

Legislative Update – 2/13/2015

This is a summary of ATOD related legislation introduced during the first session of the 2015 – 2016 biennium. Bills not passed this session will remain active for the 2016 session. To see any given bill, click on the link.

NOTE: Bill Number in **RED** indicates passed by both houses and sent to Governor for signing into law.

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HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2015:

H.20 An act relating to licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors as participating providers in Medicaid <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0020/H-0020%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to allow licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors who are in private practice to participate in Medicaid. Introduced by Representatives Dickinson of St. Albans Town and Huntley of Cavendish. **MOVED TO HUMAN SERVICES 1/20/15.**

H. 31 An act relating to establishing the crime of public intoxication <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0031/H-0031%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to prohibit a person from being intoxicated in a public place if as a result of the intoxication the person is: (1) unable to exercise care for his or her own safety or the safety of others; or (2) interferes with, obstructs, or prevents the use of a street, sidewalk, or other public way. Introduced by Representatives Emmons of Springfield, Dakin of Chester, and Forguites of Springfield. **IN JUDICIARY**

H. 45 An act relating to Vermont Prescription Monitoring System reporting <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0045/H-0045%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to require opioid treatment programs authorized by the Department of Health to report to the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System when methadone or medication containing buprenorphine is first dispensed to a patient or when the patient's prescription is altered. Introduced by Representative Till of Jericho. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 59 An act relating to banning the sale of flavored liquid nicotine <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0059/H-0059%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to ban the sale of 8 liquid nicotine in a flavor other than menthol in Vermont. Introduced by Representatives Koline of Dorset, Clarkson of Woodstock, Krowinski of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, and Till of Jericho. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 70 An act relating to casino gaming <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0070/H-0070%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to require the Vermont Lottery Commission to issue a license for the operation of one casino in Vermont. Introduced by Representatives Hubert of Milton, Batchelor of Derby, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Condon of Colchester, Cupoli of Rutland City, Devereux of Mount Holly, Fagan of Rutland City, Graham of Williamstown, Hebert of Vernon, Juskiwicz of Cambridge, Morrissey of Bennington, Myers of Essex, Quimby of Concord, Savage of Swanton, Terenzini of Rutland Town, and Wright of Burlington. **IN GENERAL, HOUSING AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

H. 74 An act relating to safety protocols for social and mental health workers

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0074/H-0074%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to require departments and programs within or under contract with the Agency of Human Services to create safety protocols for social workers, mental health workers, volunteers, interns, and all other employees providing direct services to clients. Introduced by Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, French of Randolph, McFaun of Barre Town, and Mrowicki of Putney. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 101 An act relating to mental health insurance benefits

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0101/H-0101%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to prohibit management of mental health insurance benefits separately from other health care benefits. It also prohibits prior authorization requirements for mental health care that differ from medical or surgical prior authorization requirements. Introduced by Representatives Donahue of Northfield, Gage of Rutland City, Poirier of Barre City, and Woodward of Johnson. **IN HEALTH CARE**

H. 139 An act relating to therapeutic use of marijuana for relieving symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0139/H-0139%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to allow people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder to use marijuana for therapeutic purposes to relieve symptoms of the disorder. Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Berry of Manchester, Carr of Brandon, Christie of Hartford, Evans of Essex, McCullough of Williston, Olsen of Londonderry, Russell of Rutland City, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Yantachka of Charlotte, and Zagar of Barnard. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 148 An act relating to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol with a child in the vehicle

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0148/H-0148%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to create more serious penalties for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol if there is a child in the operator's vehicle at the time of the offense. Introduced by Representative Clarkson of Woodstock. **IN JUDICIARY**

H. 151 An act relating to various amendments and additions to the heroin possession and sale statutes

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0151/H-0151%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to increase criminal penalties for possession of less than 200 mg of heroin; increase criminal penalties for people with more than one conviction of heroin possession; create a new crime for possession with intent to sell less than 3.5 grams of heroin; and create a new crime making it unlawful to knowingly be in a place where heroin is kept or in the company of a person possessing heroin. Introduced by Representative Sweaney of Windsor (By Request). **IN JUDICIARY**

H. 170 An act relating to a study of a noncriminal, public health approach to illicit drug use

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0170/H-0170%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill purposes to direct the Office of Legislative Council to examine the issue of a noncriminal, public health approach to low-level possession and use of illicit drugs in Vermont and to report its findings to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2016. Introduced by Representatives Pearson of Burlington, Burditt of West Rutland, and French of Randolph. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 171 An act relating to restrictions on the use of electronic cigarettes

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0171/H-0171%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes in the same places in which the use of lighted tobacco products is banned. It would also prohibit cigarette and electronic cigarette displays on store counters. Introduced by Representatives Frank of Underhill, Batchelor of Derby, Burditt of West Rutland, French of Randolph, Klein of East Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krowinski of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, and Till of Jericho. **IN HUMAN SERVICES**

H. 185 An act relating to restricted disclosure of protected health information

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0185/H-0185%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to require health care providers to notify patients of the patient's right to restrict the disclosure of protected health information in certain circumstances. Introduced by Representatives Morrissey of Bennington, Bancroft of Westford, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Beyor of Highgate, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Canfield of Fair Haven, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dame of Essex, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Eastman of Orwell, Fagan of Rutland City, Fiske of Enosburgh, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Graham of Williamstown, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Martel of Waterford, McFaun of Barre Town, Myers of Essex, Pearce of Richford, Purvis of Colchester, Quimby of Concord, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford, Shaw of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Strong of Albany, Tate of Mendon, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Viens of Newport City, and Willhoit of St. Johnsbury. **IN HEALTH CARE**

H. 201 An act relating to farm brewers' licenses

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0201/H-0201%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to create a farm brewer's license to permit the manufacture and sale of Vermont beer and cider. Introduced by Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Baser of Bristol, Bissonnette of Winooski, Carr of Brandon, Hooper of Montpelier, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenos of Shelburne, Marcotte of Coventry, Martin of Wolcott, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Parent of St. Albans City, Sabilia of Dover, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, and Walz of Barre City. **IN GENERAL, HOUSING AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

H. 219 An act relating to the sale of fortified wine

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/H-0219/H-0219%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

This bill proposes to define fortified wine and permit the holder of a second-class license to sell fortified wine to the public. Introduced by Representatives Grad of Moretown, Clarkson of Woodstock, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Scheuermann of Stowe, Carr of Brandon, Conquest of Newbury, Deen of Westminster, Greshin of Warren, Hooper of Montpelier, Jewett of Ripton, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Komline of Dorset, Lenos of Shelburne, Nuovo of Middlebury, Partridge of Windham, Sheldon of Middlebury, and Viens of Newport City. **IN GENERAL, HOUSING AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED IN 2015:

S. 9 An act relating to improving Vermont's system for protecting children from abuse and neglect <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0009/S-0009%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to improve Vermont's system for protecting children from abuse and neglect by establishing a new crime of failure to protect a child; clarifying the jurisdiction of special investigative units and ensuring that these units investigate the most serious child abuse cases; allowing for postadoption contact agreements; amending definitions pertaining to child abuse and neglect; fostering better communication between all participants in the child protection system; ensuring that custody determinations are based on the best interests of a child; establishing a Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee, an Office of the Child Protection Advocate, and a working group to improve CHINS proceedings; and requiring the Department for Children and Families to improve its policies and procedures. Introduced by Senators Ayer, Sears, Cummings, Flory, Kitchel, and Mullin **IN JUDICIARY**

S. 11 An act relating to the time to return a keg of malt beverages <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/Bills/Intro/S-029.pdf> This bill proposes to extend the time for returning a keg of beer from 60 days to 180 days. Introduced by Senator Benning. **IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND GENERAL AFFAIRS.**

S. 14 An act relating to single dose, child-resistant packaging and labeling of marijuana-infused edible or potable products sold by a registered dispensary <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0014/S-0014%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to require that marijuana-infused edible or potable products be contained in single dose, child-resistant packaging and be labeled with the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol in each dose. The act also makes a technical amendment to the definition of registered caregiver to conform to 2014 amendments to the chapter. Introduced by Senators Sears and White. **MOVED TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS 1/23/15.**

S. 42 An act relating to the substance abuse system of care <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0042/S-0042%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to create a 6 comprehensive system of care for the administration of substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services. Introduced by Senators Lyons and Ayer. **IN HEALTH AND WELFARE**

S. 59 An act relating to insurance coverage for abuse-deterrent formulations of certain medications <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0059/S-0059%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to require health insurance plans to cover abuse-deterrent formulations of pain relieving medications as preferred drugs on their prescription drug formularies. Introduced by Senator Mullin **IN HEALTH AND WELFARE**

S. 80 An act relating to the sale of fortified wine <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/BILLS/S-0080/S-0080%20As%20Introduced.pdf> This bill proposes to define fortified wine and permit the holder of a second-class license to sell fortified wine to the public. Introduced by Senators Collamore, Cummings, Doyle, Flory, Mullin, and Pollina. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING & GENERAL AFFAIRS**