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# Legislative Highlights Week 10 (Mar. 8, 2022 – Mar. 11, 2022)

## (Week 9 was Town Meeting break week)

Highlights of Interest to Nurses

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare Room 17 and Zoom

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-health-and-welfare>

## Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**9:00 AM** **S. 72 - An act relating to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children**

*Walk-through by counsel*

* Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Patricia Casanova, LICSW, VT Deputy Compact Administrator ICPC/ICJ, Human Trafficking Consultant, Department for Children and Families - Invited

**10:30 AM** **S. 204 - An act relating to licensure of freestanding birth centers**

*Mark-up and possible vote*

* Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**11:15 AM** **S. 90 - An act relating to establishing an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis registry**

*Mark-up, testimony, and possible vote*

* Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Karin Hammer-Williamson, Care Services Coordinator- Vermont, The ALS Association Northern New England Chapter

[**S.197:** Draft 1.1, 2-14-2022](https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate%20Health%20and%20Welfare/Bills/S.197/Drafts,%20Amendments,%20and%20Legal%20Documents/S.197~Katie%20McLinn~%20Draft%201.1,%202-14-2022%20Strike-All%20Amendment~2-18-2022.pdf)

## Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**9:00 AM** **S. 285 - An act relating to expanding the Blueprint for Health and access to home- and community-based services**

*Mark-up, testimony, and possible vote*

* Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Patrick Flood, Citizen, Woodbury, VT
* Devon Green, Vice President of Government Relations, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems
* Rebecca Copans, Government and Media Affairs, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont
* Robin Lunge, J.D., M.H.C.D.S., Board Member, Green Mountain Care Board
* Mary Kate Mohlman, Director, Vermont Public Policy, Bi-State Primary Care Association

**10:30 AM** **S. 195 - An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists**

**S. 197 - An act relating to the Coordinated Mental Health Crisis Response Working Group**

*Mark-up, testimony, and possible vote on mental health bills*

* Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health
* Laurel Omland, MS,NCC, Director, Child, Adolescent, and Family Unit, Vermont Department of Mental Health

## Thursday, March 10, 2022

**8:30 AM  Committee Discussion - *possible votes on various bills***

**9:00 AM**  **S. 285 - An act relating to expanding the Blueprint for Health and access to home- and community-based services**

*Mark-up and possible vote*

* Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**S. 239 - An act relating to enrollment in Medicare supplemental insurance policies**

*Mark-up and possible vote*

* Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

House Committee on Health Care Room 45 and Zoom

*at*[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-health-care*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-health-care)*.*

## Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**9:00 AM** **H. 279 - An act relating to miscellaneous changes affecting the duties of the Department of Vermont Health Access**

* Nissa James, Ph.D., Health Care Director, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
* Lisa Hurteau, Clinical Pharmacist, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

**10:00 AM** **House Floor**

**After the Floor**: **Caucuses**

**1:00 PM** **H. 287 - An act relating to patient financial assistance policies and medical debt protection**

* Devon Green, Vice President of Government Relations, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems
* Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate, Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

**H. 498 - An act relating to the Green Mountain Care Board’s duties and reappointment processes**

*Walk-through and testimony*

* Jennifer Carbee, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Robin Lunge, J.D., M.H.C.D.S., Board Member, Green Mountain Care Board
* Michael Barber, General Counsel, Green Mountain Care Board

## Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**9:00 AM** **H. 266 - An act relating to an incremental approach to health insurance coverage for hearing aids**

*Testimony and committee discussion*

* Sara Teachout, Director, Government, Public and Media Relations, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont
* Charles Storrow, Lobbyist, MVP Healthcare
* Nissa James, Ph.D., Health Care Director, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
* Nolan Langweil, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office

**1:00 PM** **H. 266 - An act relating to an incremental approach to health insurance coverage for hearing aids**

*Committee discussion and possible vote*

## Thursday, March 10, 2022

**9:00 AM** **H. 353 - An act relating to pharmacy benefit management**

*Testimony and committee discussion*

* Sara Teachout, Director, Government, Public and Media Relations, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont
* Charles Storrow, Lobbyist, MVP Healthcare
* Sam Hallemeier, Director of State Affairs, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
* Jeff Hochberg, President, Vermont Retail Druggists
* Jill Abrams, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Consumer Protection Division, Attorney General's Office - Invited

**1:00 PM** **H. 353 - An act relating to pharmacy benefit management**

House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development Room 35 and Zoom

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-commerce-and-economic-development>

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**9:00 AM** **H. 377 - An act relating to the creation of a public-private partnership with Advance Vermont to increase postsecondary attainment in Vermont**

* Heather Bouchey, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education
* Sarah Buxton, State Director of Workforce Development, Department of Labor
* Tom Cheney, Executive Director, Advance Vermont

**1:00 PM**                   **H. 512 - An act relating to modernizing land records and notarial acts law**

Mark-up and possible vote

* Tucker Anderson, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Amerin Aborjaily, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State, Secretary of State's Office
* Tanya Marshall, State Archivist and Director, VT State Archives & Records Administration, Secretary of State's Office
* Charles Storrow, Lobbyist, MVP Healthcare
* Andrew Mikell, State Manager, VT Attorneys Title Corp.
* Chris D'Elia, President, Vermont Bankers' Association
* Teri Corsones, Executive  Director, Vermont Bar Association
* Carol Dawes, Clerk-Treasurer, Barre City
* Gwynn Zakov, Municipal Policy Advocate, Vermont League of Cities and Towns

**3:00 PM** **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

* Amy Shollenberger, Lobbyist, Action Circles
* David Hall, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**4:00 PM** **H. 517 - An act relating to the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program**

Committee Discussion

* James DesMarais, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Rep. Lisa Hango, Sponsor, Franklin-5
* Mat Barewicz, Economic & Labor Market Information Director, Department of Labor
* Ken Gragg, Deputy Adjutant General, Vermont National Guard
* Carolyn Weir, Executive Director, The McClure Foundation
* Marilyn Cargill, Vice President, Financial Aid Services, Marketing and Research, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**9:00 AM** **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

* Tracy Dolan, Director, State Refugee Office, Agency of Human Services

**10:00 AM**  **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

* Scott Giles, President, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
* Marilyn Cargill, Vice President, Financial Aid Services, Marketing and Research, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

**11:00 AM** **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

* Linda Rossi, State Director, VT Small Business Development Center
* Ross Gibson, Council Director, Board of the Vermont State Council (SHRM)

**1:00 PM**  **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

Building Funds Proposal

* David Hall, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Gwen Bailey-Rowe, Assistant Director for Adult Education, North Country Career Center
* Josh Hanford, Commissioner, Department of Housing and Community Development
* Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
* Jennifer Hollar, Director of Policy and Special Projects, VT Housing & Conservation Board

Thursday March 10, 2022

**1:00 PM** **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

* Committee Discussion
* David Hall, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

Friday, March 11, 2022

**9:30 AM** **House Floor**

**10 mins after floor:** **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

*Committee Discussion*

House Committee on Education Room 9 and Zoom

[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-education*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-education)*.*

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**1:00 PM**  **S. 100 - An act relating to universal school breakfast and the creation of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch**

* Troy Jackson, Senator, Maine Legislature
* Matt Pouliot, Senator, Maine Legislature
* Rosie Krueger, State Director of Child Nutrition Programs, Agency of Education - Invited
* Brad James, Finance Manager, Agency of Education - Invited
* Daniel French, Ed.D., Secretary, Agency of Education – Invited
* Heather Bouchey, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education – Invited

Thursday, March 10, 2022

**9:00 AM** **S. 100 - An act relating to universal school breakfast and the creation of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch**

* Jay Nichols, Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association - Invited
* Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association - Invited
* Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association - Invited
* Jeff Fannon, Executive Director, Vermont National Education Association - Invited

**1:00 PM** **S. 100 - An act relating to universal school breakfast and the creation of the Task Force on Universal School Lunch**

House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs Room 42 and Zoom

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-general-housing-and-military-affairs>.

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**1:00 PM** **H. 244 - An act relating to authorizing the natural organic reduction of human remains**

Discussion and possible vote

* Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**2:15 PM** **H. 329 - An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination**

*Discussion and possible vote*

* Damien Leonard, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday, March 10, 2022

**9:00 AM**  **H. 96 - An act relating to creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force**

*Discussion and possible vote*

* Damien Leonard, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**1:00 PM**  **H. 329 - An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination**

*Discussion and possible vote*

* Damien Leonard, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**2:00 PM22-0616 - An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage laws**

*Discussion and possible vote or may continue Friday*

Tucker Anderson, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

House Committee on Government Operations Room 11 and Zoom

[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-government-operations*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-government-operations)

Thursday, March 10, 2022

**9:00 AM**  **22-0609 - An act relating to final district lines for the reapportionment of the House of Representatives**

* Amerin Aborjaily, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**10:00 AM** **H. 548 - An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis establishment procedures**

*Mark-up and vote*

* Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**11:00 AM**  **22-0609 - An act relating to final district lines for the reapportionment of the House of Representatives**

* Amerin Aborjaily, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**1:00 PM**  **H. 661 - An act relating to licensure of mental health professionals**

* Lauren Hibbert, Director, Office of Professional Regulation, Secretary of State's Office - Invited
* Linda  Li, President, NASW Vermont Chapter, Community Health Center of Burlington - Invited
* Lynn Stanley, Director, National Association of Social Workers, VT Chapter - ZOOM
* Sarah Launderville, Executive  Director, Vermont Center for Independent Living - Invited
* Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity, Agency of Administration - ZOOM
* Phil Prothero, Executive Director, Vermont Mental Health Counselors Association - Invited
* Carol McGranaghan, Chair, Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs - Invited
* Dana Kaplan, Executive  Director, Outright Vermont - Invited
* Jacob Bogre, Executive Director, Association of Africans Living in Vermont - Invited

**2:00 PM**  **22-0609 - An act relating to final district lines for the reapportionment of the House of Representatives**

* Amerin Aborjaily, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

More discussion after Floor Friday

House Committee on Human Services Room 46 and Zoom

[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-human-services*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-human-services)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**1:00 PM** **H. 711 - An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund**

Section 1, Advisory Council

* Grace Keller, Safe Recovery Program Coordinator, Howard Center
* Peter Espenshade, President, Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery - Invited
* Wendy Koenig, Federal and State Relations and Legislative Liaison, University of Vermont - Invited
* Joyce McKeeman, President, Vermont Association of County Judges
* Joshua Diamond, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
* Monica Caserta Hutt, Chief Prevention Officer, Office of Governor

**3:15 PM** **H. 711 - An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund**

*Review of new draft*

* Monica Caserta Hutt, Chief Prevention Officer, Office of Governor
* Joshua Diamond, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Wednesday March 9, 2022

**1:00 PM** **H. 711 - An act relating to the creation of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and the Opioid Abatement Special Fund**

*New draft and possible vote*

* Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**1:30 PM** **Opioid Overdose Crisis Response**

Individual member reports

Committee discussion on components of draft bill

Thursday, March 10, 2022

**8:30 AM** **Opioid Overdose Crisis Response**

*draft of bill*

* Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**10:30 AM** **H. 464 - An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility**

* Amy Rose, Policy Associate, Voices for Vermont's Children
* Karen Lafayette, Lobbyist, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council - Invited

**1:00 PM** **H. 464 - An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility**

*Discussion of H.464 and Opioid Overdose Crisis Response Bill*

Friday, March 11, 2022

8:30 AM Opioid Overdose Crisis Response

Possible vote on bill

**1:00 PM H. 464 - An act relating to the medical review process in the Reach Up program and Postsecondary Education Program eligibility**

*Committee discussion and vote*

House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife Room EA and Zoom

[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-natural-resources-fish-and-wildlife*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/house-natural-resources-fish-and-wildlife)*.*

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

1:15 PM H. 606 - An act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection

Possible Vote

* Ellen Czajkowski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

2:15 PM H. 115 - An act relating to household products containing hazardous substances

Possible Vote

* Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

9:00 AM H. 523 - An act relating to reducing hydrofluorocarbon emissions

Introduction and walk-through

* Rep. Curt McCormack, Sponsor
* Wayne Weikel, Director of Government Affairs, Alliance of Automotive Innovation
* Bridget Morris, Lobbyist, Alliance for Automotive Innovation
* Marilyn Miller, Executive Director, Vermont Vehicle and Automotive Distributors Association
* Allison Maginot, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
* Christina Theodoridi, Policy Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council
* Ellen Czajkowski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
* Peter Walke, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources - Invited

Senate Committee on Appropriations Room 5 and Zoom

[*live streamed via YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtbvauqWuOFF5jD8fp8JG5w/featured)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**2:00 PM 22-0443 - An act relating to the fiscal year 2023 Governor's recommended budget**

***Secretary of State***

* James Condos, Vermont Secretary of State, Secretary of State's Office
* Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State, Secretary of State's Office
* Stacey Drinkwine, Financial Director, Secretary of State's Office
* Michelle Eno, Administrative Services Manager, Secretary of State's Office

Vermont State Auditor

* Doug Hoffer, State Auditor, State Auditor's Office
* Tim Ashe, Deputy State Auditor, State Auditor's Office

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**1:00 PM**  **Senate Convenes**

**22-0443 - An act relating to the fiscal year 2023 Governor's recommended budget**

*Lt. Governor's Office*

* Molly Gray, Vermont Lieutenant Governor
* Holly S. Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services Division, Agency of Administration
* Brenda Berry, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Agency of Administration

**3:00 PM** **22-0443 - An act relating to the fiscal year 2023 Governor's recommended budget**

*Department of Financial Regulation*

* Michael Pieciak, Commissioner, Department of Financial Regulation
* Emily Kisicki, Director of Policy, Department of Financial Regulation
* David Cameron, Administrative Services Director, Department of Financial Regulation

**More discussion and testimony on the budget through Friday**

Senate Committee on Education Room 28 and Zoom

[*https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-education*](https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/senate-education)

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

**1:30 PM  S. 162 - An act relating to the collective bargaining rights of teachers**

* Jay Nichols, Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association
* Jeff Fannon, Executive Director, Vermont National Education Association
* Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association - Invited
* Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association - Invited

2:30 PM  S.197 - An act relating to the Coordinated Mental Health Crisis Response Working Group

* Sarah Clark, Deputy Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**1:30 PM S. 211 - An act relating to creating the Vermont Teaching Careers Study Committee**

Committee discussion

* James DesMarais, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**2:00 PM S. 162 - An act relating to the collective bargaining rights of teachers**

Mark-up and possible vote

* James DesMarais, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

**2:30 PM                   Afterschool Programs**

Update

* Holly Morehouse, Executive Director, Vermont Afterschool, Inc.

Thursday, March 10, 2022

**3:00 PM                   COVID-19 Update Related to Schools**

Daniel French, Ed.D., Secretary, Agency of Education - Invited

**3:30 PM                   PCB Testing in Schools**

*Committee Discussion*

* Peter Walke, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources
* Patricia Coppolino, Senior Environmental Program Manager, Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources

Friday, March 11, 2022

**1:30 PM H. 456 - An act relating to establishing strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges**

* James DesMarais, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel