

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 852 entitled “An act relating to State lands” respectfully reports that it has
4 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

5 First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 2606b, by striking out subsection (f) in its
6 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 (f) ~~There shall be an annual license fee~~ A per tap license charge shall be
8 ~~imposed based on the number of taps installed in the license area. The per tap~~
9 ~~fee for a license issued under this section shall be one quarter of the average of~~
10 ~~the per pound price of Vermont fancy grade syrup and the per pound price of~~
11 ~~Vermont commercial grade syrup as those prices are set on May 1 of each~~
12 ~~year. The fee set each May 1 shall apply to licenses issued by the department~~
13 ~~for the succeeding period beginning June 1 and ending May 31. The~~
14 Commissioner shall establish this per tap charge at a reasonable rate that
15 reflects current market rates. Fees collected under this section shall be
16 deposited in the ~~forest parks revolving fund~~ Lands and Facilities Trust Fund
17 established under ~~section 2609 of this title~~ 3 V.S.A. § 2807 and shall be used
18 by the ~~department~~ Department to implement the license program established
19 by this section.

20 Second: By striking out Sec. 3 (Forestland Intergenerational Transfer Study
21 Committee) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;
2 WORKING GROUP ON INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF
3 FORESTLAND

4 (a) On or before August 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and
5 Recreation shall establish a working group of interested parties to develop
6 recommendations for a statewide program to improve the capacity of providing
7 successional planning technical assistance to forestland owners in Vermont.

8 The working group shall:

9 (1) develop recommended priorities for succession planning for
10 forestland owners;

11 (2) develop strategies for improving conservation investments or
12 incentives that facilitate the intergenerational transfers of intact forestland;

13 (3) develop other strategies for lessening the impact of estate taxes or
14 other pressures that could lead to the breaking up and subdivision of intact
15 forest parcels; and

16 (4) develop recommended legislative changes that may be needed to
17 implement its recommendations and strategies.

18 (b) On or before February 1, 2017, the Commissioner shall submit a report
19 to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Ways and
20 Means and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and

1 Finance that shall include the working group's findings and any
2 recommendations for legislative action.

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5 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE