

Town Meeting Day 2025 Resource Guide

As the 2025 Vermont legislative biennium begins to pick up pace, I remain steadfast in my commitment to making Vermont more affordable for our communities. So far, our work has been guided by sound investments in the Budget Adjustment Act and thoughtful policy conversations in Committees that work to address the pressing challenges facing our state—rising healthcare costs, workforce shortages, unsustainable property tax increases, the cost of a quality public education system and scarcity in affordable housing. These are **big** issues that add additional financial pressures on working families and I want you to know that I have heard your concerns **loud** and **clear**. Solving these challenges will take all of us coming to the table with a willingness to do the hard work that Vermonters have asked us to do and we are committed to delivering **thoughtful and sustainable** solutions.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative and I am so grateful for the continued feedback I receive from you all. It makes a real difference and it informs how I make decisions with your concerns in mind. Please continue to reach out with your thoughts and questions— I can't do this work without you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ways and Means

Updating the State's Grand List

The Ways and Means Committee is working on a committee bill to establish a system of property reappraisals that will update the state's grand list on a regular and more frequent basis. An accurate and current grand list is critical for a fair and equitable statewide education tax. The State asks a lot of town listers, and many towns struggle to find qualified people who are willing to fill this important role. This creation of a consistent statewide grand list will enable the fair taxation of different types of property at different rates (i.e. second homes at a different rate than affordable rentals.)

How we fund schools

The Ways and Means committee is painstakingly reviewing the assumptions and numbers used in the proposal by the Governor for moving to a "foundation formula." This would radically change how the State funds public education, providing school districts with a per-pupil "Base amount" that is adjusted for student needs that require extra instruction or facilities. While we agree that the foundation formula approach is an efficient way to distribute funds to students and

schools based on their needs, there are significant gaps and issues in the assumptions and numbers used by the Governor that will require updates and further analysis. In an effort to give local communities more flexibility, the Governor has proposed a “school district spending tax” in which a school district can spend more than the Base if approved by the voters. For districts that have limited taxing capacity (below the median grand list/pupil), the State would provide a portion of the school district spending tax. The committee will be taking additional testimony on both of these provisions before taking action in the next couple of weeks.

Property Tax Credit

The committee is considering adjustments to the **Property Tax Credit** program by adjusting the income and property value limits that have been in statute since 1997, and other proposals that would simplify the administration and calculation of the credits. Lastly, the committee is looking at equitable ways to use one-time surplus funds in the General Fund to “**buy down**” **statewide property taxes** for FY2026. We will continue to take testimony on the impact on future years of this proposal, and need to determine how it factors into the transition plan in education spending.

Other Tax Relief

The Ways and Means Committee is considering proposals to increase tax relief for low income tax filers by increasing the **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) for filers WITHOUT children to 100% of the federal allowance. That increases the refundable credit to \$649 for tax filers with income under \$26,214 (married, filing jointly). Also being considered is an expansion in the **Child Tax Credit** to children under the age of 6 years of age, up from 5 years of age. That will increase the number of eligible filers by 18% and deliver additional refundable tax credits for low income families. The committee is also considering increasing the **exemption for Social Security** income by \$5,000 when the AGI for tax filers is \$55,000 for individuals, and \$70,000 for joint filers.

Education

Supporting a High-Quality Public Education System

Governor’s Plan

- The Governor has shared his big ideas, but we need more details to understand his full plan. We are still pushing to get more information and there is a great deal of urgency given the short timeline we have in our legislative session.

- Details matter. We need to get it right for our kids, schools, and communities. The Governor's plan doesn't talk about some big costs in education, like health insurance, school buildings, and mental health support. Without a plan for these costs, it will be hard to make lasting changes.
- We agree with the Governor that we need a better education system at a price Vermonters can afford. To truly improve our schools, we need to look at the whole system. Success won't happen if we only focus on one part.

School Choice

Public schools are important for strong communities and a healthy democracy. The Governor's plan to expand school choice or implement a voucher system could hurt public schools and decrease educational opportunities for children. We will keep working on what Vermonters want: improving how we run, deliver, and pay for education to make sure we have strong schools for years to come.

Universal School Meals:

- Universal School Meals helps kids stay healthy, supports local farms, and helps schools do better. When kids aren't hungry, they can focus better, behave better, and do better in school. Vermont already leads the country in summer meal programs, serving 1 million meals in the summer of 2024 alone. If we undo this progress, it will hurt families, schools, and farmers. Vermont must keep its promise to feed every student, every school day.
- While the current program costs approximately \$17 million, If the universal school meals mandate is repealed, the amount of Federal funding received will decrease. Vermont's Agency of Education currently estimates that for fiscal year 2026, the statewide program results in an additional \$16.9 million in federal reimbursement. (That is approximately a 1-1 match we would lose)
- Students haven't paid for meals in Vermont schools since 2019, many districts no longer own cash registers, and all districts are warning budgets for 2026 that include USM dollars. The likely cost of transitioning students back to paying for their meals (administrative, bad debt, software, staffing, etc) would reduce savings to the education fund to a few million dollars.

Education Finance

We are committed to improving Vermont's public education system providing a high-quality education to every student with opportunities that serve their needs at a cost Vermonters can afford. To achieve this we are focused on a multi-prong approach including:

- Stabilize education property tax rates for FY 26 and FY 27.

- Reform our current system of property tax credits, homestead and non homestead taxes to be more fair and consistent with our policy goals.
- Establish the Foundation Formula in statute to be effective after a thorough testing of the assumptions used against the current realities experienced in local school districts. This will require revisions to the proposed base and weights and a detailed transition plan.
- Develop a transition plan of 3-5 years to get Vermont from the “current state” to the “future state” for governance, delivery and funding.

School Construction

We have underlying structural challenges in Vermont. We operate over 250 school buildings, which drives many of our staffing costs and facilities needs. Many of the school facilities in the system were built in the 1950s and 60s and are at the end of their useful lives. An estimate done for the legislature placed the cost of replacing or improving all of the facilities at \$6.3 billion over the next 20 years. To address this we hearing from policy experts on the following:

- Establish a State Aid for School Construction Program as proposed by the Working Group, with the added charge of prioritizing projects that fit into the future configuration of schools in Vermont.
- Moving towards schools that operate at scale including restarting our school construction aid program (there has been no state aid for almost 20 years) with highly targeted incentives for regionalization and consolidation so that we move towards research-based optimal school sizes over the next 5-10 years and setting clear limits on how our public dollars are used in areas that do not have a public school.

Setting class size minimums

School size matters. We can improve education opportunities by creating schools that are optimized in sizes appropriate for the ages of the students, utilizing existing school facilities as well as constructing new facilities where appropriate.

Consolidating Districts

We can't leave districts to weed through consolidation challenges on their own. We must develop a geographically-based plan for reducing the number of districts in the state that accounts for our current buildings (capacity and condition,) geography, and demographic trend data.

Statewide Calendar and Graduation Standards

Creating statewide cohesion around common sense issues like a uniform school calendar and statewide graduation standards.

State Board of Education Authority

Clarifying the role of the State Board of Education and resourcing it appropriately to do critical work on the rules that govern the quality of our system and be the public-facing part of public education.

Agency of Education

Continuing to push to resource the Agency of Education adequately (there are currently many vacancies and an increased reliance on consultants); when schools cannot count on our agency for technical assistance or professional development on practices that improve learning (and could decrease our very high special education costs), they all do the work on their own which leads to higher costs and disparate results.

Healthcare

Landscape of Healthcare in Vermont:

The House Committee on Health Care has taken extensive testimony and received updates from across Vermont's Healthcare system: private and public organizations, hospitals, advocates, consumers, rate payers and insurers. These testimonies have illuminated that Vermont's system of care is at a fragile point. We are facing major workforce shortages, provider financial strain, access issues and increasing demand for more acute services. Without swift and meaningful intervention, key parts of our system will fracture, limiting access to quality care for all Vermonters.

Approaches to Policy Reform:

In response, the committee is exploring short, medium and long-term strategies to alleviate pressures and bring sustainability. Our discussions and policy action has focused on legislation (H.35, H.96) that immediately streamlines regulatory oversight, promotes accountability and financial stability. Committee members are considering mid term reform efforts that encourage innovation and ensure Vermont's healthcare system, and residents, remain solvent and more affordable and accessible in the years ahead.

Removing Barriers:

One key reform priority is H-96, a bill aimed at increasing the monetary thresholds for a Certificate of Need (CON). Current requirements often prompt the CON process, which can be expensive, stifle competition and delay the expansion of services, acquisition of new equipment,

or investment in critical infrastructure. By adjusting monetary thresholds, H-96 seeks to balance oversight with efficiency and improve access.

As we move forward in the session we will be working on legislation that focuses on a long term strategy to address cost, insurer stability, affordability and access. Vermonters deserve to receive the care they need, in the appropriate setting, at the right time, for a price they can afford.

Commerce

The House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development is reviewing the Career Technical Education portion of the Governor's Education Transformation Proposal. The Committee has met with many leaders of the Centers, visited a Career Technical Center, and is reviewing Career Technical Education governance structures - we have 17 different centers and 4 different governance structures in Vermont. The week before Town Meeting the Committee met with Zoie Saunders, the Secretary of the Agency of Education and her CTE consultants. Ultimately, the Commerce Committee along with the Education Committee will be making recommendations for improving CTE in Vermont, including but not limited to recommendations relating to how many and what type of CTE governing entities are needed to support a high level of student learning, and the critical relationship between CTE's and Vermont's other workforce training programs.

In the continuing efforts to reform the system of developing and retaining a world class workforce in Vermont, House Commerce passed H34 setting the vision for the Office of Workforce Development and Strategy and its Executive Director. We are continuing our work setting Vermont up to be a workforce leader and use the assets that we have to make our brave little state the best place to work in the nation.

Human Services

FAIR WAGES FOR HOME- & COMMUNITY-BASED CARE PROVIDERS

Discussion of Vermont's workforce crisis often overlooks its impact on vulnerable neighbors. Without a well-supported, fairly paid workforce of home- and community-based care providers, far too many will be denied the ability to live at home with the dignity and assistance they deserve. The House of Representatives has passed H.13, a bill aimed at addressing wage inequities for workers supporting Vermont's older population and individuals with disabilities. While progress has been made to raise wages for nursing home staff, the most expensive care option, home- and community-based care workers have not seen similar improvements. H.13

calls for a rate study to guide efforts toward fairer wages and other costs for providers, offering crucial support for older Vermonters and those with disabilities.

CREATING CHANGE TO SUPPORT VERMONT'S HOMELESS

The COVID-19 pandemic and Vermont's lack of housing have dramatically worsened an already tragic situation of homelessness. While there is no one story of homelessness, the common thread is that with support, we can reverse this trajectory. Through H.91, the legislature is working to transition from a system rooted in emergency motel vouchers to a more comprehensive, sustainable program. This shift focuses on providing personalized support, addressing the unique causes of homelessness for each person, and offering long-term solutions. The program will include wraparound services with a greater focus, where needed, on identifying support for mental health care, addiction treatment, and permanent housing. By understanding the distinct circumstances behind homelessness, Vermont aims to create a system that not only provides shelter but empowers people to achieve lasting stability and independence.

General and Housing (HGH)

Your General and Housing committee is working across multiple committees to fight a housing crisis that underpins Vermont's severe workforce shortage and alarming rate of homelessness. We are working on two fronts: deregulation for building homes in urban and village centers and leveraging our state dollars into creative and time-tested financing of homes for lower and middle-income Vermonters. On the permitting front, we are building upon 2024's legislation, streamlining local zoning and state permitting processes in designated regions and for pre-approved home designs, to speed up building and lower construction costs. In terms of investments, we are developing innovative financing tools to overcome municipalities' challenges of developing housing infrastructure like water and sewer and working on rehabilitation and weatherization of our rentals and our farm worker housing. We are also working on leveraging credit to help first-generation home buyers afford down payments and lower mortgage costs, enabling members of our workforce to break generational poverty and fully participate in our state economy.

Importantly, we are committed to ensuring that Vermont's housing strategies address the needs of all Vermonters, from working families to seniors. This includes providing affordable, accessible housing options for our workforce to ensure that they have stable housing while contributing to the state's economic growth. Additionally, we are prioritizing housing solutions for seniors, many of whom need safe, affordable homes with the necessary services and supports to age in place. Finally, to help our most vulnerable populations meet immediate needs, we are discussing

funding programs that provide housing and home services for Vermonters with disabilities and for our seniors.

With these immediate and longer-term goals in mind, the House Committee on General and Housing is presenting its budget recommendations to the Appropriations Committee, and writing its omnibus Housing Bill based on joint hearings with its partner committee in the Senate, having taken testimony from stakeholders around the state, and folding in language from the Governor's housing proposal.

House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee

Strengthening our Elections:

The House Government Operations and Military Affairs committee has started its work on a bill to strengthen and clarify some of our elections processes in Vermont. The committee is considering proposals for a number of changes, including instituting Rank Choice Voting for presidential primaries; requiring candidates remain affiliated with the one party they declare in the primary through the general election. In addition, the bill proposes to allow members of the military and others who cannot physically return their ballots to return them electronically (to *transmit* them; **not** to vote over the Internet). The bill proposes to require all candidates, both official and write-ins, to earn the same number of signatures to qualify for election. The bill clarifies some campaign finance rules, and requires an audit be done of checklists and district lines to prevent the errors that occurred in the 2024 Bennington 1 and 5 district election. The committee expects to be engaging in robust discussions with many stakeholders about these proposals over the next few weeks.

Making Government Accountability a Habit

The House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs has been working on a bill—H.67--that would incorporate accountability mechanisms into the legislative process for legislation that has or will affect the entire Vermont population. The bill would create a standing committee of legislators who will choose issues of significant public concern to review and make recommendations about. The goal of this legislation is to systematize government accountability with simple, clear, independent, objective, and fact-based processes rather than rely upon individual legislators or committees to be effective.

House Energy and Digital Infrastructure

Government Oversight: Keeping an Eye on State IT

The new House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee is building effective oversight of Vermont's state government IT (information technology) systems. The scale of the spending is formidable. Currently, the Agency of Digital Services (ADS) lists total IT costs of more than \$760 million in 53 projects over the next several years. Many agency and department systems are decades old and in desperate need of replacement.

ADS is a new agency, established in statute six years ago to coordinate projects across the executive branch. In that time, it has had three Secretaries and minimal legislative oversight. The current Secretary, Denise Reilly-Hughes, is focused on improving and standardizing our IT systems and procurement. She's working collaboratively with the committee on a bill to improve the ADS dashboard. It's an important tool for legislators and Vermonters to see how major IT projects are progressing, and whether they're on time and on budget.

Tracking the Energy Transition

The House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee is working on a bill (H.125) to pull together existing data to understand the impact of the energy transition. As society shifts away from fossil fuels, the goal is to understand how Vermont — and Vermonters — are being impacted. Are weatherization services available in all rural areas? Are any areas in danger of depending on a sole fuel supplier? Are there communities that lack grid capacity to support heat pumps, electric vehicles, or distributed solar generation? With this proposed annual report, we can spot trends and make policy to ensure that no communities are left behind.

What's Happening with Clean Heat?

A lot of misinformation surrounded the legislature's work on energy and climate last year, especially around the Affordable Heat Act and its proposed clean heat standard. The Public Utility Commission's report on implementation, delivered January 15, confirmed that projected price impacts on heating fuel had been wildly overblown, and would be about 8 cents per gallon the first year rising to 58 cents after 10 years.

However, the report also concluded that creating a "clean heat credit" market, similar to renewable energy credits in the regional electric sector, is not viable for Vermont to do on its own. So the legislature is not moving forward with the clean heat standard at this time (It was written to require the legislature to vote on it again to implement it after the study).

Appropriations:

The House has been engaged in reviewing the Governor's draft budget with state agencies, policy committees, and through citizen input at several public hearings. The needs that have been expressed in these forums include:

- Gaps between Medicaid reimbursement rates and the actual cost of services delivered by mental health and primary care providers and at adult day and long-term care facilities;
- Court backlogs that may require additional legal or judicial staffing to address;
- Increased demand for basic food supports and meals on wheels;
- Affordable housing for low to moderate-income Vermonters

As is true every year, we strive to write a budget that strikes the right balance between addressing immediate or emerging needs, makes meaningful contributions to longer-term needs (maintaining bridges and roads or extending access to broadband), and ensures that the state government has the capacity to fulfill its obligations to Vermonters. This year, the budget process is also affected by two critical pressures: the need to address the ways in which we fund education and to anticipate the impact of potential cuts to federal funding.

We are working in especially close collaboration with the Governor, the Treasurer, and the Joint Fiscal Office as we consider our options and will keep you abreast of any significant developments. The budget is expected to pass out of committee on March 21st and move on to the Senate.

Environment:

Climate Resiliency

The House Committee on Environment is working to ensure effective progress is being made on landmark climate legislation passed over the past few years, including Act 59, the Community Resiliency and Biodiversity Protection Act, which requires we permanently conserve 30% of Vermont by 2030 and 50% by 2050 to preserve biodiversity and facilitate the ability of species to shift their ranges and adapt to the changing climate. We are also examining best practices in river corridor restoration practices, including enabling beavers to naturally provide critical flood resiliency services for landscapes and communities.

Clean Water Regulations

The House Committee on Environment has been taking testimony on our state's ongoing investments and regulatory actions to reduce phosphorus pollution entering Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog, as required by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The committee is working this session to address concerns that the 3-acre stormwater rule implemented to address phosphorus reductions from impervious surfaces is overly burdensome in some circumstances. We are also examining options for relocating Vermont's agricultural water quality

regulatory program from our Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to the Agency of Natural Resources, as required by the US EPA.

Protecting Vermonters from PFAS

Our committee is also working on a bill to continue to remove PFAS chemicals from consumer products and our environment, due to their clear human health impacts, including causing cancer, reducing fertility and causing developmental effects in children, and disrupting hormone and immune systems. We are working to build on the work of Act 131, passed in 2024, which banned PFAS compounds in a variety of consumer products. The bill we are considering would add to the list of banned products, encourage industries to continue to remove PFAS from their products as well as the manufacturing process, and continue to move Vermont forward in addressing this large range of forever chemicals that have become commonly used for a range of purposes and products.

Transportation Committee:

REVIEW OF THE TRANSPORTATION BILL

The House Transportation Committee has been reviewing the Agency of Transportation's \$883 million proposed FY 2026 budget (the T-Bill), with a focus on identifying opportunities to increase the funding to local municipalities in the form of Town Highway Bridges, Structures and Class 2 Roadways (which are currently showing a funding decrease). The T-Bill also currently shows a decrease in Paving, Interstate Bridges, and Public-Transit Funding.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE

Revenues to the Agency are projected to decrease year over year due in part to declining gas-tax revenue as the public adopts more Electric Vehicles and Plug-in Electric Vehicles. Projections show the State will be short \$30 million in 2027 and \$45 million in 2028 due to declining federal match dollars. Additionally, VTrans currently sends roughly 72 million to other funds (including education).

An additional fee on EVs and Plug-in EVs has been added to Registration Fees in the short-term, and a Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) is in development as a more permanent solution. Other potential revenue sources are in discussion, including a home-delivery fee on packages charged to retailers.

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

The following resources are available for information on road conditions, scheduled paving projects, construction, plow locations, etc.

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/contact-us>:

Judiciary

Establishing Criminal Accountability for Abuse of a Deceased Individual

In response to a brutal murder last year in Enosburg where the killer also burned the victim's body, House Judiciary passed [H.41](#), which establishes a felony crime for abusing the dead body of a person (inexplicably, this did not already exist in Vermont statute).

The new law would prohibit a person from engaging in various types of conduct that constitutes abuse of a corpse. Specifically, it creates a five-year felony for a person who burns, mutilates, disfigures, dismembers, or destroys a dead human body (while being careful to exclude those who are legally authorized to do so, such as medical examiners and others who work with deceased bodies). The bill also would create an enhanced penalty when a person commits this conduct with the intent to conceal a crime or avoid apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime, or when a person commits a sexual act with a dead human body.

Protecting Parental Rights for All Vermonters Through Confirmatory Adoption

Most people will never have to confirm the legitimacy of their claim that they are the parent of their child. But some, specifically those who become parents through assisted reproduction (such as IVF or sperm donation), could face exactly this type of heartbreaking challenge outside of Vermont.

Families created with assisted reproduction are recognized under Vermont law but other states may not recognize that status, which can become an issue when families travel or relocate. To provide an extra layer of legal protection for these Vermont parents, the House passed [H.98](#).

Vermont's current adoption process – which is appropriately extensive, detailed, and time-consuming – is designed for more traditional adoptions that bring children into new homes and families. These requirements are not appropriate in situations where the purpose of the adoption is to confirm legal parent-child relationships that have existed since birth and are already recognized under state law. Confirmatory adoption allows for adoption decrees that must be honored in all states, which is critical to protect the children's best interests and safety.

Expanding Hate Crime Laws to Protect Our Most Vulnerable

The Vermont House passed [H.118](#) to expand the scope of Vermont's hate-crimes enhancement statute to include hate-motivated crimes directed at third parties and groups of people based on their actual or perceived membership in a protected category.

Under current law, a person who commits an underlying crime that is motivated by the victim's membership in a protected category – like race, color, religion, national origin, and others – may be sentenced to additional time in prison, an additional monetary fine, or both. H.118 amends the hate-motivated crimes statute by expanding the language so that this important enhancement can be used by prosecutors in additional circumstances where the crime was motivated by hate towards a protected group that may not be the specific victim of the crime. This expansion would create a law that more accurately reflects the reality of how some hate crimes are perpetrated.

House Committee on Corrections & Institutions:

Supporting a Dynamic and Successful Corrections System

The number of incarcerated individuals in Vermont's corrections system has remained stable over the last few years -- a little more than 1,400 individuals are incarcerated in Vermont at any given time. The Department of Corrections mission is to create a safe environment that is equitable while also seeing potential in all incarcerated people. They strive to support positive change by advancing restorative justice practices, creating rewarding career opportunities and cultivating meaningful partnerships that break down systemic barriers for reentry into our communities.

Working to meet these needs is one of the key policy areas for the legislature. We are looking at creating educational opportunities within correctional policy. Today, CCV teaches classes in many of our correctional facilities. It allows incarcerated people to get college level classes that set them up for success when they reenter our Vermont communities. At the same time, CCV has also enrolled correctional officers and their families to help advance their careers or just give them the opportunity to take a life enriching class.

Crucial Infrastructure: Adjusting the Two-Year Capital Bill

The House Committee on Corrections & Institutions is actively involved in adjusting the two-year, \$127 million Capital Bill. The legislature works to fund crucial infrastructure investments for our municipalities and it covers a range of projects like wastewater systems, water systems and historic state office buildings with an aim at supporting public services and boosting economic growth.

Recognizing the need to carefully invest your public funds, the legislature's goal is to direct resources to initiatives that best serve all Vermonters' priorities. One example is the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force and their ongoing mission to improve the safety of rural communities. We have helped fund rural, year round dry hydrant systems that protect towns in every county from the threat of fire. The legislature is also looking at necessary facility and mechanical upgrades at our Vermont State University campuses. It's an investment in the future of Vermont that will pay dividends to all of us for years to come.

Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry:

House Ag. is considering a land use bill that combines the 3 current use bills we have received below. The proposals would help reduce costs for farmers, incentivize growth for affordable housing and raise additional revenue from lands that are “posted.”

H. 291 enrollment of posted land in current use

- This bill proposes that land posted against hunting, fishing, or trapping shall pay a higher tax rate than agricultural land or managed forestland when enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal Program.
- When recommending values for eligible land for the current tax year, the Board shall recommend that land posted against hunting, fishing, or trapping under 10 V.S.A. § 5201 shall pay a higher tax rate for enrolled lands equal to 25 percent of the difference between a parcel’s use value and the grand list value
- This bill would impact the revenue of the state, so could pose some controversy

H.273 The Use Value Appraisal Program

- This bill proposes to amend the eligibility requirements for the Use Value Appraisal Program by providing that a farmer is eligible for the Program when the farmer earns at least 25 percent of the farmer’s annual gross income from the business of farming. The bill would also reduce the percentage rate of the land use change tax from 10 percent to six percent of the full fair market value of the changed land. In addition, the bill would define a “farmer” eligible for enrollment of agricultural land to include a person who earns at least 25 percent of the farmer’s income from the raising, feeding, or management of equines. This is helpful for folks who are engaged in the act of farming, but who need an off farm income source to “make ends meet.”
- This would help young farmers and beginning farmers (as well as homesteaders who have traditionally been excluded)

H. 134 Calculating the land use change tax and creating a new land use change tax exemption for developing affordable housing

- This bill proposes to change the land use change tax calculation used when a portion of a parcel is removed from use value appraisal so that the calculation uses proration based on acreage

instead of valuing the removed portion as a separate parcel. The bill also creates a new land use change tax exemption for land withdrawn to develop affordable housing.