

1 H.834

2 Introduced by Representatives Toleno of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro,
3 Clarkson of Woodstock, Hooper of Montpelier, Lanpher of
4 Vergennes, Masland of Thetford, Michelsen of Hardwick,
5 Mrowicki of Putney, Pearson of Burlington, and Zagar of
6 Barnard

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Conservation and development; climate change; Office of Climate
10 Change Risk Management; Climate Change Risk Management
11 Coordinator; climate and economic data; report

12 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish an
13 Office of Climate Change Risk Management within the Agency of Natural
14 Resources to work within State government and across State agencies and
15 departments to coordinate and direct the State's response to climate change and
16 to mitigate the risk to the State from climate change impacts.

17 An act relating to establishing a State Office of Climate Change Risk
18 Management

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

1 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 51, subchapter 5 is added to read:

2 Subchapter 5. Office of Climate Change Risk Management

3 § 2891. DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

5 (1) “Climate change” refers to any significant change in the global
6 climate lasting for an extended period, including change due to human
7 activities that affect the atmosphere’s composition, such as burning fossil fuels,
8 and that affect land surface, such as deforestation.

9 (2) “Coordinator” means the Climate Change Risk Management
10 Coordinator established in this subchapter.

11 (3) “Office” means the Office of Climate Change Risk Management
12 established in this subchapter.

13 (b) Establishment; purpose. The Office of Climate Change Risk
14 Management is established with the Agency. The Office shall coordinate and
15 direct the response of the State of Vermont to climate change, including
16 mitigating the risk to the State from climate change impacts. The Secretary
17 may assign to the Office other tasks relating to climate change.

18 (c) Coordinator. A Climate Change Risk Management Coordinator shall
19 direct the Office under the supervision of the Secretary. The Coordinator shall
20 be a classified position.

1 (1) The Coordinator shall coordinate and lead the State's planning to
2 address and mitigate the risks of climate change.

3 (2) The Coordinator shall have charge of the Office and its employees.

4 (3) With the approval the Secretary, the Coordinator may appoint and
5 employ, at the expense of the State, the permanent and temporary employees
6 the Coordinator considers necessary in the performance of the duties of the
7 Office.

8 (d) Intragovernmental cooperation. Other departments and agencies of
9 State government shall cooperate with the Office and make available to it data,
10 facilities, and personnel as may be needed to assist the Office in carrying out
11 its duties and functions.

12 § 2892. DATA AGGREGATION; REPORT; RISK SCORECARD

13 (a) Data aggregation. The Office shall aggregate data related to the
14 prevalence of effects from climate change; the impact of climate change on
15 existing businesses and State activities; and on future business risk to the
16 sectors of the Vermont economy, including the following industries: forestry,
17 skiing, snowmobiling, maple products, and commercial orchard. The
18 aggregated data shall be publically available.

19 (b) On or before February 15 of each year, the Office shall publish:

20 (1) a report that includes a State climate forecast model with best-case,
21 worst-case, and consensus scenarios based on national climate modeling; and

1 (2) an annual risk assessment scorecard that summarizes the level of risk
2 to current and future Vermont business activities including the risk to each
3 industry sector specifically listed in subsection (a) of this section.

4 Sec. 2. POSITION

5 The Agency of Natural Resources shall use existing position number
6 660374 (air and policy climate manager) for the Coordinator position created
7 under Sec. 1 of this system and, for this purpose, shall convert this existing
8 position to the classified system. The Agency may retain the current occupant
9 of the position as the Coordinator.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.