

# Journal of the Senate

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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010

The Senate was called to order by the President.

## Devotional Exercises

A moment of silence was observed in lieu of devotions.

## Message from the House No. 65

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. H. Gwynn Zakov, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has passed House bills of the following titles:

**H. 793.** An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the village of Essex Junction.

**H. 794.** An act relating to approval of the merger of the town of Cabot and the village of Cabot.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered bills originating in the Senate of the following titles:

**S. 138.** An act relating to unfair business practices of credit card companies and fraudulent use of scanning devices and re-encoders.

**S. 278.** An act relating to the department of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposals of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered Senate proposal of amendment to House bill of the following title:

**H. 524.** An act relating to interference with or cruelty to a guide dog.

And has severally concurred therein with a further proposal of amendment thereto, in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The Governor has informed the House that on the April 28, 2010, he approved and signed bills originating in the House of the following titles:

**H. 408.** An act relating to improving nutrition programs.

**H. 680.** An act relating to termination of occupancy of farm employee housing.

### **Rules Suspended; Bill Committed**

#### **H. 470.**

Pending entry on the Calendar for notice, on motion of Senator Shumlin, the rules were suspended and House bill entitled:

An act relating to restructuring of the judiciary.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Judiciary, Senator Shumlin moved that Senate Rule 49 be suspended in order to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with the report of the Committee on Judiciary *intact*, and with instructions that the Committee on Finance consider only those parts of the bill that relate to the revenues of the state.

Which was agreed to.

### **Bills Referred to Committee on Finance**

House bills of the following titles, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and affecting the revenue of the state under the rule were referred to the Committee on Finance:

**H. 769.** An act relating to the licensing and inspection of plant and tree nurseries.

**H. 781.** An act relating to renewable energy.

### **Bills Referred**

House bills of the following titles were severally read the first time and referred:

#### **H. 793.**

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the village of Essex Junction.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**H. 794.**

An act relating to approval of the merger of the town of Cabot and the village of Cabot.

To the Committee on Government Operations.

**Joint Resolution Adopted on the Part of the Senate**

Joint Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read and adopted on the part of the Senate, and is as follows:

By the Committee on Agriculture,

**J.R.S. 64.** Joint resolution relating to the future of the international port of entry at Morses Line and the proposed federal acquisition of land belonging to the Rainville family farm.

*Whereas*, Clement and Elizabeth Rainville own a dairy farm in the town of Franklin astride the United States–Canadian border at Morses Line, and

*Whereas*, the Rainville farm consists of 130 acres of cropland and a dairy operation with 75 milkers and approximately the same number of heifers, and

*Whereas*, every one of those 130 acres is integral to this Vermont farm's economic viability, and

*Whereas*, the Rainville farm is exactly the type of dairy farm that is all too rapidly vanishing and that the state of Vermont is making every effort to preserve as an ongoing agricultural enterprise, and

*Whereas*, the state of Vermont, through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund, has spent millions of dollars to preserve farmland for future generations, and the current use program was established to encourage the conduct of agricultural activities on Vermont land, and

*Whereas*, Vermont's farmland attracts tourists who travel to the state to view the state's picturesque open spaces, and

*Whereas*, according to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAF), the total number of dairy farms in January stood at 11,206 in 1947, 9,512 in 1957, 4,729 in 1967, 3,531 in 1977, 2,771 in 1987, 1,908 in 1997, 1,168 in 2007, and 1,055 in 2010, and

*Whereas*, the VAAF has projected that Vermont may lose up to 200 farms in 2010, lowering the number to below 1,000 for the first time since the state of Vermont has conducted a farm count survey, and

*Whereas*, from an economic perspective, the Sustainable Agriculture Council has estimated that Vermont's agricultural worth has now grown to nearly \$3.7 billion, and

*Whereas*, the United States Department of Homeland Security (the Department) and United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which is under the Department's jurisdiction, have announced their intention to acquire land—by means of eminent domain proceedings if necessary—from the Rainville farm for use in the construction of a new international border port-of-entry facility at Morses Line, and

*Whereas*, the Department and CBP are justifying this project on grounds of both national security and economic stimulation, and

*Whereas*, the Rainville family has stated that were it to lose any of its land used for cultivating hay, this small farm's self-sufficiency would be lost, and

*Whereas*, a loss in the available hay would force the Rainvilles to purchase commercial feed for their herd, adding an expense they do not currently incur, and

*Whereas*, in the federal Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (Pub. L. 97-89) (the act), Congress found that "the Nation's farmland is a unique natural resource and provides food and fiber necessary for the continued welfare of the people of the United States" and further stated that the law's purpose was "to minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses," and

*Whereas*, this proposed land acquisition is clearly contrary to Congress's express intent as stated in the act, and

*Whereas*, the Rainville farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is further evidence of the importance that has been attached to the farm's continuity and integrity, and

*Whereas*, although the department's proposed new border-crossing facility has been reduced in size, there remains concern that it may be larger than needed for the amount of traffic that crosses at Morses Line, and

*Whereas*, there have been suggestions that federal funds would be better directed at further improvements to the heavily used port of entry at nearby Highgate, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont congressional delegation has been closely involved with the issues related to the proposed new facility at the Morses Line port of entry and the impact it will have on the Rainville Farm, and

*Whereas*, on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, while testifying before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, in response to a request of Senator Leahy, committed herself to the convening of a public meeting near Morses Line before proceeding, and

*Whereas*, this meeting will be extremely timely, as in the past few days, the Rainville family received notice from the federal government that the condemnation process will be commenced in 60 days if the family does not agree to sell the requested land, and

*Whereas*, reducing the economic viability of a small Vermont dairy farm should not be equated with economic stimulation, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly strongly urges the United States Department of Homeland Security to assess carefully the comments offered at the forthcoming public meeting on the future of the port of entry facility at Morses Line and to re-evaluate the need to condemn any land belonging to the Rainville farm in the town of Franklin, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, United States Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin, the Vermont congressional delegation, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets Roger Allbee, and the Rainville family in Franklin.

**Senate Resolution Placed on Calendar**

**S.R. 25.**

Senate resolution of the following title was offered, read the first time and is as follows:

By Senator Giard,

**S.R. 25.** Senate resolution relating to the animal slaughtering and meat packaging operations of Bushway Packing, Inc. and Champlain Valley Meats, Inc.

*Whereas*, Bushway Packing, Inc. was incorporated in Vermont on February 27, 2008, and operated a slaughterhouse in the town of Grand Isle from early February 2009 until October 30, 2009, and

*Whereas*, on May 12, 2009, and July 1, 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suspended the previously issued federal grant of inspection for Bushway Packing, Inc. based on the company's noncompliance with the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, with the specific

complaint being that Bushway Packing, Inc. dragged nonambulatory and conscious days-old calves, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) food safety specialist commented with respect to the May 12 USDA suspension of the federal grant of inspection that “20 calves died of starvation as a result of what happened on Tuesday. . . .,” and

*Whereas*, separately from the May and July suspensions, on June 24, 2009, the USDA suspended Bushway Packing, Inc.’s federal grant of inspection for the throwing of a conscious calf as if it were a football from an upper compartment of a two-tiered truck, and

*Whereas*, in August 2009, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) sent an undercover worker, who gained employment at Bushway Packing, Inc. as a floor cleaner and who recorded video evidence of plant personnel egregiously abusing days-old calves, including their being repeatedly kicked and electrically shocked in attempts to make them stand; water being poured on calves prior to electric shocking; carelessness in checking sensibility in stunned calves prior to slaughter; rhythmic breathing, vocalizations, eyelid movement, reflex actions—all more evident than should be in properly stunned calves; too many calves in the stun pen at one time, causing congestion; a long stun-to-bleed time which may have caused calves to be processed while still alive; failure to comply with the electric prod usage portion of the American Meat Institute’s animal welfare audit; continued abusive use of electric prods; skinning of calves still conscious; and general failure of compliance with humane animal handling, and

*Whereas*, on October 30, 2009, USDA again suspended the federal grant of inspection and VAAFMM suspended Bushway Packing, Inc.’s commercial slaughterhouse and commercial packing license, and

*Whereas*, the Vermont Attorney General and the United States Attorney are currently conducting a joint criminal investigation into these events, and

*Whereas*, the repeated actions of Bushway Packing, Inc. added significant risk to the safety of the food produced in the state of Vermont, unacceptably endangered public health, damaged the reputation of Vermont farmers and agricultural businesses, and adversely affected the strength and market value of the Vermont brand, and

*Whereas*, on January 22, 2010, two of the three incorporators of Bushway Packing, Inc. established a new corporation called Champlain Valley Meats, Inc., *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate:***

That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets not to grant a commercial slaughterhouse or commercial packing license and not to issue a state grant of meat inspection to Champlain Valley Meats, Inc. or to any corporation employing or associating with any of the owners of Bushway Packing Inc., prior to the conclusion of the joint criminal investigation and any resulting litigation, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Senate of the State of Vermont urges that none of the current suspensions on Bushway Packing, Inc.'s slaughtering and packaging operations be lifted prior to the investigation's conclusion, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Senate of the State of Vermont requests that on or before January 15, 2011, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets submit a report recommending steps that can be taken to avoid similar future violations of the state's food safety and animal slaughtering laws, *and be it further*

**Resolved:** That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Thereupon, in the discretion of the President, under Rule 51, the resolution was placed on the Calendar for action the next legislative day.

### **Message from the Governor Appointments Referred**

A message was received from the Governor, by David Coriell, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointments, which were referred to committees as indicated:

Gish, Jim of Middlebury - Member of the Board of Libraries, - from April 26, 2010, to February 29, 2012.

To the Committee on Education.

### **Action Reconsidered; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment**

#### **H. 788.**

Assuring the Chair that she voted with the majority whereby the bill was passed in concurrence by the Senate, Senator White moved that the Senate reconsider its action on House bill entitled:

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the town of Berlin.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, pending the recurring question, upon reconsideration, Shall the bill pass in concurrence?, Senator White requested and was granted leave to offer a proposal of amendment after third reading.

Thereupon, pending the question Shall the bill pass in concurrence?, Senator White moved that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 3, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 105 § 50(a), at the end of the subsection, by adding the following: Appointees shall have the same powers, duties, responsibilities, and liabilities as established by law for listers, except as otherwise provided in this charter.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the bill pass in concurrence with proposals of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

#### **Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposals of Amendment**

House bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposals of amendment:

**H. 213.** An act to provide fairness to tenants in cases of contested housing security deposit withholding.

**H. 555.** An act relating to youth hunting.

#### **Consideration Postponed**

Senate bill entitled:

#### **S. 88.**

An act relating to health care financing and universal access to health care in Vermont.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, without objection consideration of the bill was postponed until the next legislative day.

#### **Third Reading Ordered**

#### **H. 462.**

Senator McCormack, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to encroachments on public waters.

Reported that the bill ought to pass in concurrence.



Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

**Bill Committed**

**H. 509.**

House bill entitled:

An act relating to pollution control measures for Lake Champlain and the other water of the state.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Agriculture, on motion of Senator Lyons, the bill was committed to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**

**H. 763.**

Senator Lyons, for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to establishment of an agency of natural resources' river corridor management program.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 9 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 9. 6 V.S.A. § 4821(a) is amended to read:

(a) Program created. A program is created to provide state financial assistance to Vermont farmers in support of their voluntary construction of on-farm improvements and maintenance of acceptable operating standards designed to abate nonpoint source agricultural waste discharges into the waters of the state of Vermont, consistent with goals of the federal Water Pollution Control Act and with state water quality standards. The program shall be conducted in a manner which makes maximum use of federal financial aid for the same purpose, as provided by this subchapter, and which seeks to use the least costly methods available to accomplish the abatement required. The construction of temporary fencing intended to exclude livestock from entering surface waters of the state shall be an on-farm improvement eligible for assistance under this subchapter when subject to a maintenance agreement entered into with the agency of agriculture, food and markets.

Sec. 10. 6 V.S.A. § 4900 is amended to read:

§ 4900. VERMONT AGRICULTURAL BUFFER PROGRAM

(a) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets is authorized to develop a Vermont agricultural buffer program in addition to the federal conservation reserve enhancement program in order to compensate farmers for establishing and maintaining harvestable perennial vegetative buffers and installing conservation practices in ditch networks on ~~annual cropland~~ agricultural land adjacent to the surface waters of the state.

(b) The establishment and annual incentive payments from the agency of agriculture, food and markets under the Vermont agricultural buffer program shall not exceed ~~40 percent~~ of the combined federal and state payment that the relevant ~~cropland~~ agricultural land or conservation practice would be eligible for under the federal conservation reserve enhancement program or another approved conservation program. The incentive payment shall be made annually at the end of the cropping season for a nonrenewable five-year period.

(c) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets may establish by procedure financial and technical criteria for the implementation and operation of the Vermont agricultural buffer program.

(d) Land enrolled in the Vermont agricultural buffer program shall be considered to be in “active use” as that term is defined in 32 V.S.A. § 3752(15).

(e) As used in this section, “surface waters” means all rivers, streams, ditches, creeks, brooks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes, and springs which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the state or any portion of it.

Sec. 11. 6 V.S.A. § 4951 is amended to read:

§ 4951. FARM AGRONOMIC PRACTICES PROGRAM

(a) The farm agronomic practices assistance program is created in the agency of agriculture, food and markets to provide the farms of Vermont with state financial assistance for the implementation of soil-based practices that improve soil quality and nutrient retention, increase crop production, minimize erosion potential, and reduce agricultural waste discharges. The following practices shall be eligible for assistance to farms under the grant program:

- (1) conservation crop rotation;
- (2) cover cropping;
- (3) strip cropping;
- (4) cross-slope tillage;

(5) zone or no-tillage;

(6) pre-sidedress nitrate tests;

(7) annual maintenance of a nutrient management plan that is no longer receiving funding under a state or federal contract, provided the maximum assistance provided to a farmer under this subdivision shall be \$1,000.00 per year; ~~and~~

(8) educational and instructional activities to inform the farmers and citizens of Vermont of:

(A) the impact on Vermont waters of agricultural waste discharges;

(B) the federal and state requirements for controlling agricultural waste discharges;

(9) implementing alternative manure application techniques; and

(10) additional soil erosion reduction practices.

(b) Funding available under section 4827 of this title for nutrient management planning may be used to fund practices under this section.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 321(d) is amended to read:

(d) On behalf of the state of Vermont, the board shall seek and administer federal farmland protection funds to facilitate the acquisition of interests in land to protect and preserve in perpetuity important farmland for future agricultural use. Such funds shall be used to implement and effectuate the policies and purposes of this chapter. In seeking federal farmland protection funds under this subsection, the board shall seek to maximize state participation in the federal wetlands reserve program in order to allow for increased or additional implementation of conservation practices on farmland protected or preserved under this chapter.

Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 1002 is amended to read:

§ 1002. DEFINITIONS

Wherever used or referred to in this chapter, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

\* \* \*

(10) ~~“Watercourse” means any depression two feet or more below the elevation of surrounding land serving to give direction to a current or flow of water having a bed and well defined bank~~ perennial stream. “Watercourse” shall not include ditches or other constructed channels primarily associated

with land drainage or water conveyance through or around private or public infrastructure.

Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 1021(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person shall not change, alter, or modify the course, current, or cross-section of any watercourse ~~with a drainage area greater than ten square miles at the location of the proposed change, alteration or modification,~~ or of designated outstanding resource waters, within or along the boundaries of this state either by movement, fill, or by excavation of ten cubic yards or more in any year, unless authorized by the secretary.

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 7501 is amended to read:

§ 7501. GENERAL PERMITS

(a) When the secretary deems it to be appropriate and consistent with the purpose of this chapter, the secretary may issue a general permit under the following chapters of this title: chapter 23 (air pollution control) for stationary source construction permits; chapter 37 (water resources management) for aquatic nuisance control permits authorizing chemical treatment by the agency of natural resources, a department within that agency, or an appropriate federal agency; chapter 56 (public water supply) for construction permits; ~~and~~ chapter 159 (waste management) for solid waste transfer station and recycling certifications and categorical certifications; and chapter 41 (regulation of stream flow) for stream alteration permits.

(b) A general permit issued under this chapter shall contain those terms and conditions necessary to ensure that the category or class subject to the general permit will comply with the provisions of the statutes and the rules adopted under those statutes applicable to the category or class. These terms and conditions may include providing for specific emission or effluent limitations and levels of treatment technology; monitoring, recording, or reporting; the right of access for the secretary; and any additional conditions or requirements the secretary deems necessary to protect human health and the environment.

(c) This chapter is in addition to any other authority granted to the agency or department.

(d) The secretary may adopt rules to implement this chapter.

(e) The secretary may issue a nonreporting general permit for certain specific stream alteration activities under chapter 41 of this title.

Sec. 16. ANR REPORT ON GENERAL PERMIT PROGRAM FOR STREAM ALTERATION

(a) On or before January 15, 2011, the secretary of natural resources shall report to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources and the senate committee on natural resources and energy regarding a proposed general permit program for stream alteration under chapter 41 of Title 10.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall:

(1) Define the thresholds, classes of activities, or other categories of activities that will be regulated under the general permit program.

(2) Summarize the requirements or management practices that stream alteration activities will be subject to under a general permit, including whether any activity or class of activities will be subject to a nonreporting general permit.

(3) Summarize the scientific basis for the thresholds, classes of activities, or categories of activities regulated under the proposed general permit program.

Sec. 17. 19 V.S.A. § 996 is added to read:

§ 996. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

(a) The agency of transportation shall work with municipal representatives to revise the agency of transportation's town road and bridge standards in order to incorporate a suite of practical and cost-effective best management practices, as approved by the agency of natural resources, for the construction, maintenance, and repair of all existing and future state and town highways. These best management practices shall address activities which have a potential for causing pollutants to enter the groundwater and waters of the state, including stormwater runoff and direct discharges to state waters. The best management practices shall not supersede any requirements for stormwater management already set forth in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1264 and 1264a that apply to state and town highways. The agency of transportation shall report to the house and senate committees on transportation, the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, and the senate committee on natural resources and energy by January 15, 2011, on the best management practices to be incorporated into the agency of transportation's town road and bridge standards.

(b) Beginning January 15, 2013, and every four years thereafter, the secretary in consultation with municipal representatives and with approval

from the agency of natural resources shall review and revise, as appropriate, town road and bridge standards in order to ensure the standards are protective of water quality.

Sec. 18. 19 V.S.A. § 309b is amended to read:

§ 309b. LOCAL MATCH; CERTAIN TOWN HIGHWAY PROGRAMS

(a) Notwithstanding subsection 309a(a) of this title, grants provided to towns under the town highway structures program shall be matched by local funds sufficient to cover 20 percent of the project costs, unless the town has adopted road and bridge standards ~~and~~, has completed a network inventory, and has submitted an annual certification of compliance for town road and bridge standards to the secretary, in which event the local match shall be sufficient to cover 10 percent of the project costs. The secretary may adopt rules to implement the town highway structures program. Town highway structures projects receiving funds pursuant to this subsection shall be the responsibility of the applicant municipality.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection 309a(a) of this title, grants provided to towns under the class 2 town highway roadway program shall be matched by local funds sufficient to cover 30 percent of the project costs, unless the town has adopted road and bridge standards ~~and~~, has completed a network inventory, and has submitted an annual certification of compliance for town road and bridge standards to the secretary, in which event the local match shall be sufficient to cover 20 percent of the project costs. The secretary may adopt rules to implement the class 2 town highway roadway program. Class 2 town highway roadway projects receiving funds pursuant to this subsection shall be the responsibility of the applicant municipality, and a municipality shall not receive a grant in excess of \$175,000.00.

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Sec. 19. REPEAL OF SUNSET OF VERMONT AGRICULTURAL BUFFER PROGRAM

Sec. 56 of No. 147 of the Acts of the 2005 Adj. Sess. (2006) (sunset on Vermont agricultural buffer program) is repealed.

Sec. 20. Sec. 14 of No. 31 of the Acts of 2009 is amended to read:

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) This section and Secs. 1 (findings), 12 (ANR wetlands report), and 13 (Bristol Pond) of this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

(b) Secs. 2 (retitling 10 V.S.A. chapter 37), 3 (wetlands definitions), 4 (ANR wetlands authority), 5 (wetlands permitting), 6 (recodification of aquatic nuisance control authority), 7 (water resources panel rulemaking authority), 8 (ANR enforcement authority), 9 (appeals), and 10 (marketability of title), and 11 (transition) of this act shall take effect 45 days after such time as the water resources panel has issued both a rule updating the Vermont significant wetlands inventory maps and a rule updating the Vermont wetland rules.

(c) Sec. 11 (transition) of this act shall take effect January 1, 2010.

#### Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 9 (livestock fencing; best management practices), 10 (Vermont agricultural buffer program), 11 (farm agronomic practices program), 12 (VHCB; agricultural land preservation), 16 (ANR report on general permit program), 17 (agency of transportation best management practices), 19 (repeal of sunset on Vermont agricultural buffer program), and 20 (effective date of wetlands transition) of this act shall take effect upon passage.

(b) Secs. 1 (river corridor findings), 2 (navigable waters and shorelands policy), 3 (navigable waters and shorelands definitions), 4 (shoreland protection bylaws), 5 (river corridor buffers), 6 (zoning bylaws), 7 (zoning permissible types of regulations), and 8 (ANR report on river corridor, shoreland, and buffer zoning) shall take effect July 1, 2010, except that 10 V.S.A. § 1427 shall take effect February 1, 2011.

(c) Secs. 13 (definition of watercourse) and 14 (stream alteration permits) of this act shall take effect March 31, 2011.

(c) Sec. 15 (ANR general permit authority) of this act shall take effect February 15, 2011.

(d) Sec. 18 (local match town highway programs) of this act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, and the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered.

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**House Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred In; Committee of  
Conference Requested**

**S. 97.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to a Vermont state employees' cost-savings incentive program.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 266 is added to read:

§ 266. VERMONT STATE AND JUDICIARY EMPLOYEES'  
COST-SAVINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "State employee" means any classified, nonmanagement, state employee in the executive or judicial branch.

(2) "Suggestion" means a proposal by a state employee that has been submitted to an agency in which the employee is employed that may result in financial savings for that agency.

(b) There is established the Vermont state and judiciary employees' cost-savings incentive program. The program shall provide financial incentives to state and judiciary employees who make suggestions that are adopted and result in financial savings for any agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or for the judiciary department.

(c) To be eligible for an award under this program, a state or judiciary employee or group of employees shall submit a suggestion to reduce expenditures on a form created by the department of human resources designated for this purpose. An employee shall have received at least a satisfactory rating in his or her last state performance evaluation to be eligible for any award. An employee who is otherwise eligible for an award under this section shall not receive the award until he or she has satisfied any and all state tax obligations.

(d) Within 60 days of the receipt of a suggestion, the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or the judiciary department receiving a suggestion shall determine whether:



(1) the suggestion is feasible and desirable;

(2) the suggestion is an idea that is not already under active study or has not been under continual review by the state;

(3) the suggestion is beyond the reasonable expectations of job performance, as informed by the employee's job specifications; and

(4) implementation of the suggestion will not negatively impact the quality of services presently provided by the state.

(e) An employee shall be entitled to an award only if his or her suggestion meets each of the criteria set forth in subsection (d) of this section and the suggestion is implemented.

(f) Any agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or the judiciary department that receives a suggestion shall present its assessment of the criteria set forth in subsection (d) of this section on the form designated for this purpose and shall state whether it intends to implement the suggestion. A copy of this form shall be sent to the employee or employees making the suggestion, the department of human resources, and the department of finance and management if the employee making the suggestion is an executive branch employee and to the court administrator if the employee making the suggestion is a judiciary department employee.

(g) If the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or judiciary department that receives a suggestion rejects the suggestion, the employee may submit a copy of the form and the assessment to the secretary of administration, if the employee is an executive branch employee. The secretary may affirm or overrule the decision of the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, and his or her decision shall be final. If the employee is a judiciary department employee, the employee shall submit the form and assessment to the court administrator, who may affirm or overrule the decision of the judiciary department. The decision of the court administrator is final.

(h) If each of the criteria set forth in subsections (d) and (e) of this section is met, the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or the judiciary department shall implement the suggestion. The employee or group of employees making the suggestion shall then be entitled to a total monetary award equal to 25 percent of the savings realized as a direct result of the suggestion in the first year of its implementation, but the maximum total monetary award shall not exceed \$20,000.00 under any circumstances. If the suggestion is simultaneously made

by more than one employee, the award shall be divided equally among the employees who submitted the suggestion. The sum awarded shall be reportable as wages and subject to applicable state and federal taxes, as appropriate. The award shall be computed on the actual savings for a 12-month period, with the period to run from the time that the suggestion is fully implemented. An award made pursuant to this section shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or the judiciary department, that realizes the cost savings, and shall be paid to the employee within one year and 30 days of full implementation of the suggestion. An award shall not be included when calculating an employee's average final compensation for determining the employee's retirement allowance.

(i) If an employee who is eligible for an award under this section terminates state service prior to full implementation of his or her suggestion, the employee shall be entitled to receive an award equal to the savings calculated at the date of termination of service.

(j) If an employee believes that the agency, department, board, bureau, commission, or other administrative unit of the state, or the judiciary department has erroneously calculated or underestimated the savings realized by the suggestion, the employee may submit an objection to the amount awarded in writing, within 30 days of the award, to the secretary of administration or the court administrator, as appropriate. The secretary of administration or the court administrator, with the guidance of the commissioner of finance and management, shall review the amount awarded, and may increase the amount of an award or affirm the award. The decision of the secretary of administration or the court administrator shall be final.

(k) In the event an employee's suggestion is denied on the basis of the criteria set forth in subdivision (d)(1) or (4) of this section, and is subsequently implemented within three years of the date the employee made the suggestion, the employee shall receive a monetary award in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

(l) The secretary of administration and the court administrator shall file a report with the governor, the state auditor, and the general assembly for each fiscal year, beginning on January 1, 2012, summarizing the suggestions implemented and the savings realized. The secretary shall also identify the suggestions that were rejected and the rationale for these rejections. A copy of this report shall be provided to the director of the Vermont state employees' association.

(m) The joint legislative government accountability committee and the state auditor shall review the secretary of administration's and court administrator's reports on the program with the director of the Vermont state employees' association, or his or her designee, at least once during each fiscal year.

Sec. 2. REPEAL

Sec. 1 (3 V.S.A. § 266) of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2014.

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, on motion of Senator White, the Senate refused to concur in the House proposal of amendment and requested a Committee of Conference.

**House Proposal of Amendment Concurred In**

**S. 122.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to recounts in elections for statewide offices.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. Secs. 6, 7, and 8 of No. 73 of the Acts of 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) are amended to read:

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2386 is amended to read:

§ 2386. TIME FOR FILING STATEMENTS

(a) Statements pursuant to this subchapter, except for vacancies created by the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary ~~and statements for minor party candidates and independent candidates~~, shall be filed ~~not earlier than the second Thursday after the first Monday in June before the day of the general election and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the primary election~~ as set forth in section 2356 of this title.

(b) In the case of the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the primary election, the party committee shall have seven days from the date of the withdrawal to nominate a candidate. In no event, shall a statement be filed later than 60 days prior to the election.

Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2402(d) is amended to read:

(d) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form shall be filed ~~not sooner than the second Thursday after the first Monday in June and not later than the third day after the primary election~~ as set forth in section 2356 of this title. No public official receiving nominations shall accept a petition unless a completed and signed consent form is filed at the same time.

Sec. 8. 17 V.S.A. § 2413 is amended to read:

§ 2413. NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(a) The party members in each town, on or before the ~~fourth~~ first Tuesday of August in each even numbered year, upon the call of the town committee, may meet in caucus and nominate candidates for justice of the peace. The committee shall give notice of the caucus as provided in subsection (d) of this section and the chairman and secretary shall file the statements required in ~~sections section 2385 through 2387~~ section 2385 through 2387 of this title not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the primary election.

(b) If it does not hold a caucus as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the town committee shall meet and nominate candidates for justices of the peace as provided in sections 2381 through ~~2387~~ 2385 of this title.

(c) In any town in which a political party has not formally organized, any three members of the party who are voters in the town may call a caucus to nominate candidates for justice of the peace by giving notice as required in subsection (d) of this section. Upon meeting, the caucus shall first elect a chairman and a secretary. Thereafter the caucus shall nominate its candidates for justice of the peace, and cause its chairman and secretary to file the statements required in ~~sections section 2385 through 2387~~ section 2385 through 2387 of this title not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the primary election.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2601 is amended to read:

§ 2601. RECOUNTS

If In an election for statewide office, county office, or state senator, if the difference between the number of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less than two percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office, that losing candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted. In an election for all other offices, if the difference between the number of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less than five percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office, divided by the

number of persons to be elected, that losing candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage.

Thereupon, the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, was decided in the affirmative.

**House Proposal of Amendment Not Concurred In; Committee of Conference Requested**

**S. 295.**

House proposal of amendment to Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to the creation of an agricultural development director.

Was taken up.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Agricultural Development \* \* \*

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The general assembly finds:

(1) Vermont agriculture is the most visible industry in Vermont. Farmers provide food, and they steward the land, which provides natural habitat and scenery that is central to Vermont's character and working landscape.

(2) Forestry is also central to Vermont's character and working landscape, and 75 percent of Vermont is forested.

(3) Agriculture and forestry are major drivers of the tourism industry and offer many other recreational values and benefits.

(4) Ninety-five percent of Vermont's visitors purchase locally produced food items while in the state, and two-thirds of these visitors report purchasing Vermont-made products while at home.

(5) The Vermont brand, which signals quality and value and reminds consumers of the rural beauty of Vermont, presents considerable opportunities for expanding out-of-state markets for value-added Vermont products.

(6) Vermont agricultural producers should play an important role in supplying the regional food system while enhancing and expanding the development of regional agriculturally related markets.

(7) Vermont agriculture's impact on the state's economy is significant. The total value of direct, indirect, and value-added Vermont agricultural products sold in 2008 was \$2.3 billion. The farm-gate revenue generated by Vermont agricultural products sold in 2008 was \$673.7 million. Agri-tourism and recreational services related to agriculture had a 2008 market value of \$1.5 million.

(8) Vermont's tourism industry is highly dependent on the pervasiveness of agriculture and forestry in the state and contributes \$2 billion to the state's economy each year.

(9) Ninety-seven percent of Vermonters also support the state's agriculture and working landscape, and support for the viability of agriculture, including innovative agriculture, is long recognized.

(A) Relationship-based food systems such as farm-to-school programs, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, farmers' markets, and pick-your-own operations are increasingly popular and offer areas of opportunity for farmers.

(B) The Vermont council on rural development, the Vermont housing and conservation board, the sustainable agriculture council, and others have each issued detailed reports on how to enhance the sustainability of agriculture and forestry in this state.

(C) The general assembly enacted No. 38 of the Acts of 2007, an act relating to the viability of Vermont agriculture, with specific recommendations as to how to "support and develop a more robust and self-sustaining agricultural sector that also promotes agricultural industries."

(D) The Farm-to-Plate Investment Program, approved at the end of the 2009 Vermont legislative session, directs the Vermont sustainable jobs fund, in consultation with the sustainable agriculture council and other stakeholders, to develop a 10-year strategic plan to strengthen Vermont's farm and food sector.

(10) Over the years there have been many reports and plans produced by a variety of stakeholders, including the agency of agriculture, food and markets. While some of the resulting recommendations have been adopted, such as the buy local program, the small business development center, and the installation of electronic benefits transfer machines at farmers' markets, the successful implementation of other recommendations could be enhanced

through the sustained attention and actions of an entity such as the proposed agricultural development board.

(11) The agency of agriculture, food and markets has a broad range of expertise and experience that can contribute to the success of the agricultural development board.

(12) In order to provide continuity for the development and implementation of a comprehensive agricultural economic development policy, and to protect and promote Vermont's agricultural and working landscape, a new body of state leaders and creative thinkers is needed to implement agricultural development strategies, including the Farm-to-Plate Investment Program's strategic plan.

(13) In order to provide continuity of agricultural development work within the agency of agriculture, food and markets, the leadership role within the agency's agricultural development division should return to a classified position.

Sec. 2. ELIMINATION OF POSITION OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CREATION OF POSITION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

(a) The general assembly authorizes and directs the elimination of the position of deputy commissioner for agricultural development within the agency of agriculture, food and markets.

(b) The general assembly authorizes and directs the creation of a position of agricultural development director within the agency of agriculture, food and markets. The position shall be a classified position. The director's responsibilities shall be those set forth in 6 V.S.A. § 2963(b) and those delegated by the secretary.

Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 253(e) is amended to read:

\* \* \*

(e) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets, with the approval of the governor, shall appoint a deputy commissioner for administration and enforcement, ~~and a deputy commissioner for agricultural development.~~ The secretary of agriculture, food and markets may remove the deputy ~~commissioners~~ commissioner at pleasure, and he or she shall be responsible for ~~their~~ the deputy commissioner's acts. The agency of agriculture, food and markets shall be so organized that, subject to the supervision of the secretary of agriculture, food and markets, the functions and duties that relate to administration and enforcement shall be in the charge of the deputy

~~commissioner of administration and enforcement, and those that relate to agricultural development shall be in the charge of the deputy commissioner of agricultural development.~~

Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 2966 is added to read:

§ 2966. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD; ORGANIZATION; DUTIES AND AUTHORITY

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to create a permanent Vermont agricultural development board that is authorized and empowered as the state's primary agricultural development entity.

(1) The board is charged with:

(A) optimizing the agricultural use of Vermont lands and other agricultural resources;

(B) expanding existing markets and identifying and developing new profitable in-state and out-of-state markets for food, fiber, forest products, and value-added agricultural products, including farm-derived renewable energy; and

(C) identifying opportunities and challenges related to infrastructure, product development, marketing, training, research, and education.

(2) The board shall:

(A) review existing strategies and plans and develop, implement, and continually update a comprehensive statewide plan to guide and encourage agricultural development and new and expanded markets for agricultural and forest products;

(B) advise and make recommendations to the secretaries of relevant state agencies, the governor, the director of the state experiment station, the University of Vermont extension service, and the general assembly on the adoption and amendment of laws, regulations, and governmental policies that affect agricultural development, land use, access to capital, the economic opportunities provided by Vermont agriculture, and the well-being of the people of Vermont;

(C) monitor and report on Vermont's progress in achieving the agricultural economic development goals identified by the board; and

(D) balancing the needs of production methods with the opportunities to market products that enhance Vermont agriculture.



(b) Board created. The Vermont agricultural development board is hereby created. The exercise by the board of the powers conferred upon it in this section constitutes the performance of essential governmental functions.

(c) Powers and duties. The board shall have the authority and duty to:

(1) meet, at least quarterly, to conduct such business and take such action as is necessary to perform the duties set forth in this section;

(2) design and conduct an ongoing public engagement process, which may include taking testimony and receiving information from any party interested in the board's activities;

(3) gain information through the use of experts, consultants, and data to perform analysis as needed, and obtain necessary data and information from state economists, state administrative agencies, and programs such as the farm-to-plate initiative; and

(4) serve as a resource for and make recommendations to the administration and the general assembly on ways to improve Vermont's laws, regulations, and policies in order to attain the goals of the comprehensive agricultural economic development plan.

(5) develop an annual operating budget, and

(A) solicit any grants, gifts, or appropriations necessary to implement the budget.

(B) expend any monies necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(d) Comprehensive agricultural economic development plan.

(1) Using information available from previous and ongoing agricultural development planning efforts, such as the farm-to-plate investment program's strategic plan, and the board's own data and assumptions, the board shall develop and implement a comprehensive agricultural economic development plan for the state of Vermont. The plan shall include, at minimum, the following:

(A) an assessment of the current status of agriculture in Vermont;

(B) current and projected workforce composition and needs;

(C) a profile of emerging business and industry sectors projected to present future agricultural economic development opportunities, and a cost-benefit analysis of strategies and resources necessary to capitalize on these opportunities;

(D) a profile of current components of physical and social infrastructure affecting agricultural economic development;

(E) a profile of government-sponsored programs, agricultural economic development resources, and financial incentives designed to promote and support agricultural economic development, and a cost-benefit analysis of continued support, expansion, or abandonment of these programs, resources, and incentives;

(F) the use of the Vermont brand to further agricultural development;

(G) the enhancement and expansion of out-of-state marketing of Vermont products; and

(H) any additional issues as the board determines appropriate.

(2) Based on its research and analysis, the board shall establish in the plan a set of clear strategies with defined and measurable outcomes for agricultural economic development, the purpose of which shall be to guide long-term agricultural economic development policymaking and planning.

(3) Within one year of its first meeting, the board shall present the plan to the governor and the house committee on agriculture, the senate committee on agriculture, the house committee on commerce and economic development, and the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs as the Vermont comprehensive plan for agricultural economic development.

(4) The board shall conduct a periodic review and revision of the comprehensive agricultural economic development plan as often as is necessary in its discretion, but at minimum every five years, to ensure the plan remains current, relevant, and effective for guiding and evaluating agricultural economic development policy.

(5) The board shall within one year of adopting the plan develop benchmarking standards to measure progress in meeting the plan's goals and outcomes.

(e) Annual report. The board shall make available a report, at least annually, to the administration, the house committee on agriculture, the senate committee on agriculture, the house committee on commerce and economic development, the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs, and the people of Vermont on the state's progress toward attaining the goals and outcomes identified in the comprehensive agricultural economic development plan.

(f) Composition of board.

(1) The board shall be composed of 12 members. In making appointments to the board pursuant to this section, the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president pro tempore of the senate shall coordinate their selections to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that the board members selected by them reflect the following qualities:

(A) proven leadership in a broad range of efforts and activities to promote and improve the Vermont agricultural economy and the quality of life of Vermonters;

(B) demonstrated innovation, creativity, collaboration, pragmatism, and willingness to make long-term commitments of time, energy, and effort;

(C) geographic, gender, ethnic, social, political, and economic diversity;

(D) diversity of agricultural enterprise location, size, and sector of the for-profit agricultural business community members; and

(E) diversity of interest of the nonprofit or nongovernmental organization community members.

(2) Members of the board shall include the following:

(A) four members appointed by the governor:

(i) a person with expertise in rural economic development issues;

(ii) an employee of a Vermont postsecondary institution experienced in researching issues related to agriculture;

(iii) a person familiar with the agricultural tourism industry; and

(iv) an agricultural lender.

(B) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives:

(i) a person who produces an agricultural commodity other than dairy products;

(ii) a person who creates a value-added product using ingredients substantially produced on Vermont farms;

(iii) a person with expertise in sales and marketing; and

(iv) a person representing the feed, seed, fertilizer, or equipment enterprises.

(C) four members appointed by the committee on committees of the senate:

(i) a representative of Vermont's dairy industry who is also a dairy farmer;

(ii) a person with expertise in land planning and conservation efforts that support Vermont's working landscape;

(iii) a representative from a Vermont agricultural advocacy organization; and

(iv) a person with experience in providing youth with educational opportunities enhancing understanding of agriculture.

(3) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets, or his or her designee, shall serve the board as a member ex officio. The secretary shall attend meetings and provide staff support from the agency of agriculture, food and markets, but shall not have the right to vote.

(4) The secretary of commerce and community development, or his or her designee, shall serve as a member ex officio. The secretary shall attend meetings, but shall not have the right to vote.

(g) Governance.

(1) The board shall adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this section before conducting any further business.

(2) Unless a higher threshold is established by the board's rules, seven members of the board shall constitute a quorum, and an action of the board shall be taken by a majority of those members present and voting.

(3)(A) The board shall be led by a chair who shall be elected by the board from its membership at the first meeting.

(B) The chair shall serve for the duration of his or her member term, until his or her earlier resignation, or until his or her unanimous removal by the governor, the speaker of the house, and the president pro tempore of the senate.

(C) A chair may be reappointed, provided that no individual may serve more than two consecutive terms as chair.

(4) Each member of the board shall serve a three-year term, except:

(A) the governor initially shall appoint one member to a one-year term, one member to a two-year term, and two members to a three-year term;

(B) the speaker of the house initially shall appoint two members to a one-year term, one member to a two-year term, and one member to a three-year term; and

(C) the committee on committees initially shall appoint one member to a one-year term, two members to a two-year term, and one member to a three-year term.

(5) Any vacancy occurring among the members shall be filled by the respective appointing authority pursuant to this subsection, and shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term. A member may be reappointed, provided that no individual may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

(h) Compensation. Members who are not state employees or whose membership is not supported by their employer or association may receive per diem and reimbursement for travel to the extent funding is available.

\* \* \* Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 6 V.S.A. chapter 64 is added to read:

CHAPTER 64. LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

§ 791. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Agency" means the agency of agriculture, food and markets.

(2) "Council" means the livestock care standards advisory council.

(3) "Livestock" means cattle, calves, sheep, swine, horses, mules, goats, fallow deer, American bison, poultry, and any other animal that can or may be used in and for the preparation of meat, fiber, or poultry products.

(4) "Secretary means the secretary of agriculture, food and markets.

§ 792. ESTABLISHMENT OF LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) There is established a livestock care standards advisory council for the purposes of evaluating the laws of the state and of providing policy recommendations regarding the care, handling, and well-being of livestock in the state. The livestock care standards advisory council shall be composed of the following members, all of whom shall be residents of Vermont:

(1) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets, who shall serve as the chair of the council.

(2) The state veterinarian.

(3) The following seven members appointed by the governor:

(A) A person with knowledge of food safety and food safety regulation in the state.

(B) Two persons from statewide organizations that represent farmers.

(C) A Vermont licensed livestock or poultry veterinarian.

(D) A representative of an agricultural department of a Vermont college or university.

(E) A representative of the Vermont slaughter industry.

(F) A representative of the Vermont livestock dealer, hauler, or auction industry.

(4) The following two members appointed by the committee on committees:

(A) A producer of species other than bovidae.

(B) An operator of a medium farm or large farm permitted by the agency.

(5) The following two members appointed by the speaker of the house:

(A) An operator of a small Vermont dairy farm.

(B) A representative of a local humane society or organization from Vermont registered with the agency and organized under state law.

(b) Members of the board shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years. Except for the chair, the state veterinarian, and the representative of the agricultural department of a Vermont college or university, no member of the council may serve for more than six consecutive years. Seven members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

(c) With the concurrence of the chair, the council may use the services and staff of the agency in the performance of its duties.

(d) Members who are not state employees or whose membership is not supported by their employer or association may receive per diem and reimbursement for travel to the extent funding is available.

#### § 793. POWERS AND DUTIES OF LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) The council shall:

(1) Review and evaluate the laws and rules of the state applicable to the care and handling of livestock. In conducting the evaluation required by this section, the council shall consider the following:

(A) the overall health and welfare of livestock species;

(B) agricultural best management practices;

(C) biosecurity and disease prevention;

(D) animal morbidity and mortality data;

(E) food safety practices; and

(F) the protection of local and affordable food supplies for consumers.

(2) Submit policy recommendations to the secretary on any of the subject matter set forth under subdivision (1) of this subsection. A copy of the policy recommendations submitted to the secretary shall be provided to the house and senate committees on agriculture. Recommendations may be in the form of proposed legislation.

(3) Meet at least annually and at such other times as the chair determines to be necessary.

(4) Submit minutes of the council annually, on or before January 15, to the house and senate committees on agriculture.

(b) The council may engage in education and outreach activities related to the laws and regulations for the care and handling of livestock. The council may accept funds from public or private sources in compliance with 32 V.S.A. § 5.

#### Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

(b) This Sec. and Sec. 5 shall take effect upon passage.

And that the title of the bill be amended to read:

“An act relating to miscellaneous agriculture.”

Thereupon, pending the question, Shall the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment?, on motion of Senator Kittell, the Senate refused to concur in the House proposal of amendment and requested a Committee of Conference.

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**Rules Suspended; Bill Committed**

On motion of Senator Kittell, the rules were suspended, and House bill entitled:

**H. 614.** An act relating to the regulation of composting.

Was taken up for immediate consideration.

Thereupon, pending the reading of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, Senator Kittell moved that Senate Rule 49 be suspended in order to commit the bill to the Committee on Agriculture with the report of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy *intact*,

Which was agreed to.

**Rules Suspended; Bills Messaged**

On motion of Senator Mazza, the rules were suspended, and the following bills were severally ordered messaged to the House forthwith:

**H. 213, H. 555, H. 788.**

**Rules Suspended; Bill Delivered**

On motion of Senator Mazza, the rules were suspended, and the following bill was ordered delivered to the Governor forthwith:

**S.122.**

**Recess**

On motion of Senator Shumlin the Senate recessed until 2:30 P.M..

**Called to Order**

At 2:30 P.M. the Senate was called to order by the President.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Shumlin, the Senate adjourned, to reconvene on Monday, May 3, 2010, at eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon pursuant to J.R.S. 63.