



VCDR 2022 Weekly Summary of Legislative Activities, Committee Agendas and Calendar of Events

February 14 – February 18, 2022

Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights

Legislature

The Legislature reconvened on Tuesday January 4th for the second year of the 2021-2022 Biennium.

The Legislature met remotely for the first two weeks of the session until the third week of January 17 when the House committees decided to meet in person with some members able to join remotely if they have health issues related to COVID.

House committees have been back in person, and they continue to livestream committee meetings. The House has continued to meet as a full body for floor activity, remotely, for now with remote access as well.

The Senate has been meeting remotely since the beginning of the session but is expected to be back after the town meeting break the second week of march. It is expected that both houses will begin to conduct floor activity in person at that time as well. Floor activity in the House and Senate will continue to be livestreamed.

Most activity at the Legislature will continue to be available remotely. This includes the respective caucuses, floor sessions of the House and Senate, legislative committees, and other proceedings. (*See links below*).

The Public and others can access the Statehouse, but everyone in the Statehouse - lawmakers, staffers, lobbyists, media, and members of the public - will be required to wear at least a surgical mask.

The Legislature will meet on their regular (Tuesdays through Friday) schedule to do the session's work. House Appropriations generally meets on Mondays as well.

The work to combat the ongoing Coronavirus health and economic crisis continues to be a focus of the Legislature and the Scott Administration, in addition to continuing to make use of the federal ARPA monies and the new funds that will be coming to Vermont in the Federal Infrastructure bill now passed by Congress and signed into laws by the President. House and Senate Leaders will be tackling other key issues as well.

Below you will find: the VCDR Legislative Platform, Legislative Pages, Highlights of Legislative Activities, Selected Testimony and Legislation Updates, Committee Highlights, Legislation Introduced, Articled of interest, and other.

*****VCDR 2022 PLATFORM*****

The Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights 2022 Legislative Platform can be found on the VCDR website

VCDR Website: www.VCDR.org
<https://vcdr.org/about-vcdr/vcdr-platform/>

*****THIS WEEK*****

Disability Awareness Day Event

Wednesday, February 16, 5:30- 7:00 pm

[A Presentation of the VCDR 2022 Legislative Platform](#)

“VCDR’s Legislative Platform for 2022 reflects the impact of pandemic realities on the lives of Vermonters with disabilities and their families.

“COVID has challenged us to find ways to respond to new challenges with high expectations and a commitment to make sure that our best hopes for the future are Open to All.” Deborah Lisi-Baker

Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/VCDRPresentation>

*****LAST WEEK*****

PUBLIC HEARINGS on the FY 2023 BUDGET

Both hearings are available to watch live on YouTube at the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/streaming/vermont-joint-fiscal>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgHFernWVwH5MD0Se9NmVhg/featured>

House and Senate Public Hearing Testimony on FY 2023 Budget

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2022/9/Date/2-8-2022#documents-section>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/document/2022/9/Date/2-9-2022#documents-section>

*****JOINT FISCAL INFORMATION*****

Joint Fiscal Page: <https://lifo.vermont.gov/>

January 2022 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update - Revised

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Emergency%20Board/W~Tom%20Kavet~January%202022%20Economic%20Review%20and%20Revenue%20Forecast%20Update%20-%20Revised%20January%202015,%202022~1-20-2022.pdf>

*****FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET*****

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED FY 2023 STATE BUDGET

Joint Fiscal Page

BUDGET <https://lifo.vermont.gov/subjects/appropriations-and-budget/fy-2023/governors-proposed-budget-documents>

Jan 18, 2022 [Governor's Recommended FY 2023 State Budget - ARPA Funding by Governor Phil Scott | FY 2023](#)

Jan 18, 2022 [Governor's Recommended FY 2023 State Budget - Updated Language by Governor Phil Scott | FY 2023](#)

Jan 18, 2022 [FY 2023 Executive Budget Summary](#)
by Governor Phil Scott | FY 2023

Joint Fiscal Page AHS <https://lifo.vermont.gov/subjects/department-budgets/fy-2023/human-services>

Jan 19, 2022 [Agency of Human Services - FY 2023 Budget Presentation](#)

Jan 19, 2022 [Agency of Human Services - FY 2023 Budget Summary](#)

Jan 19, 2022 [Agency of Human Services - FY 2023 Budget - Agency-wide Crosswalks](#)

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT:

H.679: As amended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate%20Appropriations/FY%202022%20BAA/H.679~Stephanie%20Barrett~As%20amended%20by%20the%20Senate%20Committee%20on%20Appropriations~2-1-2022.pdf>

*****TESTIMONY*****

Senate Appropriations

Monica White, Commissioner DAIL

[DAIL - FY23 Budget Cover Page](#)

Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate Appropriations/FY 2023 BUDGET/

[DAIL - FY23 Budget Testimony](#)

Documents/2022/WorkGroups/Senate Appropriations/FY 2023 BUDGET/03 Human Services/

House General Committee

H.96 - An act relating to creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force and

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0096/H-0096%20As%20Introduced.pdf> *as introduced*

[H.96: Draft 1.3, 1-10-2022](#) *as proposed to be amended*

Testimony from the VT DD Council

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmPnDEcJ55c>

Testimony from Disability Rights Vermont

[H.96: Comment from Disability Rights Vermont](#)

*****LEGISLATIVE PAGES*****

Legislature Website: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Announcements - Caucuses, Meetings and Streaming Links:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/home/noteworthy/announcements/>

Complete Schedule of Legislative Committee Agendas:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/weeklyAgendas/2022>

House and Senate Standing Committees:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/list/2022/>

All committees can be viewed through you tube LIVE STREAM. You can find the link on the committee's page or the agenda.

House and Senate Floor Times:

House Sessions

Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Wednesday at 1:15 PM
Thursday at 1:15 PM
Friday at 9:30 AM

Senate Sessions

Tuesday at 9:30 AM
Wednesday at 1:00 PM
Thursday at 1:00 PM
Friday at 11:30 AM

*****SELECTED LEGISLATION *****

S.210 An act relating to rental housing health and safety and affordable housing

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0210/S-0210%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

The Senate passed this bill on Friday. The bill would create a statewide registry of rental units and would make the Dept of Public Safety responsible for rental investigations. It is a replacement bill for **S.79** that the Governor vetoed in 2020

Senate again approves a statewide rental registry bill, but a veto remains likely -
VTDigger: <https://vtdigger.org/2022/02/09/senate-again-approves-a-statewide-rental-registry-bill-but-a-veto-remains-likely/>

Proposition 2 The House adopted Prop 2 on Friday (139-3 in favor). Prop 2 is a constitutional amendment clarifying the prohibition on slavery and indentured servitude. **The Amendment:**

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/PR0002/PR0002%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

House Passes Amendment to Vermont's Slavery Ban, Will Head to Voters

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2022/02/04/house-passes-amendment-to-vermonts-slavery-ban-will-head-to-voters>

S.194 An act relating to peer-operated respite centers – in Senate Health and Welfare <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0194/S-0194%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

The purpose of this bill is to provide funding to peer-run organizations in Vermont to operate peer respite centers to provide peer respite services to individuals with mental illness who experience acute distress, anxiety or emotional pain who might otherwise visit an emergency department or be admitted to an inpatient psychiatric hospital

S. 195 An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists – in Senate Health and Welfare

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0195/S-0195%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to require the State Agency of Human Services (AHS) to establish, no later than January 1, 2023, a statewide mental health peer support specialist certification program, as a part of the state's comprehensive mental health system and Medicaid program

H.96 - An act relating to creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force - In House General Committee

H.96 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0096/H-0096%20As%20Introduced.pdf> as introduced

This bill proposes to create the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force to develop and submit to the General Assembly a proposal for legislation to create one or more truth and reconciliation commissions to examine and begin the process of dismantling institutional, structural, and systemic discrimination in Vermont, both past and present

[H.96: Draft 1.3, 1-10-2022](#) as proposed to be amended

S.74 - An act relating to modifications to Vermont's patient choice at end of life laws <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0074/S-0074%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

As Passed by the Senate:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0074/S-0074%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

In House Human Services: This bill proposes to eliminate a requirement in Vermont's patient choice at end-of-life laws that both oral requests required of the patient with a terminal condition for medication to be self-administered to hasten the patient's death must have been made in the physical presence of the physician to whom the patient made the request.

*****COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS*****

House and Senate Committee Pages: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Weekly Committee Agendas:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/weeklyAgendas/2022>

Below please find highlights of House and Senate Committees this week. You can go to any committee page to find documents, bills, and testimony by date, witness, bill numbers and key word searches. *The House Appropriations Committee generally meets on Mondays until they pass the budget over to the Senate; most other committees meet Tuesday through Friday.*

HOUSE COMMITTEES

House Committee on Appropriations:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/9>

House Appropriations will hear testimony all week about the Governor's FY 2023 Budget proposal. On Tuesday and Wednesday, they will jointly meet with Senate Appropriation to hear testimony from over 100 advocates and members of the public.

House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/11>

On Wednesday the Committee will take up **H. 406 - An act relating to promoting racial and social equity in economic opportunity and cultural empowerment** and hear from the Agency of Commerce and Rights and Democracy Vermont on Wednesday and the rest of the week the committee will take up **H. 703 - An act relating to promoting workforce development**

H.703 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0703/H-0703%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

House Committee on Corrections and Institutions:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/17>

On Wednesday the Committee will hear more about **Prison Research and Innovation Networks** and take up **Justice Reinvestment II**.

House Committee on Education:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/10>

The committee will take up **H. 483 - An act relating to potential new models of funding and governance structures to improve the quality, duration, and access to career technical education in Vermont** all week long.

Other Bills /Acts in Committee:

Act 173 An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to students who require additional support passed in 2018.

House Committee on Energy and Technology:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/19>

House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/13>

On Wednesday and Thursday take up **H.96 - An act relating to creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force** (possible *markup*) and on Wednesday they will also take up **H. 273 - An act relating to promoting racial and social equity in land access and property ownership** and on Thursday they will take up and possible *mark up* **H. 329 - An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination**.

H.273 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0273/H-0273%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H. 329 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0329/H-0329%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Other Bills in Committee:

H. 329 - An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0329/H-0329%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H. 403 - An act relating to prohibiting no cause evictions

H. 640 - An act relating to creating tenant rights to purchase an apartment building

H. 625 - An act relating to providing protections against eviction, foreclosure, and tax sales

H.387 - An act relating to establishing the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for the Institution of Chattel Slavery

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0387/H-0387%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H. 93 - An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes and on.

H.93 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0093/H-0093%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H.96 - An act relating to creating the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Development Task Force and

H.96 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0096/H-0096%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

House Committee on Government Operations:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/14>

On Tuesday the Committee will take up **H. 548 - An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis establishment procedures** and Redistricting each day of the week.

House Committee on Health Care:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/15>

This agenda has not yet been published.

House Committee on Human Services:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/16>

Tuesday through Thursday the Committee will be taking up the **Developmental Disabilities Services System (DDSS)**, hearing from a Parent and the Vermont Coalition of Disability Rights on Tuesday, Green Mountain Self-Advocates on Wednesday, Counseling Services of Addison on Thursday, and then look at a first draft of the DDSS bill from Legislative Council.

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

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0464/H-0464%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H. 672 - An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to the Reach Up program

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0672/H-0672%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Other Bills in Committee:

H. 654 - An act relating to extending COVID-19 health care regulatory flexibility

H. 654 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0654/H-0654%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

House Committee on Judiciary:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/18>

This agenda has not yet been published.

Bills in Committee:

H. 546 - An act relating to racial justice statistics

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0546/H-0546%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Bills in Committee:

H.644 - An act relating to decriminalization of a personal use supply of a regulated drug

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0644/H-0644%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

House Committee on Transportation:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/20>

House Committee on Ways and Means:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/21>

Bills in Committee:

H. 527 - An act relating to tax relief for Vermonters

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0527/H-0527%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

SENATE COMMITTEES

Senate Committee on Appropriations:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/23>

This agenda has not yet been published.

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/32>

On Wednesday the committee will take up **S. 226 - An act relating to expanding access to safe and affordable housing** and on Friday they will take up **S. 52 - An act relating to increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by 2025** and **S.65 - An act relating to paid family leave**

S.226 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0226/S-0226%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Other Bills in Committee:

S. 52 - An act relating to increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by 2025 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0052/S-0052%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

S. 65 - An act relating to paid family leave
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0065/S-0065%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

S.79 An act relating to improving rental housing health and safety
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0079/S-0079%20As%20Passed%20by%20Both%20House%20and%20Senate%20Unofficial.pdf>

Senate Committee on Education:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/24>

On Wednesday the Committee will take up **Mandatory Vaccinations for Schools** and on Friday they will take up **S.189 - An act relating to the status of Holocaust education in public schools**

S.189 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0189/S-0189%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Senate Committee on Finance:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/25>

Most of the week the committee will take up **22-0593 - An act relating to improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula and providing education quality and funding oversight**

Senate Committee on Government Operations:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/26>

On Thursday the Committee will take up **S. 147 - An act relating to language access plans**

S.147 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0147/S-0147%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Other Bills in Committee:

S. 155 - An act relating to the creation of the Agency of Public Safety

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0155/S-0155%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Senate Committee on Health and Welfare:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/27>

On Wednesday the Committee will take up **H. 654 - An act relating to extending COVID-19 health care regulatory flexibility** and hear from Rights and Democracy Vermont (RADVT) on their Lobby Day. On Thursday the committee take up the **Health Equity Report** in a joint meeting with the House Committee on Health Care and hear from the Governor's Task Force on Racial Equality, Agency of Administration, Racial Equity Advisory Panel and the Health Equity Advisory Commission. On Friday the committee will likely mark up and pass out the mental health bills:

S. 206 - An act relating to planning for the care and treatment of patients with cognitive impairments

S. 194 - An act relating to peer-operated respite centers

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

Bills in Committee:

S. 194 - An act relating to peer-operated respite centers

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0194/S-0194%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

S. 195 - An act relating to the certification of mental health peer support specialists <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0195/S-0195%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

S. 206 - An act relating to planning for the care and treatment of patients with cognitive impairments

H. 265 - An act relating to the Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate (passed by House) <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0265/H-0265%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20House%20Unofficial.pdf>

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

S. 91 - An act relating to Parent Child Center Network

Senate Committee on Institutions:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/28>

On Wednesday the committee will take up **S. 245 - An act relating to a secure facility for justice-involved youth** and the Capital bill all week.

Bills in Committee:

S. 245 - An act relating to a secure facility for justice-involved youth

S.245 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0245/S-0245%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Senate Committee on Judiciary:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/29>

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Committee will take up **S. 228 - An act relating to prohibiting no-knock warrants**

Bills in Committee:

S.254 - An act relating to creating a private right of action against law enforcement officers for violating rights established under Vermont law

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0254/S-0254%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/30>

Senate Committee on Transportation:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/detail/2022/31>

*****VCDR BILLS OF INTEREST*****

Courtesy of Disability Rights Vermont

www.vcdr.org

*****ARTICLES OF INTEREST*****

Vermont Senate preparing to come back in person March 8 By Lola Duffort
Feb 10 2022 <https://vtdigger.org/2022/02/10/vermont-senate-preparing-to-come-back-in-person-march-8/>

Senate approves \$370 million spending package -
VT Digger: <https://vtdigger.org/2022/02/03/senate-approves-370-million-spending-package/>

House approves \$360 million spending package on housing, frontline worker bonuses and pension reform By Lola Duffort Jan 20 2022, 8:12 PM
<https://vtdigger.org/2022/01/20/house-approves-360-million-spending-package-on-housing-frontline-worker-bonuses-and-pension-reform/>

Committee bolsters Statehouse mask mandate, delays in-person legislating date By Sarah Mearhoff Jan 12 2022
<https://vtdigger.org/2022/01/12/committee-bolsters-statehouse-mask-mandate-delays-in-person-legislating-date/>

Final Reading: ‘The State of the State is strong,’ despite these unprecedented times By Riley Robinson, Sarah Mearhoff and Lola Duffort Jan 5 2022

<https://vtdigger.org/2022/01/05/final-reading-the-state-of-the-state-is-strong-despite-these-unprecedented-times/>

Scott outlines his top priorities for Vermont in State of the State January 5
<https://www.wcax.com/app/2022/01/05/gov-scott-deliver-state-state-wednesday/>

Scott Makes Vermont's Workforce His Priority for 2022

POSTED BY KEVIN MCCALLUM ON WED, JAN 5, 2022

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/OffMessage/archives/2022/01/05/scott-makes-vermonts-workforce-his-priority-for-2022>

****INFORMATIONAL LINKS****

VT Department of Health – COVID -19: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/>

VT Digger State Coronavirus Updates: <https://vtdigger.org/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 Coronavirus: Legal and Benefits Updates for Vermonters
<https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates>

VT Digger Coronavirus Update: <https://vtdigger.org/coronavirus/>

Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living: <https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information>

Department of Mental Health: <https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/coronavirus-and-our-mental-health>

Resources for Education Agency of Education Guidance to Schools:
<https://education.vermont.gov/news/covid-19-guidance-vermont-schools>

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Submitted by Karen Lafayette, VCDR Coordinator
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