
Davis of Washington	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA
Deen of Westminster	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Devereux of Mount Holly	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent	YEA	NAY
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Donahue of Northfield	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Donovan of Burlington	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Eastman of Orwell	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY
Ellis of Waterbury	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA		
Emmons of Springfield	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Evans of Essex	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA
Fagan of Rutland City	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent
Feltus of Lyndon	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Fields of Bennington	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Fiske of Enosburgh	YEA	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	Absent	NAY
Forguites of Springfield	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Frank of Underhill	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
French of Randolph	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Gage of Rutland City	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Gamache of Swanton	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Gonzalez of Winooski	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA
Grad of Moretown	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Graham of Williamstown	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY
Greshin of Warren	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY
Haas of Rochester	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Head of South Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Hebert of Vernon	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Helm of Fair Haven	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Higley of Lowell	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY

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Hooper of Montpelier	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Hubert of Milton	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY
Huntley of Cavendish	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Jerman of Essex	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA
Jewett of Ripton	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Johnson of South Hero	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Juskiewicz of Cambridge	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Keenan of St. Albans City	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Klein of East Montpelier	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Komline of Dorset	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY
Krebs of South Hero	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Krowinski of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
LaClair of Barre Town	YEA	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
LaLonde of South Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Lanpher of Vergennes	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Lawrence of Lyndon	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Lefebvre of Newark	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA
Lenes of Shelburne	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Lewis of Berlin	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Lippert of Hinesburg	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Long of Newfane	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Lucke of Hartford	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Macaig of Williston	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Manwaring of Wilmington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Marcotte of Coventry	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Martel of Waterford	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Martin of Wolcott	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA

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Masland of Thetford	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
McCormack of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
McCoy of Poultney	YEA	NAY	NAY	Absent	NAY	YEA	Absent
McCullough of Williston	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
McFaun of Barre Town	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Miller of Shaftsbury	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Morris of Bennington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Morrissey of Bennington	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	Absent	Absent
Mrowicki of Putney	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA
Murphy of Fairfax	YEA	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Myers of Essex	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Nuovo of Middlebury	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
O'Brien of Richmond	Absent	Absent	Absent	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY
O'Sullivan of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Olsen of Londonderry	YEA	Absent	Absent	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA
Parent of St. Albans Town	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Partridge of Windham	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	Absent	YEA
Patt of Worcester	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Pearce of Richford	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Pearson of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Poirier of Barre City	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent
Potter of Clarendon	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent
Pugh of South Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent	YEA	YEA
Purvis of Colchester	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Quimby of Concord	NAY	Absent	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Rachelson of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	NAY

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Ram of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Russell of Rutland City	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Ryerson of Randolph	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Savage of Swanton	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	Absent	YEA	NAY
Scheuermann of Stowe	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Sharpe of Bristol	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Shaw of Derby	YEA	NAY	Absent	YEA	Absent	YEA	Absent
Shaw of Pittsford	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Sheldon of Middlebury	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Sibilia of Dover	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Smith of Morristown	Not voting	Not voting	Not voting	Not voting	Not voting	Not voting	Not voting
Smith of New Haven	YEA	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Stevens of Waterbury	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Strong of Albany	NAY	NAY	Absent	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Stuart of Brattleboro	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	Absent
Sullivan of Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Sweeney of Windsor	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Tate of Mendon	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY
Terenzini of Rutland Town	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	NAY	Abstain
Till of Jericho	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Toleno of Brattleboro	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Toll of Danville	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Townsend of South Burlington	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Trieber of Rockingham	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	YEA
Troiano of Stannard	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Turner of Milton	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY

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Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	Absent	YEA	NAY
Viens of Newport City	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Walz of Barre City	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Webb of Shelburne	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Willhoit of St. Johnsbury	YEA	NAY	NAY	NAY	NAY	YEA	Absent
Wood of Waterbury						YEA	YEA
Woodward of Johnson	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Wright of Burlington	YEA	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
Yantachka of Charlotte	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Young of Glover	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA
Zagar of Barnard	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA	YEA