

1 S.100

2 Senators Ram Hinsdale, Clarkson, and Harrison move that the bill be
3 amended by adding a new section to be Sec. 17c to read as follows:

4 Sec. 17c. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 41 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 41. REPORT; NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

6 (a) On or before December 31, 2023, the Chair of the Natural Resources
7 Board shall report to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and
8 Wildlife and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Finance and
9 on Natural Resources and Energy on necessary updates to the Act 250
10 program.

11 (b) The report shall include:

12 (1) How to transition to a system in which Act 250 jurisdiction is based
13 on location, which shall encourage development in designated areas, the
14 maintenance of intact rural working lands, and the protection of natural
15 resources of statewide significance, including biodiversity. Location-based
16 jurisdiction would adjust the threshold for Act 250 jurisdiction based on the
17 characteristics of the location. This section of the report shall consider whether
18 to develop thresholds and tiers of jurisdiction as recommended in the
19 Commission on Act 250: the Next 50 Years Report.

20 (2) How to use the Capability and Development Plan to meet the
21 statewide planning goals.

1 (3) An assessment of the current level of staffing of the Board and
2 District Commissions, including whether there should be a district coordinator
3 located in every district.

4 (4) Whether the permit fees are sufficient to cover the costs of the
5 program and, if not, a recommendation for a source of revenue to supplement
6 the fees.

7 (5) Whether the permit fees are effective in providing appropriate
8 incentives.

9 (6) Whether the Board should be able to assess its costs on applicants.

10 (7) Whether increasing jurisdictional thresholds for housing
11 development to 25 units under 10 V.S.A. § 6001(3)(A)(iv) would affect
12 housing affordability, especially for primary homeownership, and what the
13 potential impact of increasing those thresholds to 25 units would have on
14 natural and community resources addressed under existing Act 250 criteria.