

Senate Economic Development Committee Notes Week of 2/9

DR 6.1

Sec. 5

- Directs planning commissions to provide information to the department of housing and community development after they have made amendments or adoptions
 - Statutes already require
 - Section adds elements that they need to submit to the department
- RPCs must confirm that data has been uploaded but do not necessarily have to upload it themselves
 - Sen. Harrison is concerned that this would be a burden on Municipalities
 - Specifically because of the complications of uploading
 - Also because there are two separate databases to which municipalities are supposed to upload information to
 - Municipal Plan and bylaw database
 - Vermont Open Geo-data portal
 - Could be a burden to municipalities
- Penalty for not following requirements
 - Currently voluntary with no accountability mechanisms
 - Later section that says if you don't follow rules AGO and Human Rights Commission can overrule

Statewide Zoning Atlas

- Sen. Clarkson very supportive of Atlas
- It is a repository of data
- Intent is to take the information and make sense of it
- Creating a statewide map of zoning districts
- Sen. Clarkson requested an initial report back so that the committee has a notion of how useful the Atlas actually is and what they can do to make it more useful
- Atlas has layers filtered by issue

Sec. 6

- Striking ability for any ten persons in a municipality to appeal a zoning decision by an administrative officer
- Limiting the ability of groups i.e. interest groups

Sec. 7/Sec. 8

- Approval of subdivision plats
- Telling towns they are allowed to give administrative officers the ability to approve minor subdivisions, hearing for major subdivisions
 - Major and minor not defined
 - Striking these terms as including them without definition will cause confusion

- Allowing municipalities to define when a public hearing is needed in their bylaws
- Bylaw may establish circumstances for administrative officer review

Sec. 9 (Clarifying language)

- Clarification of existing language dealing with appeals to environment court after permit decision has been made
 - Taking into account the character of the area
 - If the character of the area has been met, that determination cannot be challenged
 - Other elements of the permit could be potentially challenged