

1 H.161

2 Introduced by Representative Russell of Rutland City

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Transportation; rail; State Historic Preservation Officer; State

6 Register of Historic Properties

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to:

8 (1) amend the State's rail policy to direct the Agency of Transportation,
9 in carrying out rail projects and activities, to confer with the State Historic
10 Preservation Officer to evaluate nomination of rail facilities to the State
11 Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic
12 Places; and

13 (2) give the Department of Tourism and Marketing specific
14 responsibility to promote Vermont's historic properties and places.

15 An act relating to historic rail properties

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 19 V.S.A. § 10e is amended to read:

18 § 10e. STATEMENT OF POLICY; RAILROADS

19 (a) The General Assembly recognizes that rail service, both passenger and
20 freight, is an integral part of the State's transportation network and that it must

1 be fully integrated into the State's transportation network as a whole.

2 Accordingly, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Vermont:

3 (1) To provide opportunities for rail passenger services by cooperating
4 with the federal government, other states, and providers of those services, with
5 priority to be given to the services likely to complement the State's other
6 transportation resources and Vermont's economic development efforts and to
7 meet the needs of the traveling public. Goals to increase passenger rail use
8 will be in accordance with the Agency's rail plan.

9 (2) To preserve and modernize for continued freight railroad service
10 those railroad lines, both within the State of Vermont and extending into
11 adjoining states, which directly affect the economy of the State or provide
12 connections to other railroad lines which directly affect the economy of the
13 State. Goals to increase freight rail use will be in accordance with the
14 Agency's rail plan.

15 (3) In those cases where continuation of freight railroad service is not
16 economically feasible under present conditions, to preserve established railroad
17 rights-of-way for future reactivation of railroad service, trail corridors, and
18 other public purposes not inconsistent with future reactivation of railroad
19 service.

20 (4) To seek federal aid for rail projects that implement this section's
21 policy goals.

1 (5) To maintain and improve intercity bus and rail and freight and
2 commuter rail services, and the necessary intermodal connections, and to
3 increase the efficiency of equipment and the extent to which equipment
4 selection and operation can limit or avoid the emission of greenhouse gases.

5 (6) To plan for increased ridership with city-to-city and commuter rail
6 service, and for increased coordination of rail service with bus service,
7 car-pooling, and ride-sharing opportunities.

8 * * *

9 (d) In carrying out rail projects and activities, the Agency shall confer with
10 the State Historic Preservation Officer of the Division for Historic Preservation
11 in order to evaluate whether:

12 (1) rail facilities not listed on the State Register of Historic Properties
13 and the National Register of Historic Places, and not previously nominated or
14 evaluated for nomination, meet the criteria for nomination and should be
15 nominated for approval for addition to either Register; and

16 (2) rail facilities not yet marked should be marked under the Historic
17 Site Markers Program created under 3 V.S.A. § 2472a.

18 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 2476 is amended to read:

19 § 2476. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND MARKETING

20 (a) The ~~department of tourism and marketing~~ Department of Tourism and
21 Marketing of the agency Agency is created, as successor to the ~~department of~~

1 ~~travel~~ Department of Travel. The ~~department~~ Department shall be
2 administered by a ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner.

3 (b) The ~~department of tourism and marketing~~ Department of Tourism and
4 Marketing shall be responsible for the promotion of Vermont goods and
5 services as well as the promotion of Vermont's travel, recreation, and cultural
6 attractions, including its designated historic properties and places, through
7 advertising and other informational programs, and for provision of travel and
8 recreation information and services to visitors to the ~~state~~ State, in coordination
9 with other agencies of ~~state~~ State government, chambers of commerce and
10 travel associations, and the private sector.

11 * * *

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.