

No. R-531. Joint resolution approving a land exchange in Alburgh and a lease with Camp Downer, Inc.

(J.R.S.54)

By Committee on Institutions,

Whereas, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 2606(b), the general assembly may adopt a resolution authorizing the commissioner of forests, parks and recreation to exchange or lease certain lands that are under the jurisdiction of the commissioner, and

Whereas, the general assembly has reviewed the proposed transactions and considers them to be in the best interest of the state, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly authorizes the commissioner of forests, parks and recreation to:

First: Enter into an exchange of a portion of Alburgh Dunes State Park in the Town of Alburgh with the South Alburgh Cemetery Association, Inc. for up to 44 +/- acres to be added to Alburgh Dunes State Park in the town of Alburgh that is of equivalent or greater value to the state. Any exchange of state park land with the South Alburgh Cemetery Association, Inc. shall be contingent on the following: (1) an archeological assessment shall be conducted on the state park land parcel to be exchanged and shall include an investigation to determine if there are any human remains or other archeological artifacts on the parcel; (2) the commissioner of forests, parks and recreation shall consult with the commissioner of economic, housing and

community development to determine if the archeological assessment meets the legal criteria to be funded by the unmarked burial sites special fund established in 18 V.S.A. § 5212b and, if it does meet the legal criteria, to also determine if sufficient money is available in the fund for this purpose; (3) the land exchange shall have the support of the selectboard of the town of Alburgh; (4) an independent appraiser shall determine the value of the parcels for exchange; (5) The Nature Conservancy and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board as coholders shall approve the land exchange; (6) the South Alburgh Cemetery Association, Inc. shall be responsible for any and all costs associated with the exchange, including appraisal, survey, permitting, and legal costs except for any costs that may be paid for from the unmarked burial sites special fund; (7) the parcel conveyed to the state in exchange for the state parcel conveyed to the South Alburgh Cemetery Association, Inc. shall be placed under the control and jurisdiction of the department of forests, parks and recreation; and (8) the conservation easement shall be amended to reflect this land exchange.

Second: Amend the lease with Camp Downer, Inc. at Downer State Forest in Sharon to provide for two additional ten-year renewal periods.