

# House Calendar

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Monday, March 25, 2013

76th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 p.m.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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**Page No.**

### **ACTION CALENDAR**

#### **Favorable with Amendment**

<b>H. 395</b> The establishment of the Vermont Clean Energy Loan Fund .....	712
Rep. Carr for Commerce and Economic Development	
Rep. Wilson for Ways and Means .....	717

#### **Senate Proposal of Amendment**

<b>J.R.H. 1</b> Relating to the history and legacy of the Vermont State Hospital and the preservation of its cemetery .....	717
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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 395**

An act relating to the establishment of the Vermont Clean Energy Loan Fund

**Rep. Carr of Brandon**, for the Committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 13 is added to read:

Subchapter 13. Vermont Sustainable Energy Loan Fund

§ 280cc. CREATION; PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS

(a) There is established within the Authority the Vermont Sustainable Energy Loan Fund, referred to in this subchapter as “the Fund,” the purpose of which shall be to enable the Authority to make loans and provide other forms of financing for projects that stimulate and encourage development and deployment of sustainable energy projects in the State of Vermont.

(b) In this subchapter:

(1) “Renewable energy” shall have the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17).

(2) “Sustainable energy” means energy efficiency, renewable energy, and technologies that enhance or support the development and implementation of renewable energy or energy efficiency, or both.

§ 280dd. LOAN PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED WITHIN THE FUND

(a) The Fund shall consist of:

(1) Existing sustainable energy loans made by the Authority, the Vermont Small Business Development Corporation, and the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation

(2) Sustainable energy loans originated under the following programs:

(A) The Small Business Energy Efficiency Loan Program, under which the Authority provides loans for qualifying commercial energy efficiency improvements.

(B) The Renewable Energy Loan Program, which the Authority may create to provide loans for qualifying renewable energy projects.

(C) The Agricultural Energy Loan Program, which the Authority may create to provide loans for qualifying agriculture- and forest product-based sustainable energy projects.

(D) The Energy Efficiency Loan Guarantee Program, which the Authority may create to provide loan guarantees to participating lending institutions that enroll loans for sustainable energy projects in the Program.

(3) Programs created by the Authority pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(b) The Fund shall be administered by the Authority and shall not be subject to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

(c) The Authority may establish:

(1) New financing programs that the Authority determines are necessary to encourage and promote sustainable energy projects and reduce reliance upon traditional fossil fuel sources.

(2) Policies and procedures for programs within the Fund that the Authority determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

## Sec. 2. INITIAL CAPITALIZATION OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

The Vermont Economic Development Authority shall provide loan guarantees under the Energy Efficiency Loan Guarantee Program for loans enrolled in the Program by participating banks through an initial capital contribution of \$500,000.00 from the Authority and from additional sources as they become available, which may include capital investments from the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund, State Energy Program grants through the Department of Public Service, and available federal funding.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 216 is amended to read:

### § 216. AUTHORITY; GENERAL POWERS

The ~~authority~~ Authority is hereby authorized:

\* \* \*

(13) To cause to be incorporated in Vermont a nonprofit corporation which will qualify as a state development company under Title 15 of the United States Code and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The

voting members of the ~~authority~~ Authority shall be members of the company and shall constitute the board of directors of the company. The company shall have at least 14 other members selected by the members of the ~~authority~~ Authority. The company shall be organized and operate under the nonprofit corporation laws of the ~~state~~ State of Vermont to the extent not inconsistent herewith. The ~~authority~~ Authority shall have the power to contract with the company to provide staff and management needs of the company. The ~~authority~~ Authority is authorized to contribute ~~up to \$25,000.00~~ to the capital of the company in an amount the Authority determines is necessary and appropriate;

(14) To incorporate one or more nonprofit corporations in Vermont to fulfill the goals of this chapter. Such corporation shall be empowered to borrow money and to receive and accept gifts, grants, or contributions from any source, provided that such gifts, grants, or contributions are not less than \$5,000.00 from any one source for the period of one year and provided that such nonprofit corporation provides business loans of not less than \$2,500.00 to any particular entity or individual. The voting members of the ~~authority~~ Authority shall be directors of the corporation. The corporation shall be organized and operate under the nonprofit corporation laws of the ~~state~~ State of Vermont. The ~~authority~~ Authority may contract with the corporation to provide staff and management needs of the company. The ~~authority~~ Authority may contribute ~~no more than \$1,050,000.00~~ to the capital of the corporation in an amount the Authority determines is necessary and appropriate;

\* \* \*

(17) To contribute to the capital of the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation established pursuant to chapter 16A of this title in an amount the Authority determines is necessary and appropriate;

(18) To contribute to the capital of the Vermont Sustainable Energy Loan Fund established under subchapter 13 of this chapter in an amount the Authority determines is necessary and appropriate.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 234 is amended to read:

§ 234. THE VERMONT JOBS FUND

\* \* \*

(b) In order to provide monies in the ~~industrial development fund~~ Fund for loans under this chapter, the ~~authority~~ Authority may issue notes for purchase by the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer as provided in section 235 of this chapter.

\* \* \*

(f) The Authority may loan money from the Fund to the Vermont Sustainable Energy Loan Fund established under subchapter 13 of this chapter at interest rates and on terms and conditions set by the Authority.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 280a is amended to read:

§ 280a. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS; AUTHORIZED FINANCING PROGRAMS

(a) The ~~authority~~ Authority may develop, modify, and implement any existing or new financing program, provided that any specific project that benefits from such program shall meet the criteria contained in the Vermont sustainable jobs strategy adopted under section 280b of this title, and provided further that the program shall meet the criteria contained in the Vermont sustainable jobs strategy adopted under section 280b of this title. ~~Such~~ These programs may include:

(1) the ~~mortgage insurance program~~ Mortgage Insurance Program, administered under subchapter 2 of chapter 12 of this title;

(2) the ~~loans to local development corporations program~~ Loans to Local Development Corporations Program, administered under subchapter 3 of chapter 12 of this title;

(3) the ~~industrial revenue bond program~~ Industrial Revenue Bond Program, administered under subchapter 4 of chapter 12 of this title;

(4) the ~~direct loan program~~ Direct Loan Program, administered under subchapter 5 of chapter 12 of this title;

(5) the ~~Vermont financial access program, administered under subchapter 8 of chapter 12 of this title;~~

(6) the SBA 504 Certified Development Company and ~~Rural Economic Activity Loan programs~~ Small Business Loan Programs of the authority's Vermont ~~503~~ 504 Corporation, administered by the ~~authority~~ Authority under subdivision 216(13) of this title;

(7)(6) the Small Business Development Corporation ~~program~~ Program, administered by the ~~authority~~ Authority under subdivision 216(14) of this title;

(8)(7) one or more programs targeting economically distressed regions of the ~~state~~ State, and specifically including the ~~authority~~ Authority to develop a program to finance or refinance up to 100 percent of the existing assets or debts of a health, recreation, and fitness organization which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the income of which is entirely used for its exempt purpose, that owns and operates a recreation facility located in a distressed region of the ~~state~~ State;

~~(9)~~(8) ~~an export finance program~~ Export Finance Program, administered by the ~~authority~~ Authority under subchapter 9 of chapter 12 of this title;

(9) a Vermont Sustainable Energy Loan Fund and any programs created thereunder, administered by the Authority under subchapter 13 of this chapter;

\* \* \*

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 213(b) and (c) are amended to read:

(b) The ~~authority~~ Authority shall have ~~12~~ 15 voting members consisting of the ~~secretary of the agency of commerce and community development, the state treasurer, the secretary of agriculture, food and markets~~ Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the State Treasurer, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and the Commissioner of Public Service, each of whom shall serve as a voting ex officio member, or a designee of any of the aforementioned; and ~~nine~~ 10 members, who shall be residents of the ~~state~~ State of Vermont, appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor with the advice and consent of the ~~senate~~ Senate. The appointed members shall be appointed for terms of six years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. ~~The first members appointed by the governor to the new authority shall be appointed, three for a term of two years, three for a term of four years and three for a term of six years.~~ Appointed members may be removed by the ~~governor~~ Governor for cause and the ~~governor~~ Governor may fill any vacancy occurring among the appointed members for the balance of the unexpired term.

(c) The ~~authority~~ Authority shall elect a chair, from among its appointed members, and a vice chair and treasurer from among its members and shall employ a manager who shall hold office at the ~~authority's~~ Authority's pleasure and who, unless he or she is a member of the classified service under 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 of Title 3, shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the ~~authority~~ Authority with the approval of the ~~governor~~ Governor. A quorum shall consist of ~~six~~ eight members. Members disqualified from voting under section 214 of this title shall be considered present for purposes of determining a quorum. No action of the ~~authority~~ Authority shall be considered valid unless the action is supported by a majority vote of the members present and voting and then only if at least ~~four~~ five members vote in favor of the action.

\* \* \*

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 219(d) is amended to read:

(d) In order to assure the maintenance of the debt service reserve requirement in each debt service reserve fund established by the ~~authority~~ Authority, there may be appropriated annually and paid to the ~~authority~~ Authority

Authority for deposit in each such fund, such sum as shall be certified by the chair of the ~~authority~~ Authority, to the ~~governor~~ Governor, the ~~president of the senate~~ President of the Senate, and the ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House, as is necessary to restore each such debt service reserve fund to an amount equal to the debt service reserve requirement for such fund. The chair shall annually, on or about February 1, make, execute, and deliver to the ~~governor~~ Governor, the ~~president of the senate~~ President of the Senate, and the ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House, a certificate stating the sum required to restore each such debt service reserve fund to the amount aforesaid, and the sum so certified may be appropriated, and if appropriated, shall be paid to the ~~authority~~ Authority during the then current state fiscal year. The principal amount of bonds or notes outstanding at any one time and secured in whole or in part by a debt service reserve fund to which state funds may be appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed ~~\$115,000,000.00~~ \$130,000,000.00, provided that the foregoing shall not impair the obligation of any contract or contracts entered into by the authority in contravention of the Constitution of the United States.

#### Sec. 8. INVESTMENT OF STATE MONIES

The Treasurer is hereby authorized to establish a short-term credit facility for the benefit of the Vermont Economic Development Authority in an amount of up to \$10,000,000.00.

#### Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

( **Committee Vote: 11-0-0**)

**Rep. Wilson of Manchester**, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**.

(**Committee Vote: 10-0-1**)

### **Senate Proposal of Amendment**

#### **J.R.H. 1**

Joint resolution relating to the history and legacy of the Vermont State Hospital and the preservation of its cemetery

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the resolution by striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas, in 1888, the trustees of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane in Brattleboro (renamed the Brattleboro Retreat in 1892 to avoid confusion with the Waterbury facility) reported that the facility was beyond its designed

capacity, and Dr. Don D. Grout, the member from Stowe and a future superintendent of the Vermont State Asylum for the Insane (renamed the Vermont State Hospital for the Insane in 1898), introduced legislation that became Act 94, “An act providing for the care, custody and treatment of the insane poor and insane criminals of the state,” and

Whereas, the state purchased 500 acres of land in Waterbury for the new facility, and after initial construction, the first 25 patients arrived by train from Brattleboro on August 8, 1891, and

Whereas, during its 120 years of service, the Vermont State Hospital played a powerful role in the lives of many Vermonters, including many patients and staff, and

Whereas, from early on, the Vermont State Hospital confronted a continuing struggle to secure sufficient financing to provide the best quality of care, and in recent decades, it had been recognized that the facilities in Waterbury no longer allowed for state-of-the-art care, and the existing hospital needed to be closed, and

Whereas, in November 1927, and again at the end of August 2011, the staff and patients at the Vermont State Hospital undertook extraordinary measures to respond to devastating floods, and

Whereas, the severe damage that the Vermont State Hospital sustained in Tropical Storm Irene required an immediate relocation or replacement of services previously provided at the Vermont State Hospital, and

Whereas, as a new chapter in mental health care in Vermont begins, it should be one that integrates mental health care with other health care services, focuses on community supports and treatment close to home, avoids unnecessary hospitalization, and never abandons those with mental health needs, and

Whereas, with the closure of the historic Vermont State Hospital Waterbury campus, it is important to remember those individuals buried at the hospital’s cemetery in use from the hospital’s inception until 1912 and which includes a memorial stone with an inscription that reads:

This beautiful knoll overlooking the grounds of the Vermont State Hospital is matched in splendor only by the twenty or so residents of the Hospital who were buried here between 1891 and 1912. May their spirits soar, you are remembered, and

Whereas, the preservation of this cemetery and of the memory of those individuals is of lasting importance, and

Whereas, the names of those buried there have been gathered in the past, and may still be able to be located and preserved so that these individuals will not be left unknown, and

Whereas, there is evidence that at least two and perhaps more patients from the Vermont State Hospital were buried at different locations on the grounds in unmarked graves that are likely to never be identified which would be a grievous indication of past indifference to the lives of these individuals, a practice that should never again be permitted to occur in this state, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly observes the powerful role that the Vermont State Hospital played in the history of mental health treatment in Vermont and requests the State to maintain and preserve perpetually the hospital's cemetery, and be it further

Resolved: That the Department of Mental Health is requested to seek to identify from past records those individuals who were buried at different locations, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of Mental Health, to the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, and to the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

(For text see House Journal 1/23/2013 )

### **Public Hearings**

April 18, 2013 - Room 11 - 6:00-8:00 PM - H. 208 Earned Sick Days - House General, Housing and Military Affairs