



STATE OF VERMONT

Topics last week discuss in the legislator ranged from Global Warming, Vermont’s severely underfunded pension plans for State employees and teacher, Act 250 and energy related programs and bills. No movement on minimum wage bill vetoed by the Governor and is on the House of Representatives action calendar for February 25.

Employment related programs and discussions last week:

Worker relocation Program

As of January 1, 2020, a New Worker Relocation Grant Program was signed into law to encourage workers to move to Vermont to work for Vermont companies.

If you move to Vermont on or after January 1, 2020 to work full-time for a Vermont employer, you may be eligible for this program. The program provides grants of up to \$7,500 for relocation expenses. Qualifying expenses include closing costs for a primary residence, include closing costs for a primary residence, lease deposits, first month’s rent, hiring a moving company, renting moving equipment, shipping, moving supplies, connectivity, specialized tools and equipment, and co-working space membership fees. Workers must be employed full-time in select fields identified by the state. The state is encouraging employers to promote this program. <https://www.thinkvermont.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/New-Worker-Relocation-Grant-Program-FAQs-v1.1.pdf?x84618>

Proposal to mandate Transportation Demand Management Program

The House Transportation Committee’s proposal would require all employers with 50 or more employees to design and implement a transportation demand management plan.

The proposal has already been met with opposition from organizations including the VNA’s of Vermont, the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and the Vermont Health Care Association. The groups pointed out to the committee there are limited options for public transportation (especially after normal working and business hours) in rural communities where most health care providers are located and provided services.

Links to all bills:

House bills: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/all-house/2020>

Senate bills: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/all-senate/2020>

House committee assignments can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/list/2020/House-Standing#House-Standing>

Senate committee assignments can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/list/2020/Senate-Standing#Senate-Standing>

For more information about the SHRM Vermont State Council Legislative Employment Law and Legislative Advocacy Update, please contact Donna Austin-Hawley at 802-661-5392 or donna.austin-hawley@nsbvt.com.