

## POWER ALLEY - HOW THEY VOTED

### HOUSE Ways and Means Committee – 2014 Session

#### THE BILL - (H. 884)

**H. 884, an act relating to miscellaneous tax changes (2014 Session):** Deep in H.884 was Section 64, a provision that amended how income sensitivity was calculated for those with incomes above \$90,000 and made effective January 1, 2016. This provision, called a slope, was designed to avoid a benefit “cliff” whereby at \$89,999 a homeowner got a benefit but at \$90,001 a homeowner got none. It worked by allowing the first \$200,000 in house value owned by someone above \$90,000 to receive a partial benefit up to a point where the homeowner’s income was too high. In tax years 2008 and 2014, with no statutory change to the \$200,000 exclusion, the slope ended at \$97,000 and \$109,000 respectively, for an annual growth rate of 2%. This growth was driven by underlying economic factors, not legislative involvement. However, for tax year 2015, the slope jumped by 26% to \$137,500 because of a statutory change in H.884 increasing the exclusion to \$250,000.

The last roll-call vote in the House was on final reading. The vote was 104 in favor and 41 opposed. The democratic House Majority leader voted for the bill while the republican House Minority leader voted against the bill. When H.884 returned to the House, with Section 64 still intact, from the House-Senate Conference Committee comprised of Senators Mullin and Ashe and Representatives Ancel, Sharpe and William Johnson, H. 884 was passed by a voice vote of House members.

Representative	How They Voted
Rep. Janet Ancel – Washington 6 – Democrat	Yes
Rep Carolyn Branagan – Franklin 1 – Republican	Yes
Rep. Dave Sharpe – Addison 4 – Democrat	Yes
Rep. Alison Clarkson – Windsor 5 – Democrat	Yes
Rep. Jim Condon – Chittenden 9-1 – Democrat	Yes
Rep. Adam Greshin – Washington 7 - Independent	No
Rep. William Johnson – Essex-Caledonia-Orleans - Republican	Yes
Rep. Patti Komline – Bennington-Rutland, Republican	No
Rep. Jim Masland – Windsor-Orange – Democrat	Yes
Rep. Kesha Ram – Chittenden 6-4 – Democrat	Yes
Rep. Jeff Wilson – Bennington 4 - Democrat	Yes

Contact: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/people/all/2016/House>