



## Vermont State Employees' Association

155 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602;

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### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** REP. MATTHEW BIRONG

**FROM:** STEVE HOWARD

**SUBJECT:** VSEA GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS PRIORITIES IN 2026

**DATE:** JANUARY 7, 2026

**CC:** REP. LISA HANGO, REP. CHEA WATERS EVANS, REP. LUCY BOYDEN, REP. VL COFFIN IV, REP. PHILIP JAY HOOPER, REP. ROBERT HOOPER, REP. MICHAEL MORGAN, REP. KATE NUGENT, REP. SANDY PINSONAULT, REP. MARY-KATHERINE STONE

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The following House bills were referenced by VSEA Executive Director Steve Howard in his testimony before your committee yesterday afternoon, and have been assigned to Government Operations.

- H. 359— Anti-Privatization Bill
  - This bill would guarantee larger savings for Vermont taxpayers, close loopholes that allow the Administration to privatize State work without legislative approval and make sure that private contractors are meeting the same labor standards that the State must.
- H. 448— Retirement Bill
  - Updates the list of military conflicts for which retirees may receive credit, gives retirement benefits the full force of contract law, and makes the benefits of Retirement Group G more similar to Retirement Group C.
    - Additional Retirement Bill (As yet unnumbered)
      - This additional retirement bill would allow employees who are disabled as a result of their job to retire with full retirement benefits, among other priorities.
- Assistant Attorneys General Organizing Bill (as yet unnumbered)



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- This bill would give Vermont's Assistant Attorneys General the right to hold a vote to form a union.
- H. 349—Safety and Security Bill
  - This bill would create a state building police force modeled on the Capital Police, and would create an independent Vermont State Building Security Board.
- H. 239 Temporary Workers' Bill of Rights
  - This bill would automatically convert the positions of so-called "long-time temps" to permanent classified positions, and would extend basic labor rights to temporary employees.

We also urge your committee to exercise the full force of your oversight authority to hold the Administration to account for:

- The impact of its misguided Return to Commute policy.
- Chronic and dire staffing shortages in key departments.
- Ongoing issues with the performance of the Vermont Labor Relations board due to their need for increased resources.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to address these important issues and are standing by to assist you in this work.