

BRIEF



Vermont – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the Vermont CPAC Scorecard assesses 6 Senate votes, and 9 House of Representatives votes across 12 critical bills from the 2025 legislative session. Vermont Republicans earned an average score of **72%**, a 7% increase from the 65% average score they earned in 2024. Democrats earned an average score of **24%**, a 19% increase from the 2023 score of 5%. While Republicans control the Governor’s office, Democrats represent a majority in both chambers.

In 2025, Vermont lawmakers advanced legislation relating to working class citizens, gender ideology, and public safety. New laws like **S 127** and **H 91** increased regulations for property owners, while measures such as **S 44** and **H 2** focused on public safety. Legislation affecting the working class was emphasized through **S 125** and **S 51**. Across the session, Vermont positioned itself as a Democrat-controlled legislature, yet not ideologically uniformed.

Key Takeaways

S 125: Working Class Regulations and Tax Adjustments

This bill aimed to strengthen union leverage over employers and public budgets, limiting worker flexibility and accountability for union bosses. This bill would increase employer responsibility in workers’ compensation and lead to regulatory expansion. Despite a House vote of 81-51, this bill was vetoed by the Governor. **S 51** sought to adjust Vermont’s income tax code to include new exclusions and tax credits, which could reduce the overall tax burden for citizens, and support the working class. While both bills emphasized Vermont’s working class, **S 51** empowered taxpayers without additional regulations.

S 44: Reducing Collaboration with Federal Agencies

This bill regulates Vermont’s authority to enter into immigration enforcement agreements, which may decrease cooperation with federal authorities. **S 44** requires the Governor to obtain approval from the state legislature and consult with an immigration advocacy group prior to entering into an agreement. Additionally, it greatly limits state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies’ ability to work with federal authorities to remove illegal aliens. This bill, which later became a law, creates more hurdles for Vermont to protect its communities.

JRS 15: Formally Endorsing Policies Misaligned with Biological Reality

This measure formally aligns Vermont's Senate with transgender and non-binary political activism. This resolution highlights the state's progressive stance on gender identity rights and protects access to gender-affirming medical care. State-sanctioned promotion of gender ideology may pressure institutions to adopt the same interpretation, which may negatively affect free speech in public institutions, female-designated spaces and athletics, and medical ethics. The unanimous Senate vote (30-0) demonstrated that Vermont lawmakers have overwhelmingly liberal stances on social issues.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

S 44 – Tightening State Cooperation on Immigration Enforcement Agreements

S 44 regulates Vermont's authority to enter into certain immigration enforcement agreements, potentially narrowing cooperation with federal authorities and making it harder for local agencies to assist in removing criminal illegal aliens. CPAC supports robust cooperation with federal immigration enforcement and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-03-13 by a vote of 29-1. The bill later became law.

H 2 – Imposing At Least Some Accountability for Teen Offenders

H 2: Vermont was scheduled to raise the age for criminal liability, treating 18-year-olds and even some 19-year-olds under the juvenile system, rather than the adult criminal justice system. This bill delayed that change so that 18- and 19-year-old adult criminals will continue to be treated as adults. CPAC supported this bill. The House defeated this bill on 2025-03-12 by a vote of 55-86. The bill later became law.

H 454 – Improving Vermont's Education System

H 454 overhauls Vermont's education governance, funding, and accountability systems to create a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable model for delivering high-quality education statewide. By modernizing how education is financed and strengthening statewide standards, the legislation aims to improve long-term fiscal stability while ensuring consistent educational quality for all Vermont students. CPAC supports this bill as a necessary step toward structural reform that promotes accountability, cost control, and better outcomes for families and taxpayers. The Senate passed this bill on 2025-06-16 by a vote of 26-3. The House passed this bill on 2025-06-16 by a vote of 96-45. The bill later became law.

Trends and Observations

Legislation Concerning Public Safety

H 2 proposed to bolster public safety and criminal accountability by delaying a scheduled change set to treat 18-year-olds and some 19-year-olds as juveniles rather than adults under the criminal justice system. **S 44**, which proposed stricter standards for entering into an agreement between Vermont law enforcement agencies and federal immigration agencies highlighted an opposite stance on public safety, prioritizing illegal aliens over inter-agency cooperation. These bills suggest that Vermont's legislature does not exhibit a particularly strong or weak stance on criminal justice policy.

Overhaul of Education Governance

H 454 promotes accountability and cost controls conducive to better educational outcomes for families and taxpayers. Through an evidence-based approach to identify an adequate education spending level and providing clear and transparent information to Vermont citizens, this bill enacts major progress in educational quality and efficiency. **H 454** highlights Vermont's need for and willingness to overhaul educational governance to create a more effective education system.

Vetoed Bills

Republican governor Phil Scott's differences with the state legislature regarding fiscal conservatism was evident in two vetoed bills. **S 125**, which limited worker flexibility and accountability for union bosses and **H 91**, which allocated taxpayer funds to housing subsidies and burdened property owners were both vetoed. This demonstrates Scott's goal of a "healthy economy and expanding the middle class", despite the legislature passing bills that work against these values.

Conservative Excellence - House

Mark Higley - 100%

Joseph Parsons - 100%

Michael Southworth - 100%

Conservative Excellence - Senate

NONE

Conservative Achievement - House

Richard Bailey - 89%

William Canfield - 89%

James Casey - 89%

Eileen Dickinson - 86%

Anne Donahue - 86%

Martha Feltus - 86%

Zachary Harvey - 89%

Christopher Howland - 89%

Voranus Coffin IV - 89%

Larry Labor - 89%

Alicia Malay - 86%

Michael Morgan - 89%

Todd Nielsen - 88%

Robert North - 89%

Sandra Pinsonault - 89%

Debra Powers - 89%

Brenda Steady - 89%

Casey Toof - 88%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

NONE