

*When you call the Sergeant-at-Arms: Please leave your **name & phone number***

Say, "I'd like to leave a message for __," Leave a clear message, such as:

*"I do **not** support..." OR I am asking for your vote on __"*

Please refer to a bill number or name whenever possible.



THIS IS FOR THE USE OF FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ONLY!!

FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 1, 2022

In this week's edition: On Farm Accessory Businesses, Broadband, Economic Development, Water Withdrawal, Act 250, Treated Seeds, Right to Farm, Tile Drainage

LEGISLATIVE ADJOURNMENT

We have been hearing from multiple Senators and the Pro Temp that the Senate is considering adjournment for May 6th.

H.704 ON FARM ACCESSORY BUSINESS

The Senate Agriculture Committee received a walkthrough of H. 704 from Legislative Counsel. The bill currently resides in the House Natural Resources Committee, although it is unclear if they will try to move it.

S.166 BROADBAND CLEANUP

Senator Cummings, Chair of Finance, has indicated language from this bill will be included in H.515 (Miscellaneous Insurance Bill). The committee took further testimony from the Department of Financial Regulation but has not added the language from S. 166.

H.703 OMNIBUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

The Senate Economic Development, Housing, & General Affairs Committee heard testimony from House members and representatives from various college systems. The language includes funding for a meat cutters program as well as a focus on technical and vocational education for both high school and adults. It also includes H.566, which is the study of needs and

requirements for forestry which will result in recommendations to the Legislature; that piece also had a \$250,000 funding source for the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund to complete the report.

H. 626 TREATED SEEDS

The Senate Agriculture Committee took testimony on H. 626 this week with a variety of farmers, seed and feed dealers, beekeepers and advocacy groups promoting their support or opposition to this language. Discussion will continue next week.

H.466 WATER WITHDRAWAL

Senate Natural Resources did not take further testimony on the Water Withdrawal language this week.

S.234 – ACT 250 OFFERING

The House Natural Resources Committee took testimony on S. 234. The majority of the discussion focused on forest block protections and the road rule. Roads primarily used for farming are exempt from this rule. Both the Natural Resources Board and the Administration have expressed opposition to the bill in its current form.

S. 268 RIGHT TO FARM

The House Agriculture Committee heard testimony from Legislative Counsel on the right to farm bill and the ongoing lawsuit in Addison County. There was no consensus as to whether the language in the bill is necessary or whether it would have helped the current situation in Addison County had it been law. Legislative Counsel opined that the law would not help anyone engaging in agritourism because accessory on farm businesses would not be regulated by the RAPs. The Farm Bureau has been invited to testify on the [bill](#) next Thursday before the House Agriculture Committee. Anyone interested should contact me at crkdbbrks@aol.com or 802-426-3579. The Farm Bureau has requested information comparing current law to the proposed changes, and having not received it, we will wait until 2023 to suggest new language.

TILE DRAINAGE

Gerald Vorsteveld, the homeowner in the right to farm case, testified to the House

Agriculture Committee on tile drainage. He is supportive of the process, as he has seen his corn crop yields increase between 10 and 15 tons per acre due to water removal. Josh Faulkner from UVM also testified on discharge tests he has been conducting.

If there is any specific bill you would like information on, please let us know at crkdbrks@aol.com.

From the team – Bridget, Michael, Jill, Joe and Jackie

This week's Under the Golden Dome is sponsored by:



JOHN DEERE