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H.271

Introduced by Representatives Sibilias of Dover, Morris of Bennington, Baser of Bristol, Berry of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Carr of Brandon, Corcoran of Bennington, Dakin of Chester, Dakin of Colchester, Deen of Westminster, Eastman of Orwell, Fields of Bennington, Fiske of Enosburgh, Greshin of Warren, Hebert of Vernon, Komline of Dorset, Long of Newfane, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Olsen of Londonderry, O’Sullivan of Burlington, Parent of St. Albans City, Partridge of Windham, Russell of Rutland City, Scheuermann of Stowe, Stuart of Brattleboro, Tate of Mendon, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Trieber of Rockingham, and Young of Glover

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development; regional development

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the State Executive and Legislative Branches to give deference to an approved regional plan or a federally prescribed comprehensive economic development

1 strategy in the event a major employer announces a plant closure, relocation, or  
2 other significant change in activity that will impact the number of jobs or  
3 wages in the region.

4 An act relating to giving deference to regional planning and planners in  
5 mitigating adverse economic impacts of major employers

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

7 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 2787 is added to read:

8 § 2787. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY; DEFERENCE TO  
9 REGIONAL PLANS; CEDS;

10 In the event a major employer in an economic region announces a plant  
11 closure, plant relocation, or other significant action that will impact directly  
12 and indirectly jobs or wages in the region, and a regional plan pursuant to  
13 section 4348 of this title or a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy  
14 (CEDS) approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, or  
15 both, has been prepared for the region and includes mitigation strategies to  
16 address substantial local and regional economic and fiscal challenges related to  
17 that employer, including closure, relocation, or reduction in workforce, then:

18 (1) the General Assembly and the Executive Branch shall show  
19 deference to the regional plan and CEDS when using or distributing funds or

1 other resources meant to mitigate anticipated local and regional economic and  
2 fiscal challenges;

3 (2) the General Assembly and the Executive Branch shall substantially  
4 involve the regional planning commission and regional development  
5 corporation for the region in decisions regarding the use or distribution of  
6 those funds or resources;

7 (3) for each legislative hearing regarding site reuse, site cleanup, or  
8 impacts to workforce, a legislative committee shall request regional impact  
9 testimony from the regional planning commission and regional development  
10 corporation for the region; and

11 (4) for each Executive Branch meeting regarding site reuse, site cleanup,  
12 or impacts to workforce, the presiding Executive Branch officials shall request  
13 regional impact testimony and invite participation from the regional planning  
14 commission and regional development corporation for the region.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.