

# House Calendar

Wednesday, May 01, 2013

113th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 11:00 A.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**  
**Action Postponed Until May 1, 2013**  
**Third Reading**

**S. 31**

An act relating to prohibiting a court from consideration of interests in revocable trusts or wills when making a property settlement in a divorce proceeding

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Kilmartin of Newport City to S. 31**

In Sec. 1, 15 V.S.A. § 751(b), by adding a new subdivision (C) to read:  
“(C) A party’s interest in a trust with a valid spendthrift provision shall not be included in the marital estate.”

and by relettering the existing subdivision (C) to be (D) and the existing subdivision (D) to be (E)

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 535**

An act relating to the approval of the adoption and to the codification of the charter of the Town of Woodford

**Rep. Mook of Bennington**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended as follows:

amended in Sec. 2, in 24 V.S.A. chapter 162, in § 6 (open meetings), by striking out the last sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “No executive session shall be held except in accordance with the terms of the general law.”

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

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Mook of Bennington to H. 535**

In Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 162, in § 8 (elected officers), in subsection (b), in the last sentence, by striking out “Marriages and Civil Unions” and inserting in lieu thereof “Civil Marriages”

## Senate Proposal of Amendment

### H. 533

An act relating to capital construction and state bonding

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

\* \* \* Capital Appropriations \* \* \*

#### Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that of the \$159,900,000.00 authorized in this act, no more than \$90,148,531.00 shall be appropriated in the first year of the biennium, and the remainder shall be appropriated in the second year.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in the second year of the biennium, any amendments to the appropriations or authorities granted in this act shall take the form of a Capital Construction and State Bonding Adjustment Bill. It is the intent of the General Assembly that unless otherwise indicated, all appropriations in this act are subject to capital budget adjustment.

#### Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

(a) The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services, and the Commissioner is authorized to direct funds appropriated in this section to the projects contained in this section; however, no project shall be canceled unless the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions are notified before that action is taken.

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014:

<u>(1) Statewide, asbestos:</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Statewide, building reuse and planning:</u>	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
<u>(3) Statewide, contingency:</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
<u>(4) Statewide, major maintenance:</u>	<u>\$8,000,000.00</u>
<u>(5) Statewide, BGS engineering and architectural project costs:</u>	<u>\$2,802,597.00</u>
<u>(6) Statewide, physical security enhancements:</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
<u>(7) Burlington, 32 and 108 Cherry Street, HVAC and DDC controls upgrades and roof renovations:</u>	<u>\$250,000.00</u>
<u>(8) Montpelier, 133 State Street, foundation and parking lot restoration:</u>	

\$1,450,000.00

(9) Montpelier, capitol district heat plant:

(A) 122 State Street, construction: \$2,500,000.00

(B) 120 State Street, Loading Dock, parking reconfiguration:  
\$400,000.00

(10) Southern State Correctional Facility, steamline replacement:  
\$600,000.00

(11) Southern State Correctional Facility, copper waterline replacement:  
\$400,000.00

(12) Montpelier, Capitol Complex Historic Preservation, major  
maintenance: \$200,000.00

(13) NWSCF, roof and soffit replacement, A, B, and C wings:  
\$425,000.00

(14) Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, HVAC upgrades:  
\$400,000.00

(15) Renovation and replacement of state-owned assets, Tropical Storm  
Irene:

(A) Vermont State Hospital, related projects: \$8,700,000.00

(B) Waterbury State Office Complex: \$21,200,000.00

(C) National Life: \$4,100,000.00

(D) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, allocations in this  
subdivision shall be used only to fund the projects described in this subdivision  
(15). However, if costs associated with these projects exceed the amount  
allocated in this subdivision, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Chairs  
of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate  
Committee on Institutions, may transfer funds from other projects in this  
section.

(E) For the purpose of allowing the Department of Buildings and  
General Services to enter into contractual agreements and complete work on  
the projects described in this subdivision (15) as soon as possible, it is the  
intent of the General Assembly that these are committed funds.

(F) A special committee consisting of the Joint Fiscal Committee and  
the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the  
Senate Committee on Institutions (“Special Committee”) is hereby established.

If there are any material changes to the planning or funding of the Waterbury State Office Complex, the Special Committee shall meet to review and approve these changes at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Joint Fiscal Committee or at an emergency meeting called by the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, and the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Special Committee shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406.

(G) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions at least monthly of updates to the planning process for the projects described in this subdivision (b)(15).

(H) As used in this subdivision (b)(15), a “material change” means a change to the planning or funding of the Waterbury State Office Complex that:

- (i) increases the total project cost estimate by 10 percent; or
- (ii) constitutes a change in plan or design.

(16) Barre, Barre Court, pellet boiler installation, supplement HVAC project: \$329,000.00

(17) Laboratory, feasibility and governance study conducted by the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (as described in Sec. 41 of this act): \$100,000.00

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2015:

- (1) Statewide, asbestos and lead abatement: \$50,000.00
- (2) Statewide, building reuse and planning: \$75,000.00
- (3) Statewide, contingency: \$100,000.00
- (4) Statewide, major maintenance: \$8,739,064.00
- (5) Statewide, BGS engineering and architectural project costs: \$2,802,597.00
- (6) Statewide, physical security enhancements: \$100,000.00
- (7) Southern State Correctional Facility, steamline replacement: \$600,000.00
- (8) Southern State Correctional Facility, copper waterline replacement: \$300,000.00
- (9) Montpelier, Capitol Complex Historic Preservation, major

maintenance: \$200,000.00

(10) Renovation and replacement of state-owned assets, Tropical Storm Irene:

(A) Waterbury State Office Complex: \$33,000,000.00

(B) For the purpose of allowing the Department of Buildings and General Services to enter into contractual agreements and complete work on the projects described in this subdivision (10) as soon as possible, it is the intent of the General Assembly that these are committed funds not subject to budget adjustment.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may use up to \$75,000.00 of the funds appropriated in subdivision (b)(4) of this section for the purpose of funding projects described in 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 24(b), and in Sec. 49 of this act.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly to review the proposal submitted by the Commissioner of Finance and Management pursuant to Sec. 39 of this act and evaluate the suitability of the FY 2015 appropriation to the Department of Buildings and General Services for engineering costs in subdivision (c)(5) of this section.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>	<u>\$52,281,597.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY2015</u>	<u>\$45,966,661.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 2</u>	<u>\$98,248,258.00</u>

### Sec. 3. ADMINISTRATION

The following sums are appropriated to the Department of Taxes for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information for an ongoing project to update statewide quadrangle maps through digital orthophotographic quadrangle mapping:

(1) \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014.

(2) \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015.

<u>Total Appropriation – Section 3</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
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### Sec. 4. HUMAN SERVICES

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the projects described in this subsection:

(1) Health laboratory, continuation of design, permitting, bidding, and

construction phases for co-location of Department of Health laboratory with the UVM Colchester research facility: \$5,000,000.00

(2) Corrections, security upgrades: \$100,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Human Services for the projects described in this subsection:

(1) Health laboratory, continuation of design, permitting, bidding, and construction phases for co-location of the Department of Health laboratory with the UVM Colchester research facility: \$6,000,000.00

(2) Corrections, security upgrades: \$100,000.00

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds appropriated in subdivision (b)(1) of this section are committed funds not subject to budget adjustment.

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$5,100,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$6,100,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 4 \$11,200,000.00

#### Sec. 5. JUDICIARY

(a) The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services on behalf of the Judiciary for the planning and design for building renovations and addition to the Lamoille County Courthouse in Hyde Park.

(b) The sum of \$2,500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to continue the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

Total Appropriation – Section 5 \$3,500,000.00

#### Sec. 6. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

(1) Major maintenance at historic sites statewide; provided such maintenance shall be under the supervision of the Department of Buildings and General Services: \$200,000.00

(2) Bennington Monument, structural repairs and ADA compliance: \$175,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014 to the Agency of



Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

<u>(1) Underwater preserves:</u>	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Placement and replacement of roadside historic site markers:</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the following projects:

<u>(1) Battle of Cedar Creek and Winchester Memorials, relocation and placement of roadside marker:</u>	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Schooner Lois McClure, upgrades:</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>

(d) The following sum is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for major maintenance at historic sites statewide; provided such maintenance shall be under the supervision of the Department of Buildings and General Services:

\$200,000.00

(e) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2015 to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the following projects:

<u>(1) Underwater preserves:</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
<u>(2) Placement and replacement of roadside historic site markers:</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$495,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$250,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 6 \$745,000.00

**Sec. 7. GRANT PROGRAMS**

(a) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2014 for Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment of the Arts, provided that all capital

funds are made available to the cultural facilities grant program: \$225,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(b) The following sum is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural Fairs Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(c) The following sums are appropriated in FY 2015 for Building Communities Grants established in 24 V.S.A. chapter 137:

(1) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Preservation Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(2) To the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation, for the Historic Barns Preservation Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(3) To the Vermont Council on the Arts for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, the sum of which may be used to match funds that may be made available from the National Endowment of the Arts, provided that all capital funds are made available to the cultural facilities grant program: \$225,000.00

(4) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Recreational Facilities Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(5) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Human Services and Educational Facilities Competitive Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(6) To the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Regional Economic Development Grant Program: \$225,000.00

(d) The following sum is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the Agricultural Fairs Capital Projects Competitive Grant Program: \$225,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$1,575,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$1,575,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 7 \$3,150,000.00

Sec. 8. EDUCATION

(a) The sum of \$6,704,634.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Agency of Education for funding the state share of completed school construction projects pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 3448.

(b) The sum of \$10,411,446 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Agency of Education for the funding the state share of completed school construction projects pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 3448. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds appropriated in subdivision (b) of this section are committed funds not subject to budget adjustment.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>	<u>\$6,704,634.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>	<u>\$10,411,446.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 8</u>	<u>\$17,116,080.00</u>

#### Sec. 9. UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

(a) The sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the University of Vermont for construction, renovation, and major maintenance.

(b) The sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the University of Vermont for construction, renovation, and major maintenance.

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to evaluate in the second year of the biennium the appropriate amount for future funding of this project.

<u>Total Appropriation – Section 9</u>	<u>\$2,800,000.00</u>
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#### Sec. 10. VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

(a) The sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Vermont State Colleges for construction, renovation, and major maintenance.

(b) The sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Vermont State Colleges for construction, renovation, and major maintenance.

(c) On or before January 15, 2014, the Vermont State Colleges shall, in coordination with the Enhanced 911 Board, bring each state college into compliance with the requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 7057 (privately owned telephone systems) or develop a comprehensive plan approved by the Enhanced 911 Board to bring each state college into compliance with the Enhanced 911 program requirements. The funds appropriated in FY 2015 to the Vermont State Colleges shall only become available after the Enhanced 911 Board has notified the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions that the Vermont State Colleges has met these requirements.

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly to evaluate in the second year of the biennium the appropriate amount for future funding of this project.

Total Appropriation – Section 10 \$2,800,000.00

Sec. 11. NATURAL RESOURCES

(a) The following sums are appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in FY 2014 for:

(1) the Water Pollution Control Fund for the following projects:

(A) Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match:  
\$1,381,600.00

(B) Principal associated with funding for the Pownal project:  
\$500,000.00

(C) Administrative support – engineering, oversight, and program management:  
\$300,000.00

(2) the Drinking Water Supply for the following projects:

(A) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$2,500,000.00

(B) Engineering, oversight, and project management: \$300,000.00

(C) EcoSystem restoration and protection: \$2,250,000.00

(D) Waterbury waste treatment facility for phosphorous removal:  
\$3,440,000.00

(3) the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for statewide small scale rehabilitation, wastewater repairs, preventive improvements and upgrades of restrooms and bathhouses, and statewide small-scale road rehabilitation projects: \$2,000,000.00

(4) the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the following projects:

(A) general infrastructure projects: \$1,000,000.00

(B) Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division, for safety ramps, GPS units, deer decoys, and snowmobiles: \$75,950.00

(C) Lake Champlain Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the walleye rearing, restoration, and stocking infrastructure: \$25,000.00

(b) The following sums are appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in FY 2015 for:

(1) the Water Pollution Control Fund for the following projects:

(A) Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match:  
\$700,000.00

(B) Interest associated with delayed grant funding for the Pownal project: \$30,000.00

(C) Springfield loan conversions: \$78,000.00

(D) Administrative support – engineering, oversight, and program management: \$300,000.00

(2) the Drinking Water Supply for the following projects:

(A) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$1,000,000.00

(B) Engineering, oversight, and project management: \$300,000.00

(C) EcoSystem restoration and protection: \$2,073,732.00

(3) dam safety and hydrology projects: \$400,000.00

(4) the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for statewide small scale rehabilitation, wastewater repairs, preventive improvements and upgrades of restrooms and bathhouses, and statewide small-scale road rehabilitation projects: \$2,000,000.00

(5) the Department of Fish and Wildlife: \$1,000,000.00

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to review the proposal submitted by the Commissioner of Finance and Management pursuant to Sec. 39 of this act to evaluate the suitability of the FY 2015 appropriations to the Agency of Natural Resources for engineering costs in subdivisions (b)(1)(D) and (b)(2)(B) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$13,772,550.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$7,881,732.00

Total Appropriation – Section 11 \$21,654,282.00

#### Sec. 12. MILITARY

(a) The sum of \$750,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Military for land acquisition, new construction, maintenance, and renovations at state armories. To the extent feasible, these funds shall be used to match federal funds.

(b) The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the purpose described in subsection (a) of this section.

Total Appropriation – Section 12 \$1,250,000.00

#### Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

(a) The sum of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public

Safety for the design, construction, and fit-up of a new public safety field station to consolidate the Brattleboro and Rockingham barracks. For the purpose of allowing the Department of Buildings and General Services to enter into contractual agreements and complete work on the projects described in this subsection as soon as possible, it is the intent of the General Assembly that these are committed funds.

(b) The sum of \$3,100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the project described in subsection (a) of this section. For the purpose of allowing the Department of Buildings and General Services to enter into contractual agreements and complete work on the project as soon as possible, it is the intent of the General Assembly that these are committed funds not subject to budget adjustment.

(c) The sum of \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department Buildings and General Services for the Department of Public Safety to purchase land for public safety field stations and to conduct feasibility studies.

(d) The sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the project described in subsection (c) of this section.

(e) The sum of \$50,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Public Safety for the purchase of fire safety equipment for the Fire Service Training Center in Pittsford.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>	<u>\$3,600,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>	<u>\$3,400,000.00</u>
<u>Total Appropriation – Section 13</u>	<u>\$7,000,000.00</u>

#### Sec. 14. AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

(a) The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for major maintenance costs at the Vermont Exposition Center Building in Springfield, Massachusetts.

(b) The sum of \$1,200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for the conservation reserve enhancement program and the best management practice implementation cost share program to continue to reduce nonpoint source pollution in Vermont. Cost share funds for the best management practice implementation cost share program shall not exceed 90 percent of the total cost of a project. Whenever possible, state funds shall be combined with federal funds to complete projects.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>	<u>\$150,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>	<u>\$1,200,000.00</u>

Total Appropriation – Section 14 \$1,350,000.00

Sec. 15. VERMONT PUBLIC TELEVISION

(a) The sum of \$205,750.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to Vermont Public Television for the continuation of digital conversion and energy conservation retrofitting.

(b) The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to Vermont Public Television for transmission security.

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$205,750.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$200,000.00

Total Appropriation – Section 15 \$405,750.00

Sec. 16. VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

(a) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Public Safety for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force to continue the dry hydrant program.

(b) The sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

Total Appropriation – Section 16 \$200,000.00

Sec. 17. VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

(a) The sum of \$1,216,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Vermont Veterans' Home for emergency mold remediation actions, for updates to the 2006 facilities assessment report, and for the development of a comprehensive plan to address and prevent mold growth.

(b) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Veterans' Home, shall apply for any eligible federal funds to use as a match for the appropriation made in subsection (a) of this section and shall work with Vermont's Congressional Delegation to investigate the availability of other possible federal funding sources. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the availability of federal funds and the status of a federal match to be used for the project described in subsection (a) of this section on or before July 31, 2013.

(c) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Veterans' Home, shall contract with an independent third party to conduct an update to the 2006 facilities

assessment report of the Vermont Veterans' Home. On or before January 15, 2014, the Commissioner shall submit a copy of the report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

(d) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Veterans' Home, shall contract with an independent third party to prepare a comprehensive plan to address the ongoing mold issues at the Home and prevent any additional mold issues.

(1) The plan shall include:

(A) identification of currently known mold issues and potential mold issues at the Veterans' Home;

(B) recommendations for implementing preventive measures to address mold growth;

(C) estimates for the projected cost to implement the recommendations and preventive measures;

(D) a proposed time line to implement the plan; and

(E) a review and consideration of the findings of the Veterans' Home management and operations review required by 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 1, Sec. 53.1, the updated facilities assessment report required by subsection (c) of this section, and the findings and recommendations of any other design professionals or consultants engaged by the Department of Buildings and General Services to work at the Veterans' Home.

(2) On or before February 15, 2014, the Commissioner shall submit a copy of the plan to the Veterans' Home Board of Trustees, the Vermont State Employees' Association (VSEA), the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

Total Appropriation – Section 17 \$1,216,000.00

Sec. 18. VERMONT INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

(a) The sum of \$288,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Vermont States Colleges for the Vermont Interactive Technologies for the purchase of equipment necessary for systems and unit upgrades at Vermont Interactive Technologies sites.

(b) The sum of \$88,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$288,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 \$88,000.00



Total Appropriation – Section 18 \$376,000.00

Sec. 18a. ENHANCED 911 PROGRAM

(a) The sum of \$10,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Enhanced 911 Board for the planning and implementation of the Enhanced 911 program in schools pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 7057.

(b) The sum of \$10,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the project described in subsection (a) of this section.

Total Appropriation – Section 18a \$20,000.00

\* \* \* Financing this Act \* \* \*

Sec. 19. REALLOCATION OF FUNDS; TRANSFER OF FUNDS

(a) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services from prior capital appropriations to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 1 (32 Cherry Street): \$48,065.57

(2) of the amount appropriated by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 1 (Rutland multimodal garage trench drains): \$404.09

(3) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 3 (VSH ongoing safety): \$96.98

(4) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 14 (two-way radio system): \$12,579.71

(5) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (DMV bathroom renovations): \$119,067.33

(6) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (engineer cost): \$158,779.04

(7) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (116 State Street): \$0.02

(8) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (Waterbury fuel tank replacement): \$400,000.00

(9) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 7 (recreation grant program): \$8,150.00

(10) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 7 (Human Service and Educational Grant): \$2,515.61

(11) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40,

<u>Sec. 14(e) (architectural assessment, Middlesex):</u>	<u>\$6.80</u>
<u>(12) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 6(3) (Vermont Arts Council, cultural facilities grant):</u>	<u>\$29,454.00</u>
<u>(b) The following unexpended funds appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources for capital construction projects are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:</u>	
<u>(1) of the amount appropriated by 1989 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 8(b)(1) (water pollution):</u>	<u>\$9,426.24</u>
<u>(2) of the amount appropriated by 1990 Acts and Resolves No. 276, Sec. 10 (potable water supply construction):</u>	<u>\$17,430.00</u>
<u>(3) of the amount appropriated by 1991 Acts and Resolves No. 93, Sec. 11(d)(2) (water supply):</u>	<u>\$46,514.75</u>
<u>(4) of the amount appropriated by 1992 Acts and Resolves No. 256, Sec. 11(e)(1) (water pollution):</u>	<u>\$35,000.65</u>
<u>(5) of the amount appropriated by 1998 Acts and Resolves No. 148, Sec. 13(b)(1) (water supply):</u>	<u>\$72,513.80</u>
<u>(6) of the amount appropriated by 1998 Acts and Resolves No. 148, Sec. 13(b)(2)(A) (pollution control):</u>	<u>\$305,394.84</u>
<u>(7) of the amount appropriated by 2001 Acts and Resolves No. 61, Sec. 9(a) (various projects):</u>	<u>\$277,833.51</u>
<u>(8) of the amount appropriated by 2003 Acts and Resolves No. 63, Sec. 8 (water pollution/drinking):</u>	<u>\$118,725.81</u>
<u>(9) of the amount appropriated by 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 10 (water pollution grants):</u>	<u>\$896.40</u>
<u>(10) of the amount appropriated by 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 10 (clean and clear program):</u>	<u>\$44,447.91</u>
<u>(11) of the amount appropriated by 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 10 (ecological assessments):</u>	<u>\$36.70</u>
<u>(12) of the amount appropriated by 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 10 (species recovery plan):</u>	<u>\$3.90</u>
<u>(13) of the amount appropriated by 2005 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (water pollution grants):</u>	<u>\$128,115.97</u>
<u>(14) of the amount appropriated by 2005 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (clean and clear program):</u>	<u>\$135,500.37</u>

<u>(15) of the amount appropriated by 2006 Acts and Resolves No. 147, Sec. 10 (water pollution grants):</u>	<u>\$34,703.62</u>
<u>(16) of the amount appropriated by 2006 Acts and Resolves No. 147, Sec. 10 (clean and clear program):</u>	<u>\$40,686.00</u>
<u>(17) of the amount appropriated by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 11 (water pollution control):</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
<u>(18) of the amount appropriated by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 11 (state-owned dams):</u>	<u>\$198,104.00</u>
<u>(19) of the amount appropriated by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 11 (clean and clear):</u>	<u>\$320,042.39</u>
<u>(20) of the amount appropriated by 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 12 (clean and clear):</u>	<u>\$92,906.23</u>
<u>(21) of the amount appropriated by 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 12 (water pollution):</u>	<u>\$87,967.95</u>
<u>(22) of the amount appropriated by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (water pollution control):</u>	<u>\$231,202.30</u>
<u>(23) of the amount appropriated by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (clean and clear):</u>	<u>\$515,957.62</u>
<u>(24) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund):</u>	<u>\$5,500.00</u>
<u>(25) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (water pollution control):</u>	<u>\$123,666.00</u>
<u>(26) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (clean and clear):</u>	<u>\$66,864.08</u>
<u>(27) of the amount appropriated by 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (sea lamprey control project):</u>	<u>\$155,898.60</u>
<u>(28) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(a) (water pollution control):</u>	<u>\$210,000.00</u>
<u>(29) of the amount appropriated by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(a) (water pollution TMDL/wetland):</u>	<u>\$20,112.00</u>
<u>(30) of the amount appropriated by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(b) (drinking water projects):</u>	<u>\$35,483.32</u>
<u>(31) of the amount appropriated by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(b) (water pollution control):</u>	<u>\$472,239.85</u>

(c) The following unexpended funds appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for capital construction projects are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

(1) of the amount appropriated by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 7(e) (Unmarked Burial Fund): \$18,928.39

(2) of the amount appropriated by 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 7(b)(1) (Unmarked Burial Fund): \$24,769.00

(d) The following sums are reallocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act:

(1) of the proceeds from the sale of property authorized by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 25(i) (sale of Thayer school): \$433,478.30

(2) of the amount recouped by the state for waterfront enhancement authorized by 1993 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 16d(c) (special fund 21896, Waterfront Preservation Fund): \$190,000.00

(3) of the proceeds from the sale of property authorized by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 25(d) (sale of former North American Playcare, Inc. building in Middlesex): \$132,040.88

(4) of the proceeds from the sale of property authorized by 20 V.S.A. § 542 (Northfield, Ludlow, and Rutland armories): \$311,539.21

Total Reallocations and Transfers – Section 19 \$5,728,049.74

#### Sec. 20. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The State Treasurer is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$159,900,000.00 for the purpose of funding the appropriations of this act. The State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, shall determine the appropriate form and maturity of the bonds authorized by this section consistent with the underlying nature of the appropriation to be funded. The State Treasurer shall allocate the estimated cost of bond issuance or issuances to the entities to which funds are appropriated pursuant to this section and for which bonding is required as the source of funds, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 954.

(b) The State Treasurer is further authorized to issue additional general obligation bonds in the amount of \$7,603,320.00 that were previously authorized but unissued under 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 25 for the purpose of funding the appropriations of this act. This amount shall be allocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures in Sec. 2 of this act.

Total Revenues – Section 20

\$167,503,320.00

Sec. 21. SALE OF BUILDING 617 IN ESSEX; USE OF PROCEEDS

The proceeds from the sale of Building 617 in Essex shall be allocated to the Department of Buildings and General Services and used to defray FY 2014 expenditures in Sec. 2 of this act. To the extent such use of proceeds results in a like amount of general obligation bonds authorized in Sec. 20 of this act for Sec. 2 to remain unissued at the end of FY 2014, then such unissued amount of bonds shall remain authorized to be issued in FY 2015 to provide additional funding for the Waterbury State Office Complex and such amount shall be appropriated in FY 2015 to Sec. 2(c)(10) of this act.

\* \* \* Policy \* \* \*

\* \* \* Buildings and General Services \* \* \*

Sec. 22. REPEAL; ROBERT GIBSON PARK; TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO

1999 Acts and Resolves No. 29, Sec. 19(b)(1)(C)(i) (repayment of appropriation for Robert Gibson Park) is repealed.

Sec. 23. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 104, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

Sec. 25. EMPLOYEE SERVICE MEMORIAL

(a) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the ~~commissioner of human resources~~ Commissioner of Human Resources and an association representing Vermont state employees, shall develop a plan to honor the services of past, present, and future Vermont state employees with an appropriate memorial. On or before January 15, ~~2013~~ 2014, the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall recommend a future location for an employee service memorial and provide estimated costs to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly.

(b) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may accept donations for the administration, materials, creation, and maintenance of the service memorial.

Sec. 24. NEWPORT WATERFRONT

Notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. §§ 165(h) and 166(b), the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell, lease, gift, or otherwise convey the property or any portion thereof associated with the Waterfront in the City of Newport. The Commissioner is further authorized to accept federal or state grants for improvements, maintenance, and operating costs associated with the Newport Waterfront.

Sec. 25. BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK AND WINCHESTER MEMORIALS

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use the appropriation in Sec. 6(c)(1) of this act for expenses associated with the placement of a Vermont historical roadside marker at the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Virginia, the relocation of the Battle of Winchester Memorial to its original location on the Third Winchester Battlefield in Virginia, and reimbursement to the Civil War Trust, the State of Virginia, and the United States Veterans Administration for any expenses associated with the completion of these projects. Expenses associated with the placement of the roadside marker or the relocation of the Memorial may include site acquisition, planning, design, transportation, and any other reasonably related costs.

Sec. 26. 29 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

§ 165. SPACE ALLOCATION, INVENTORY, AND USE; LEASING  
PROPERTY; COMMISSIONER'S PREAPPROVAL REQUIRED

\* \* \*

(d) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall by rule establish procedures which all agencies shall follow in the leasing of real property. No agency shall enter into any lease, no lease shall be valid, and no state funds shall be paid by the ~~department of finance and management~~ Department of Finance and Management pursuant to the terms of any lease, unless the proposed lease has been pre-approved by the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services. If a lease is entered into pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall preapprove any additional fees, reimbursements, charges, or fit-up costs in excess of the proposed lease rental rate.

Sec. 27. SPECIAL FUND FOR WATERFRONT

Notwithstanding 1993 Acts and Resolves No. 59, Sec. 16d(c), the funds allocated to the special fund for the waterfront to be used for the purpose of waterfront enhancement and preservation are transferred to the Department of Buildings and General Services to defray expenditures authorized in Sec. 2 of this act.

Sec. 28. WINDSOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Of the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 5 to the Department of Buildings and General Services on behalf of the Judiciary, the sum of \$40,000.00 is directed to the Windsor County Courthouse in Woodstock to perform repairs and upgrades to bring the facility into ADA compliance.

Sec. 29. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(b), as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 104, Sec. 8, is amended to read:

(b) The following sums are appropriated to the ~~agency of natural resources~~ Agency of Natural Resources in FY 2013 for:

\* \* \*

~~(E)(6) the department of forests, parks and recreation~~ Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to perform stabilization, restoration, and cleanup of environmental damage to waterways, forests, and public access lands caused by Tropical Storm Irene, including projects such as controlling the spread of invasive species, stabilizing flood-eroded river and stream banks; restoring vital aquatic and wildlife habitats, removing toxic materials from fragile natural areas, and remediating recognized viewsheds: 200,000

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Commerce and Community Development \* \* \*

#### Sec. 30. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, the Regional Development Corporations of Vermont, and the Regional Economic Development Advisory Committee, shall consider whether the Regional Economic Development grants are being awarded to projects for the purpose of funding capital expenses and whether catastrophic situations should qualify for grants.

\* \* \* Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets \* \* \*

#### Sec. 31. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

If additional support is required for the Best Management Practice Implementation Cost-Share Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in FY 2014, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is authorized to use as funding prior capital fund appropriations for these programs to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

#### Sec. 32. AGRICULTURE; REALLOCATION

Of the amount held in the Eastern States Building Special Fund #21682, it the intent of the General Assembly that the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall redirect the sum of \$125,000.00 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for major maintenance at the Vermont Exposition Center Building in Springfield, Massachusetts.

\* \* \* Capital Planning and Finance \* \* \*

Sec. 33. 29 V.S.A. § 152 is amended to read:

§ 152. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER

(a) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in addition to the duties expressly set forth elsewhere by law, shall have the authority to:

\* \* \*

(3) Prepare or cause to be prepared plans and specifications for construction and repair on all state-owned buildings:

(A) For which the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly or the ~~emergency board~~ Emergency Board has made specific appropriations. In consultation with the department or agency concerned, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall select sites, purchase lands, determine plans and specifications, and advertise for bids for the furnishing of materials and construction thereof and of appurtenances thereto. The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall determine the time for beginning and completing the construction. Any change orders occurring under the contracts let as the result of actions previously mentioned in this section shall not be allowed unless they have the approval of the ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration.

(B) For which no specific appropriations have been made by the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly or the ~~emergency board~~ Emergency Board. The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may, with the approval of the ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration acquire an option, for a price not to exceed \$75,000.00, on an individual property without prior legislative approval, provided the option contains a provision stating that purchase of the property shall occur only upon the approval of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly and the appropriation of funds for this purpose. The ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer is authorized to advance a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00, upon warrants drawn by the ~~commissioner of finance and management~~ Commissioner of Finance and Management for the purpose of purchasing an option on a property pursuant to this subdivision.

(C) For which the Department of Buildings and General Services is granted a right of first refusal. The Commissioner may, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, enter into an agreement that grants the Department of Buildings and General Services a right of first refusal to purchase property, provided that the right of first refusal contains a provision stating that the purchase of the property shall occur only upon the approval of the General Assembly.



\* \* \*

(23) With the approval of the ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration, transfer during any fiscal year to the ~~department of buildings and general services~~ Department of Buildings and General Services for use only for major maintenance within the capitol complex in Montpelier, any unexpended balances of funds appropriated in any capital construction act for any ~~executive or judicial branch~~ Executive or Judicial Branch project, excluding any appropriations for state grant-in-aid programs, which is completed or substantially completed as determined by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner. On or before January 15 of each year, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall report to the ~~house committee on corrections and institutions and the senate committee on institutions~~ House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions regarding:

(A) all transfers and expenditures made pursuant to this subdivision (23); and

(B) ~~the unexpended balance of projects completed for two or more years.~~

\* \* \*

Sec. 34. 32 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. FORM OF ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET AND ~~SIX-YEAR~~  
TEN-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM PLAN

(a) Each biennial capital budget request submitted to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly shall be accompanied by, and placed in the context of, a ~~six-year~~ ten-year state capital program plan to be prepared, and revised annually, by the ~~governor~~ Governor and approved by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The ~~six-year~~ ten-year plan shall include a list of all projects which will be recommended for funding in the current and ensuing ~~five~~ nine fiscal years. The list shall be prioritized based on need.

(b) The capital budget request for the following ~~fiscal year~~ biennium shall be presented as the next increment of the ~~six-year~~ ten-year plan. Elements of the plan shall include:

(1) Assessment and projection of need.

(A) Capital needs and projections shall be based upon current and projected statistics on capital inventories and upon state demographic and economic conditions.

(B) Capital funding shall be categorized as follows:

(i) state buildings, facilities, ~~and~~ land acquisitions, major maintenance, renewable energy sources, and conservation;

(ii) higher education;

(iii) aid to municipalities for education, environmental conservation, including water, sewer, and solid waste projects, and other purposes; and

(iv) transportation facilities.

(C) The capital needs and projections shall be for the current and the next ~~five~~ nine fiscal years, with longer-term projections presented for programs with reasonably predictable longer-term needs.

(D) Capital needs and projections shall be presented independently of financing requirements or opportunities.

(2) Comprehensive cost and financing assessment.

(A) Amounts appropriated and expended for the current fiscal year and for the preceding fiscal year shall be indicated for capital programs and for individual projects. The assessment shall indicate further the source of funds for any project which required additional funding and a description of any authorized projects which were delayed.

(B) Amounts proposed to be appropriated for the following fiscal year and each of the ~~five~~ nine years thereafter shall be indicated for capital programs and for individual projects and shall be revised annually to reflect revised cost estimates and changes made in allocations due to project delays.

(C) The capital costs of programs and of individual projects, including funds for the development and evaluation of each project, shall be presented in full, for the entire period of their development.

(D) The operating costs, both actual and prospective, of capital programs and of individual projects shall be presented in full, for the entire period of their development and expected useful life.

(E) The financial burden and funding opportunities of programs and of individual projects shall be presented in full, including federal, state, and local government shares, and any private participation.

(F) Alternative methods of financing capital programs and projects should be described and assessed, including debt financing and use of current revenues.

#### Sec. 35. TEN-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM PLAN

On or before January 15, 2014, the Commissioner of Buildings and General

Services, in consultation with the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, shall develop a proposal for the planning process for a ten-year capital program plan. The ten-year capital program plan shall include proposals for capital construction requests and major maintenance, and shall set forth definitions and criteria to be used for prioritizing capital projects. Projects may be prioritized based on criteria including: critical priorities, prior capital allocations or commitments, strategic investments, and future investments.

Sec. 36. 32 V.S.A. § 701a is amended to read:

§ 701a. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION BILL

(a) When the capital budget has been submitted by the ~~governor~~ Governor to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, it shall immediately be referred to the ~~committee on corrections and institutions~~ Committee on Corrections and Institutions which shall proceed to consider the budget request in the context of the ~~six-year~~ ten-year capital program plan also submitted by the ~~governor~~ Governor pursuant to sections 309 and 310 of this title. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall also propose to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly a prudent amount of total general obligation bonding for the following fiscal year, for support of the capital budget, in consideration of the recommendation of the ~~capital debt affordability advisory committee~~ Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee pursuant to subchapter 8 of chapter 13 of this title.

(b) As soon as possible, the ~~committee~~ Committee shall prepare a bill to be known as the “capital construction bill,” which shall be introduced for action by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly.

(c) The spending authority authorized by a capital construction act shall carry forward until expended, unless otherwise provided. ~~Any unencumbered funds remaining after a two-year period~~ All unexpended funds remaining for projects authorized by capital construction acts enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session shall be reported to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly and may be reallocated in future capital construction acts.

(d) On or before October 15, each entity to which spending authority is has been authorized by a capital construction act enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session shall submit to the ~~department of buildings and general services~~ Department of Buildings and General Services a report on the status of each authorized project authorized with unexpended funds. The report shall follow the form provided by the ~~department of buildings and general services~~ Department of Buildings and General Services and shall include details regarding how much of the

appropriation has been spent, how much of the appropriation is unencumbered, actual progress in meeting the goals of the project, and any impediments to completing the project on time and on budget. ~~The department~~ Department may request additional or clarifying information regarding each project. On or before January 15, ~~the department~~ Department shall present the information collected to ~~the house committee on corrections and institutions and the senate committee on institutions~~ House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

#### Sec. 37. AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS

Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 1 (fiscal year to commence on July 1 and end on June 30), the appropriations in this act designated as FY 2014 shall be available on passage of this act, and those designated as FY 2015 shall be available on passage of the Capital Construction and State Bonding Budget Adjustment Act of the 2014 legislative session.

#### Sec. 38. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, is authorized to use funds appropriated in this act for capital projects requiring additional support that were funded with capital or general fund appropriations in prior years.

#### Sec. 39. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR ENGINEERING COSTS

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall establish a working group to develop a set of criteria and guidelines for allocating engineering costs between the Capital bill and the General Fund. The Working Group shall review current state practices, standard accounting classifications and approaches taken in other states. The Group shall include the Commissioner of Finance and Management or designee, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee, the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee, the State Auditor or designee, and a Joint Fiscal Officer or designee.

(b) On or before September 30, 2013, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall present the proposal to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions for review with the intent that the criteria and guidelines on cost allocations will be used in the FY 2015 capital budget.

\* \* \* Human Services \* \* \*

#### Sec. 40. SECURE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

Pursuant to the Level 1 Psychiatric Care Evaluation required by the Fiscal

Year 2014 Appropriations Act, Sec. E.314.2, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall develop a proposal to establish a permanent secure residential facility no later than January 15, 2015.

\* \* \* Natural Resources \* \* \*

Sec. 41. LABORATORY FEASIBILITY STUDY

On or before December 15, 2013, the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall examine and report to the General Assembly on the feasibility of sharing the same laboratory, exploring relationships with the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges system, or other public or private entities, and determining what specialized services may be sold within the Northeast region to fulfill state and regional laboratory needs. This report shall include a cost-benefit analysis and a governance model.

Sec. 42. 24 V.S.A. § 4763b is amended to read:

§ 4763b. LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR FAILED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND FAILED POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when the wastewater system or potable water supply serving only one single-family residence on its own lot meets the definition of a failed supply or system, the ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources may lend monies to the owner of the residence from the Vermont ~~wastewater and potable water revolving loan fund~~ Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund established in section 4753 of this title. In such cases, the following conditions shall apply:

(1) loans may only be made to households with an income equal to or less than 200 percent of the state average median household income;

(2) loans may only be made to households where the recipient of the loan resides in the residence on a year-round basis;

(3) loans may only be made if the owner of the residence has been denied financing for the repair, replacement, or construction due to involuntary disconnection by at least ~~two~~ one other financing ~~entities~~ entity;

(4) no construction loan shall be made to an individual under this subsection, nor shall any part of any revolving loan made under this subsection be expended, until all of the following take place:

(A) the ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources determines that if a wastewater system and potable water supply permit is necessary for the design and construction of the project to be financed by the

loan, the permit has been issued to the owner of the failed system or supply; and

(B) the individual applying for the loan certifies to the ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources that the proposed project has secured all state and federal permits, licenses, and approvals necessary to construct and operate the project to be financed by the loan;

(5) all funds from the repayment of loans made under this section shall be deposited into the Vermont ~~wastewater and potable water revolving loan fund~~ Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund.

(b) The ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources shall establish standards, policies, and procedures as necessary for the implementation of this section. The ~~secretary~~ Secretary may establish criteria to extend the payment period of a loan or to waive all or a portion of the loan amount.

#### Sec. 43. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

(a) If additional support is required for the Dufresne Dam Project in FY 2014, the Secretary of Natural Resources is authorized to use as funding prior capital funds authorized in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 12(a)(4)(A) for the Wolcott Pond Dam repair and maintenance.

(b) On or before January 15, 2014, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the status of close-out audits of project grants funded with capital funds.

(c) In FY 2014, the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions, is authorized to reallocate unexpended funds that were appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources:

(1) between projects authorized in different capital construction acts if the funds are appropriated to the same department within the Agency of Natural Resources for a related purpose; and

(2) between a project authorized in a capital construction act and a project not authorized in a capital construction act if the funds are used for planning advances pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1591(a).

(d) The Secretary shall reallocate no more than:

(1) \$200,000.00 in unexpended funds pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) of this section; and

(2) \$30,000.00 per project and \$100,000.00 in total pursuant to

subdivision (c)(2) of this section.

\* \* \* Military Department \* \* \*

Sec. 44. 20 V.S.A. § 542 is amended to read:

§ 542. ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE, AND DISPOSAL OF  
PROPERTY FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD USE

In the name of the ~~state~~ State, the ~~board~~ Board shall be responsible for the real estate and personal property of the ~~national guard~~ National Guard. The ~~board~~ Board may acquire or purchase, and maintain and dispose of by sale or otherwise real estate and personal property. Upon determination by the ~~board~~ Board that real estate is to be disposed of, the disposal shall be at fair market value, and proceeds shall be allocated to future capital ~~appropriations~~ construction acts.

\* \* \* Education \* \* \*

Sec. 45. STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION; EXTENSION OF  
SUSPENSION

(a) In 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 52, Sec. 36, the General Assembly suspended state aid for school construction in order to permit the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Finance and Management to recommend a sustainable plan for state aid for school construction.

(b) In 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45, as amended by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 22, the General Assembly, in the absence of a recommendation, extended the suspension until a sustainable plan for state aid for school construction is developed and adopted.

(c) State aid remains suspended pursuant to the terms of 2008 Acts and Resolves No. 200, Sec. 45 as amended by 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 54, Sec. 22.

(d) Notwithstanding the suspension, the State intends to honor its obligation by FY 2016 to pay for projects for which state aid had been committed prior to the suspension.

Sec. 46. MORGAN SCHOOL

Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 3448(b) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the Morgan School District is authorized to sell the Morgan School building and property to the town of Morgan to use for community purposes without repayment of school construction aid. Thereafter, if the town of Morgan sells the building and property to another entity, including the Morgan School District, the town shall repay the sum owed to the State for school construction aid under the terms set forth in 16 V.S.A. § 3448(b).

Sec. 47. ENHANCED 911 PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

On or before January 15, 2014, the Enhanced 911 Board shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, provide technical assistance and guidance to school districts to comply with the requirement in 30 V.S.A. § 7057 that accurate location information be associated with each landline telephone installed in a school. The Board is authorized to use funds appropriated in Sec. 18a of this act to plan and implement compliance with this program. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds are used by the Enhanced 911 Board as a supplement to funding from the Vermont Universal Service Fund established pursuant to 30 V.S.A. chapter 88.

\* \* \* Public Safety \* \* \*

Sec. 48. PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD STATION PROJECT

The Department of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, is authorized to use appropriations in Sec. 13 of this act to conduct feasibility studies, and identify and purchase land for future public safety field station sites. If the Department of Buildings and General Services proposes to purchase property when the General Assembly is not in session, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of the proposal.

\* \* \* Energy Use on State Properties \* \* \*

Sec. 49. RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY

(a) The Department of Buildings and General Services shall incorporate the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and thermal energy conservation in any new building construction or major renovation project in excess of \$250,000.00 unless a life cycle cost analysis demonstrates that the investment cannot be recouped or there are limitations on siting.

(b) On or before January 15, 2014, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall contract for a desk audit to examine and report on the feasibility of installing renewable energy devices on up to 20 properties owned by the State.

(c) As used in this section, the “life cycle cost” of each new building construction or major renovation project shall mean the present value purchase price of an item, plus the replacement cost, plus or minus the salvage value, plus the present value of operation and maintenance costs, plus the energy and environmental externalities’ costs or benefits.



\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 50. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(For text see House Journal 4/4/2013 )

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Third Reading**

**H. 270**

An act relating to providing access to publicly funded prekindergarten education

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Nuovo of Middlebury to H. 270**

In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. § 829, subsection (b), in subdivision (2)(A), by striking out “subsection (d)” and inserting in lieu thereof “subsections (d) and (h)”

**H. 483**

An act relating to adopting revisions to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code

**S. 77**

An act relating to patient choice and control at end of life

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Kilmartin of Newport City to S. 77**

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 5296, by adding a subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)(1)(A) No health insurance plan, health care provider, or other person shall deny any individual health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services as a direct or indirect result of the potential or actual availability to the individual of medication to hasten his or her death in accordance with this chapter.

(B) As used in this subsection, “health insurance plan” means any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer, as defined in section 9402 of this title; Green Mountain Care, established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 18, subchapter 2, and any other publicly financed health care system; and, to the extent not expressly prohibited by federal law, Medicaid and any other public health care assistance programs offered or administered by the State or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the State. The term shall also include policies and plans providing coverage for specified diseases and other limited benefit coverage.

(2)(A)(i) Any health insurance plan, health care provider, or other person who denies health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services to a person with the intent to violate subdivision (1) of this subsection (d) shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000.00. A civil action to enforce this subdivision may be brought by the Attorney General, a state's attorney, or a person or the estate of a person who has been denied health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services in violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (d).

(ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(I) One-third of the civil penalties collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be transferred to the Office of the Attorney General to support investigation of abuses of chapter 113 of this title (Rights of qualified patients suffering a terminal condition) pursuant to Sec. 4 of this act.

(II) Two-thirds of the civil penalties collected pursuant to this subdivision shall be transferred to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for purposes of funding the services the Department provides.

(B) Proceedings brought under this subdivision shall be brought in the Civil Division of the Superior Court and shall be subject to the limitations period of 12 V.S.A. § 512.

(C) The Attorney General shall have the same authority to make rules, conduct civil investigations, and bring civil actions for violations of this subdivision as is provided under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63. In an action brought by the Attorney General under this chapter the court may award or impose any relief available under 9 V.S.A. chapter 63.

(3)(A) A person denied health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services in violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (d) shall have a civil action for all damages arising from the denial, including the cost or value of the treatment denied, had it been allowed, and recovery of reasonable attorney's fees and expenses, including the costs of obtaining expert opinions in the event the person prevails.

(B) An action brought under this subdivision shall be:

(i) tried before a jury if the plaintiff so demands;

(ii) subject to the limitations period of 12 V.S.A. § 512; and

(iii) considered an action for bodily harm or injury which shall survive as provided in 14 V.S.A. § 1452.

(C)(i) No cap or ceiling on damages in any other statute, regulation,

court rule, or judicial decision shall apply in civil actions under this subdivision.

(ii) If it is established by a preponderance of the evidence that a person's death was proximately caused by a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (d), the court may award, in addition to any other damages available, damages to the extent proven under 14 V.S.A. § 1492.

(D) The defense of sovereign immunity shall not be available to the State or any subdivision or instrumentality of the State named as a defendant in an action brought under this subdivision.

(E) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a denial of health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services was in violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (d) if the denial occurred 90 days or less before the options afforded by this chapter became available to the person. The rebuttable presumption may only be overcome by clear and convincing admissible evidence to the contrary.

(F)(i) If it is established by clear and convincing evidence that a person's death was proximately caused by a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection (d), all damages, exclusive of costs and attorney's fees, shall be doubled by the court after the jury's verdict.

(ii) If the judge determines as a matter of law that the evidence of proximate causation met the clear and convincing evidence standard, the judge shall pose an interrogatory to the jury as to what standard of proof has been met, instruct the jury as to the definitions of the two standards, and accept the jury's determination in awarding double damages pursuant to this subdivision.

(iii) If the judge finds as a matter of law that the evidence of proximate causation did not meet the clear and convincing evidence standard, the judge shall instruct the jury only as to preponderance of the evidence.

(iv) This subdivision shall not be construed to change or in any way affect the law relating to, or the judge's authority to impose, judgments as a matter of law under Rule 50 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

Second: By adding a Sec. 4 to read:

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 31a is added to read:

§ 31a. JURISDICTION; CIVIL DIVISION; PRESIDING JUDGE SITTING ALONE

The presiding judge of the Civil Division, sitting without a jury or assistant judges, shall have jurisdiction over proceedings under 18 V.S.A. § 5296(d)(2) to impose civil penalties for violations of 18 V.S.A. § 5296(d)(1), relating to

denial of health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services.

Third: By adding a new Sec. 5 to read:

Sec. 5. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
UNIT; DENIAL OF TREATMENT VIOLATIONS

(a) There is established within the Office of the Attorney General a Special Investigations Unit to investigate abuses of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 (Rights of qualified patients suffering a terminal condition). The unit shall investigate all allegations of abuse and misuse of the procedures of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113, including:

(1) violations of 18 V.S.A. § 5296(d)(1), relating to denial of health care coverage, benefits, treatment, or services to a person as a direct or indirect result of the potential or actual availability to the person of medication to hasten his or her death in accordance with 18 V.S.A. chapter 113; and

(2) civil rights violations arising as a result of a person's exercise of his or her natural, inherent, and unalienable rights of enjoying and defending liberty and pursuing and obtaining happiness as guaranteed by Chapter 1, Article 1 of the Vermont Constitution.

(b) The Special Investigations Unit established by this section shall consist of at least one full-time assistant attorney general and one full-time qualified investigator who are exclusively dedicated to investigating and prosecuting abuses of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 as provided in this section.

(c) The Special Investigations Unit established by this section shall report its activities to the General Assembly no later than January 15 of each year.

Fourth: By adding a new Sec. 6 to read:

Sec. 6. APPROPRIATION

The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated in fiscal year 2014 from the General Fund to the Office of the Attorney General to fund the Special Investigation Unit established to investigate abuses of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 (Rights of qualified patients suffering a terminal condition).

Fifth: By adding a new Sec. 7 to read:

Sec. 7. POSITIONS CREATED

(a) On July 1, 2013, one classified investigator position is created in the Office of the Attorney General to investigate abuses of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 (Rights of qualified patients suffering a terminal condition).

(b) On July 1, 2013, one exempt assistant attorney general position is

created in the Office of the Attorney General to investigate abuses of 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 (Rights of qualified patients suffering a terminal condition).

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Christie of Hartford to S. 77**

In Sec. 1, in 18 V.S.A. § 5281, in subdivision (12), by striking out “18 years of age” and inserting in lieu thereof “21 years of age”

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Till of Jericho to S. 77**

In Sec. 1, in 18 V.S.A. § 5294, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read:

(c) A health care facility or health care provider shall not subject a physician, nurse, or other person to discipline, suspension, loss of license, loss of privileges, or other penalty for actions taken in good faith reliance on the provisions of this chapter or refusals to act under this chapter.

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Till of Jericho to S. 77**

In Sec. 1, in 18 V.S.A. § 5281, by striking out subdivision (13) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (13) to read:

(13)(A) “Prescribing physician” means the physician whom the patient has designated to have primary responsibility for the care of the patient, who meets the requirements of subdivision (B) of this subdivision (13) and who is willing to participate in the provision to a qualified patient of medication to hasten his or her death in accordance with this chapter.

(B) In order to prescribe medication to a qualified patient to hasten his or her death in accordance with this chapter, a physician shall have a special endorsement from the Board of Medical Practice or Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, as applicable, on his or her license indicating that the physician is qualified to prescribe such medication. Each physician carrying an endorsement under this section shall complete at least one hour of continuing medical education (CME) per two-year licensing period in each of the fields of palliative care and pain management, in addition to any other CME on these topics required by law or by rule.

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Poirier of Barre City to S. 77**

In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 5281, by adding a new subdivision (6) to read as follows:

(6) “Health care” means any treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat an individual's physical or mental condition,

including services provided pursuant to a physician's order, and services to assist in activities of daily living provided by a health care provider or in a health care facility or residential care facility.

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions in the section to be numerically correct

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Yantachka of Charlotte to S. 77**

In Sec. 1, in 18 V.S.A. § 5293, by adding a subsection (c) to read:

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a health care provider's actions to dispense medication to hasten death in accordance with this chapter and a qualified patient's actions to ingest the medication shall not be considered to be health care for any purpose under the law, including the purpose of providing coverage under any health insurance plan or, to the extent permitted under federal law, Medicaid.

(2) As used in this subsection, "health insurance plan" means any health insurance policy or health benefit plan offered by a health insurer, as defined in section 9402 of this title, as well as, to the extent permitted under federal law, Medicaid and any other public health care assistance programs offered or administered by the State or by any subdivision or instrumentality of the State. The term shall also include policies and plans providing coverage for specified diseases and other limited benefit coverage.

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Wright of Burlington to S. 77**

Sec. 1. ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE/DEATH WITH DIGNITY

(a) There shall be submitted to the voters, on a ballot prepared by the Secretary of State at the general election in November 2014, the question:

Shall the General Assembly enact a law similar to S.77, "An act relating to patient choice and control at end of life" as introduced during the 2013–2014 session of the Vermont General Assembly, establishing the process known as "physician-assisted suicide" or "death with dignity"?

(b) The results of the vote required by subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

**S. 88**

An act relating to telemedicine services delivered outside a health care facility

**S. 150**

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws related to motor vehicles

**J.R.S. 14**

Joint resolution supporting the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' proposal to adopt an administrative rule to implement international maple grading standards in Vermont

**Favorable with Amendment**

**S. 59**

An act relating to independent direct support providers

**Rep. Stevens of Waterbury**, for the Committee on **General, Housing and Military Affairs**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. chapter 20 is added to read:

CHAPTER 20. INDEPENDENT DIRECT SUPPORT

PROVIDERS

§ 1631. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Board” means the State Labor Relations Board established by 3 V.S.A. § 921.

(2) “Collective bargaining” or “bargaining collectively” means the process by which the State and the exclusive representative of the independent direct support providers negotiate mandatory subjects of bargaining identified in subsection 1634(b) of this chapter, or any other mutually agreed subjects of bargaining not in conflict with state or federal law, with the intent to arrive at an agreement which, when reached, shall be legally binding on all parties.

(3) “Collective bargaining service fee” means a fee deducted by the State from the compensation of an independent direct support provider who is not a member of the exclusive representative of independent direct support providers, which is paid to the exclusive representative. The collective bargaining service fee shall not exceed 85 percent of the amount payable as dues by members of the exclusive representative, and shall be deducted in the same manner as dues are deducted from the compensation of members of the exclusive representative, and shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the labor organization in fulfilling its duty to represent independent direct support

providers in their relations with the State.

(4) “Exclusive representative” means the labor organization that has been certified under this chapter and has the right to represent independent direct support providers for the purpose of collective bargaining.

(5) “Grievance” means the exclusive representative’s formal written complaint regarding the improper application of one or more terms of the collective bargaining agreement, the failure to abide by any agreement reached, or the discriminatory application of a rule or regulation, which has not been resolved to a satisfactory result through informal discussion with the State.

(6) “Independent direct support provider” means any individual who provides home- and community based services to a service recipient and is employed by the service recipient, shared living provider, or surrogate.

(7) “Labor organization” means an organization of any kind in which independent direct support providers participate and which exists, in whole or in part, for the purpose of representing independent direct support providers.

(8) “Service recipient” means a person who receives home- and community-based services under the Choices for Care Medicaid waiver, the Attendant Services Program (ASP), the Children’s Personal Care Service Program, the Developmental Disabilities Services Program, or any successor program or similar program subsequently established.

(9) “Shared living provider” means a person who operates under a contract with an authorized agency and provides individualized home support for one or two people who live in his or her home. An authorized agency includes a designated agency for developmental services.

(10) “Surrogate” means a service recipient’s authorized family member, legal guardian, or a person identified in a written agreement as having responsibility for the care of a service recipient.

#### § 1632. RIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT DIRECT SUPPORT PROVIDERS

Independent direct support providers shall have the right to:

(1) organize, form, join, or assist a labor organization for the purposes of collective bargaining without interference, restraint, or coercion;

(2) bargain collectively through their chosen representatives;

(3) engage in concerted activities for the purpose of supporting or engaging in collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection;

(4) pursue grievances through the exclusive representative as provided



in this chapter; and

(5) refrain from any or all such activities, subject to the requirements of subdivision 1634(b)(3) of this chapter.

#### § 1633. RIGHTS OF THE STATE

Subject to the rights guaranteed by this chapter and subject to all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to interfere with the right of the State to:

(1) carry out the statutory mandate and goals of the Agency of Human Services and to utilize personnel, methods, and means in the most appropriate manner possible;

(2) with the approval of the Governor, take whatever action may be necessary to carry out the mission of the Agency of Human Services in an emergency situation;

(3) comply with federal and state laws and regulations;

(4) enforce regulations and regulatory processes;

(5) develop regulations and regulatory processes that do not impair existing contracts, subject to the duty to bargain over mandatory subjects of bargaining and to the rulemaking authority of the General Assembly and the Human Services Board; and

(6) solicit and accept for use any grant of money, services, or property from the federal government, the State, or any political subdivision or agency of the State, including federal matching funds, and to cooperate with the federal government or any political subdivision or agency of the State in making an application for any grant.

#### § 1634. ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING;

##### SCOPE OF BARGAINING

(a) Independent direct support providers, through their exclusive representative, shall have the right to bargain collectively with the State, through the Governor's designee, under this chapter.

(b) Mandatory subjects of bargaining under this section shall be limited to:

(1) compensation rates, workforce benefits, and payment methods and procedures, except that independent direct support providers shall not be eligible to participate in the State's retirement system or the Vermont state employee health plan solely by virtue of bargaining under this chapter;

(2) professional development and training, except that the issue of

whether the State may choose directly to create and administer a professional development or training program shall be a permissive subject of bargaining;

(3) the collection and disbursement of dues or fees to the exclusive representative, provided that a collective bargaining service fee may not be required of nonmembers unless the exclusive representative has established and maintained a procedure to provide nonmembers with:

(A) an audited financial statement that identifies the major categories of expenses, and divides them into chargeable and nonchargeable expenses; and

(B) an opportunity to object to the amount of the agency fee sought, any amount reasonably in dispute to be placed in escrow, subject to prompt review and determination by the board to resolve any objection over the amount of the collective bargaining fee, as provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

(4) procedures for resolving grievances against the State, provided that the final step of any negotiated grievance procedure, if required, shall be a hearing and final determination by the board in accordance with board rules and regulations; and

(5) access to job referral opportunities within covered programs, except that the issue of whether the State may choose directly to create and administer a referral registry shall be a permissive subject of bargaining.

(c) For the purpose of this chapter, the obligation to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual obligation of the State and the exclusive representative of the independent direct support providers to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect to all matters bargainable under the provisions of this chapter; but the failure or refusal of either party to agree to a proposal, or to change or withdraw a lawful proposal, or to make a concession shall not constitute, or be evidence of direct or indirect, a breach of this obligation. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require either party during collective bargaining to accede to any proposal or proposals of the other party.

(d) Any dispute raised by a nonmember concerning the amount of a collective bargaining service fee, as provided for under subdivision (b)(3) of this section, may be grieved to the State Labor Relations Board which shall review and determine such matter promptly, in accordance with the Board's rules.

#### § 1635. ELECTION; BARGAINING UNIT

(a) Petitions and elections shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures

provided in 3 V.S.A. §§ 941 and 942, except that only one bargaining unit shall exist for independent direct support providers, and the exclusive representative shall be the exclusive representative for the purpose of grievances.

(b) A representation election for independent direct support providers conducted by the Board shall be by mail ballot.

(c) The bargaining unit for purposes of collective bargaining pursuant to this chapter shall be one statewide unit of independent direct support providers. Eligible independent direct support providers shall have the right to participate in a representation election but shall not have the right to vote on or otherwise determine the collective bargaining unit. Eligible independent direct support providers shall all be independent direct support providers who have been paid for providing home- and community-based services within the previous 180 days.

(d) At least quarterly the State shall compile and maintain a list of names and addresses of all independent direct support providers who have been paid for providing home- and community-based services to service recipients within the previous 180 days. The list shall not include the names of any recipient, or indicate that an independent direct support provider is a relative of a recipient or has the same address as a recipient. The State shall, upon request, provide within seven days the most recent list of independent direct support providers in its possession to any organization which has as one of its primary purposes the collective bargaining representation of independent direct support providers in their relations with state or other public entities. This obligation shall include providing the most recent list, upon request, to any labor organization certified as the exclusive representative under this chapter.

#### § 1636. MEDIATION; FACT-FINDING; LAST BEST OFFER

(a) If, after a reasonable period of negotiation, the representative of the collective bargaining unit and the State reach an impasse, the Board, upon petition of either party, may authorize the parties to submit their differences to mediation. Within five days after receipt of the petition, the Board shall appoint a mediator who shall communicate with the parties and attempt to mediate an amicable settlement. A mediator shall be of high standing and not actively connected with labor or management.

(b) If, after a reasonable period of time, no fewer than 15 days after the appointment of a mediator, the impasse is not resolved, the mediator shall certify to the Board that the impasse continues.

(c) The Board shall appoint a fact finder who has been mutually agreed upon by the parties. If the parties fail to agree on a fact finder within five days,

the Board shall appoint a neutral third party to act as a fact finder pursuant to rules adopted by the Board. A member of the Board or any individual who has actively participated in mediation proceedings for which fact-finding has been called shall not be eligible to serve as a fact finder under this section, unless agreed upon by the parties.

(d) The fact finder shall conduct hearings pursuant to rules of the Board. Upon request of either party or of the fact finder, the Board may issue subpoenas of persons and documents for the hearings and the fact finder may require that testimony be given under oath and may administer oaths.

(e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the fact finder from endeavoring to mediate the dispute at any time prior to issuing recommendations.

(f) The fact finder shall consider the following factors in making a recommendation:

(1) the needs and welfare of consumers, including their interest in greater access to quality services;

(2) the nature and needs of the personal care assistance program;

(3) the interest and welfare of independent direct support providers;

(4) the history of negotiation between the parties, including those leading to the proceedings;

(5) changes in the cost of living; and

(6) generally accepted labor-management relations practices in Vermont.

(g) Upon completion of the hearings provided in subsection (d) of this section, the fact finder shall file written findings and recommendations with both parties.

(h) The costs of witnesses and other expenses incurred by either party in fact-finding proceedings shall be paid directly by the parties incurring them, and the costs and expenses of the fact finder shall be divided equally by the parties. The fact finder shall be paid a rate mutually agreed upon by the parties for each day or any part of a day while performing fact-finding duties and shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her duties. A statement of fact-finding per diem and expenses shall be certified by the fact finder and submitted to the Board for approval. The Board shall provide a copy of approved fact-finding costs to each party with its order apportioning half of the total to each party for payment. Each party shall pay its half of the total within 15 days after receipt of the order. Approval by the Board of fact-finding and the fact finder's costs

and expenses and its order for payment shall be final as to the parties.

(i) If the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of findings and recommendations, each party shall submit to the Board its last best offer on all disputed issues as a single package. Each party's last best offer shall be certified to the Board by the fact finder. The board may hold hearings and consider the recommendations of the fact finder. Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board shall select between the last best offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without amendment, and shall determine its cost. The Board shall not issue an order under this subsection that: (1) is in conflict with any statute; (2) is in conflict with any rule unless the rule relates to a mandatory subject of bargaining; or (3) determines an issue that is not a mandatory subject of bargaining. The Board shall determine the cost of the agreement selected and recommend to the General Assembly its choice with a request for appropriation. If the General Assembly appropriates sufficient funds, the agreement shall become effective and legally binding at the beginning of the next fiscal year. If the General Assembly appropriates a different amount of funds, the terms of the agreement affected by that appropriation shall be renegotiated based on the amount of funds actually appropriated by the General Assembly, and the agreement with the negotiated changes shall become effective and binding at the beginning of the next fiscal year. No portion of any agreement shall become effective separately without the mutual consent of the parties.

#### § 1637. GENERAL DUTIES AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT

(a) The State and the independent direct support providers and their representatives shall make every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements concerning matters allowed under this chapter and to settle all disputes, whether arising out of the application of those agreements or disputes concerning the agreements. All disputes shall, upon request of either party, be considered within 15 days of the request or at such times as may be mutually agreed to and if possible settled with all expedition in conference between representatives designated and authorized to confer by the State or the independent direct support providers. This obligation does not compel either party to make any agreements or concessions.

(b) It shall be an unfair labor practice for the State to:

(1) Interfere with, restrain, or coerce independent direct support providers in the exercise of their rights under this chapter or by any law, rule, or regulation.

(2) Dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization or contribute financial or other support to it.

(3) Discriminate in regard to referral practices or eligibility for work opportunities within covered programs for an independent direct support provider, or to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization.

(4) Take negative action against an independent direct support provider because the provider has taken actions demonstrating his or her support for a labor organization, including signing a petition, grievance, or affidavit or giving testimony under this chapter.

(5) Refuse to bargain collectively in good faith with the exclusive representative.

(6) Discriminate against an independent direct support provider based on race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, or because the provider is a qualified individual with a disability.

(c) It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization to:

(1) Restrain or coerce independent direct support providers in the exercise of the rights guaranteed them by law, rule, or regulation. However, a labor organization may prescribe its own rules with respect to the acquisition or retention of membership, provided such rules are not discriminatory.

(2) Refuse to bargain collectively in good faith with the State.

(3) Cause, or attempt to cause, the State to discriminate against an independent direct support provider in violation of subsection (b) of this section.

(4) Threaten to or cause a provider to strike or curtail the provider's services in recognition of a picket line of any employee or labor organization.

(d) An independent direct support provider shall not strike or curtail his or her services in recognition of a picket line of any employee or labor organization.

#### § 1638. PREVENTION OF UNFAIR PRACTICES

(a) The Board may prevent the State or a labor organization from engaging in any unfair labor practice listed in section 1637 of this title. Whenever a charge is made that the State or a labor organization has engaged in or is engaging in any unfair labor practice, the Board may issue and cause to be served upon that party a complaint stating the charges in that respect and containing a notice of hearing before the Board at a place and time therein fixed at least seven days after the complaint is served. The Board may amend the complaint at any time before it issues an order based thereon. No complaint shall issue based on any unfair labor practice occurring more than

six months prior to the filing of the charge with the Board and the service of a copy thereof upon the party against whom such charge is made, unless the person aggrieved thereby was prevented from filing the charge by reason of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, in which event the six-month period shall be computed from the day of his or her discharge.

(b) The party complained of shall have the right to file an answer to the original or amended complaint and appear in person or otherwise and present evidence in connection therewith at the time and place fixed in the complaint. In the discretion of the Board, any other person may be permitted to intervene and present evidence in the matter. Any proceeding under this section shall, so far as practicable, be conducted in accordance with rules of evidence used in the courts. The Board shall provide for the making of a transcript of the testimony presented at the hearing.

(c) The Board shall have power to administer oaths and take testimony under oath relative to the matter of inquiry. At any hearing ordered by the Board, the Board shall have the power to subpoena witnesses and to demand the production of books, papers, records, and documents for its examination. Officers who serve subpoenas issued by the Board and witnesses attending hearings conducted by the Board shall receive fees and compensation at the same rates as officers and witnesses in causes before a Criminal Division of the Superior Court, to be paid on vouchers of the Board.

(d) If upon the preponderance of the evidence, the Board finds that any party named in the complaint has engaged in or is engaging in any such unfair labor practice, it shall state its finding of fact in writing and shall issue and cause to be served on that party an order requiring him or her to cease and desist from the unfair labor practice, and to take such affirmative action as will carry out the policies of this chapter. If upon the preponderance of the evidence, the Board does not find that the party named in the complaint has engaged in or is engaging in any unfair labor practice, it shall state its findings of fact in writing and dismiss the complaint.

(e) In determining whether a complaint shall issue alleging a violation of subdivision 1637(1) or (2) of this title, and in deciding those cases, the same regulations and rules of decision shall apply irrespective of whether or not a labor organization affected is affiliated with a labor organization national or international in scope.

#### § 1639. NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT; FUNDING

(a) If the State and the exclusive representative reach an agreement, the Governor shall request from the General Assembly an appropriation sufficient to fund the agreement in the next operating budget. If the General Assembly

appropriates sufficient funds, the negotiated agreement shall become effective and binding at the beginning of the next fiscal year. If the General Assembly appropriates a different amount of funds, the terms of the agreement affected by that appropriation shall be renegotiated based on the amount of funds actually appropriated by the General Assembly and shall become effective and legally binding in the next fiscal year.

(b) Collective bargaining agreements shall be for a maximum term of two years and shall not be subject to cancellation or renegotiation during the term except with the mutual consent in writing of both parties, which consent shall be filed with the Board. Upon the filing of such consent, an agreement may be supplemented, cancelled, or renegotiated.

(c) The agreement shall terminate at the expiration of its specified term. Negotiations for a new agreement to take effect upon the expiration of the preceding agreement shall be commenced at any time within one year next preceding the expiration date upon the request of either party and may be commenced at any time previous thereto with the consent of both parties.

(d) In the event the State of Vermont and the collective bargaining unit are unable to arrive at an agreement and there is not an existing agreement in effect, the existing contract shall remain in force until a new contract is ratified by the parties. However, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the parties from agreeing to a modification of certain provisions of the existing contract which, as amended, shall remain in effect until a new contract is finalized and funded by the General Assembly.

(e) The Board is authorized to enforce compliance with all provisions of a collective bargaining agreement upon complaint of either party. In the event a complaint is made by either party to an agreement, the Board shall proceed in the manner prescribed in section 1638 of this title relating to the prevention of unfair labor practices.

#### § 1640. RIGHTS UNALTERED

(a) A collective bargaining agreement shall not infringe upon any rights of service recipients or their surrogates to hire, direct, supervise, or discontinue the employment of any particular independent direct support provider.

(b) Nothing in this section shall alter the rights and obligations of private sector employers and employees under the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.

(c) Independent direct support providers shall not be considered state employees for purposes other than collective bargaining, including for purposes of joint or vicarious liability in tort or the limitation on liability in



subsection (e) of this section. Independent direct support providers shall not be eligible for participation in the State Employee Retirement System or health care plan solely by virtue of bargaining under this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall require the State to alter its current practice with respect to independent direct support providers of making payments regarding Social Security and Medicare taxes, federal or state unemployment contributions, or workers' compensation insurance.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall infringe upon the right of the Judiciary and the General Assembly to make programmatic modifications to the delivery of state services through subsidy or other programs.

(e) The State and its employees shall not be vicariously liable for any act or omission by an independent direct support provider or any claim arising out of the employment relationship between a service recipient and an independent direct service provider, nor shall the State be liable as a joint employer.

#### § 1641. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Board shall make and may amend and rescind and adopt such rules and regulations consistent with this chapter as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

#### § 1642. APPEAL

(a) Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of the Board issued under the authority of this chapter may appeal on questions of law to the Supreme Court.

(b) An order of the Board shall not automatically be stayed pending appeal. A stay must first be requested from the Board. The Board may stay the order or any part of it. If the Board denies a stay, then a stay may be requested from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court or a single justice may stay the order or any part of it and may order additional interim relief.

#### § 1643. ENFORCEMENT

(a) Orders of the Board issued under this chapter may be enforced by any party or by the Board by filing a petition with the Civil Division of the Superior Court of Washington County or in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which the action before the Board originated. The petition shall be served on the adverse party as provided for service of process under the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. If, after hearing, the court determines that the Board had jurisdiction over the matter and that a timely appeal was not filed or that an appeal was timely filed and a stay of the Board order or any part of it was not granted or that a Board order was affirmed on appeal in pertinent part by the Supreme Court, the court shall incorporate the

order of the Board as a judgment of the court. There is no appeal from that judgment except that a judgment reversing a Board decision on jurisdiction may be appealed to the Supreme Court.

(b) Upon filing of a petition by a party or the Board, the court may grant such temporary relief, including a restraining order, as it deems proper pending formal hearing.

(c) Orders and decisions of the Board shall apply only to the particular case under appeal, but any number of appeals presenting similar issues may be consolidated for hearing with the consent of the Board. The Board shall not modify, add to, or detract from a collective bargaining agreement by any order or decision.

#### § 1644. ANTITRUST EXEMPTION

The activities of independent direct support providers and their exclusive representative that are necessary for the exercise of their rights under this chapter shall be afforded state action immunity under applicable federal and state antitrust laws. The State intends that the “state action” exemption to federal antitrust laws be available only to the State, to independent direct support providers, and to their exclusive representative in connection with these necessary activities. Exempt activities shall be actively supervised by the State.

#### Sec. 2. SELF-DETERMINATION ALLIANCE

(a) There is established a Self-Determination Alliance to advise the State on issues related to stabilizing the independent direct provider workforce and improving the quality of services provided to people with disabilities and elders who manage their services. The alliance shall consist of:

(1) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Health or designee;

(3) Two service recipients who manage their services under Developmental Disabilities Services, two service recipients who manage their services under Choices for Care Medicaid Waiver, and two recipients who manage their services under Attendant Services Program (ASP), and one service recipient who manages his or her services under the Traumatic Brain Injury Program.

(4) One family member of a service recipient under Children’s Personal Care Program and one family member of a service recipient under Developmental Disabilities Services.

(b) All initial appointments to the Alliance shall be made on or before August 1, 2013. The chair shall convene the first meeting on or before September 1, 2013. The chair shall be appointed by the Governor from among its members. Members shall serve coterminously and at the pleasure of their appointing authority. A majority of members of the Self-Determination Alliance shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The Alliance shall be within the Agency of Human Services for administrative purposes only.

(c) The Self-Determination Alliance shall advise the State regarding issues relating to attracting and retaining a high-quality independent direct support provider workforce to be available to all service recipients, including making recommendations to improve the quality, stability, and availability of the independent direct support provider workforce.

(d) The Secretary of Human Services shall review the recommendations of the Self-Determination Alliance within 30 days of submission, and shall include the recommendations with his or her input to the Governor's collective bargaining designee.

### Sec. 3. SUNSET

Sec. 2 of this act shall be repealed on June 30, 2018. Prior to this date, the members of the Self-Determination Alliance shall review the purpose and membership of the Alliance and report its recommendations on the future role of the Alliance to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

### Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**(Committee vote: 7-0-1 )**

**(For text see Senate Journal 3/14/2013 )**

## **Senate Proposal of Amendment**

### **H. 2**

An act relating to the Governor's Snowmobile Council

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

In Sec. 2 by striking out the phrase "on July 1, 2013" and inserting in lieu thereof on passage

( No House Amendments )

## H. 95

An act relating to unclaimed life insurance benefits

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 27 V.S.A. § 1244a, subsection (b), after the first sentence, by adding a sentence to read An insurance company may use the full Death Master File once annually and the Death Master File Update Files for the remaining comparisons in the year.

Second: In Sec. 1, 27 V.S.A. § 1244a, by striking out subdivision (b)(1) in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(1) to read as follows:

(1) within 90 days of identifying the match:

(A) complete a good faith effort, which shall be documented by the insurance company, to confirm the death of the insured, annuitant, or retained asset account holder against other available records and information;

(B) review its records to determine whether the deceased insured has purchased any other products with the insurance company; and

(C) determine whether benefits are due in accordance with the applicable policy or contract; and, if benefits are due in accordance with the applicable policy or contract:

(i) use good faith efforts, which shall be documented by the insurance company, to locate the beneficiary or beneficiaries; and

(ii) provide the appropriate claims forms or instructions to the beneficiary or beneficiaries to make a claim, including the need to provide an official death certificate, if applicable under the policy or contract; and

Third: In Sec. 1, 27 V.S.A. § 1244a, subsection (e), after the words “life insurance policy” by adding , contract,

Fourth: In Sec. 1, 27 V.S.A. § 1244a, subdivision (f)(1), after the words “life insurance policy” by adding or contract,

Fifth: In Sec. 1, 27 V.S.A. § 1244a, subsection (g), after the words “unclaimed life insurance” by adding or annuity death

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 2 (effective date; retroactive application) in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read:

Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. § 3802a is added to read:

§ 3802a. POLICYHOLDER INFORMATION

For each group life insurance policy issued under this subchapter, the insurer shall maintain at least the following information for those covered under the policy:

- (1) Social Security Number, if any, name, and date of birth;
- (2) beneficiary designation information;
- (3) coverage eligibility;
- (4) benefit amount; and
- (5) premium payment status.

Seventh: By adding Sec. 3 to read:

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and, notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214(b), shall apply to all life insurance policies, annuity contracts, and retained asset accounts in force on or after the effective date, except that Sec. 2 of this act (policyholder information for group life insurance) shall apply only to group life insurance policies issued or renewed on or after the effective date.

(For text see House Journal 3/21/2013 )

## H. 105

An act relating to adult protective services reporting requirements

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, by striking out subdivisions (2) and (3), and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct

Second: In Sec. 1, in the newly renumbered subdivision (4), by striking out the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof:

The request for proposals for the grants contained an acknowledgment by the Self-Neglect Task Force that data are lacking at both the state and community levels to determine the scope of the problem of self-neglect.

Third: In Sec. 3, subsection (a), by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof:

On or before January 15, 2006 and on or before January 15 of each year thereafter until January 15, 2018, the ~~secretary of the agency of human services~~ Secretary of Human Services shall submit a report to the following committees: ~~the house and senate committees on judiciary, the house committee on human services, and the senate committee on health and welfare~~ House and Senate Committees on Judiciary, the House Committee on Human

Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

Fourth: In Sec. 3, subdivision (a)(1)(A)(iv), by inserting before “, including” the following: regardless of whether reports were opened, substantiated, or unsubstantiated

(For text see House Journal 3/20/2013 )

### **H. 377**

An act relating to neighborhood planning and development for municipalities with designated centers

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, 24 V.S.A. § 2791, in subdivision (3), by striking out the words “a regional” and inserting in lieu thereof the word the

Second: In Sec. 8, 24 V.S.A. § 2793e, in subsection (c), by striking out subdivision (5) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(5) The proposed neighborhood development area consists of those portions of the neighborhood planning area that are appropriate for new and infill housing, excluding identified flood hazard and fluvial erosion areas. In determining what areas are most suitable for new and infill housing, the municipality shall balance local goals for future land use, the availability of land for housing within the neighborhood planning area, and the smart growth principles. Based on those considerations, the municipality shall select an area for neighborhood development area designation that:

(A) Avoids or that minimizes to the extent feasible the inclusion of “important natural resources” as defined in subdivision 2791(14) of this title. If an “important natural resource” is included within a proposed neighborhood development area, the applicant shall identify the resource, explain why the resource was included, describe any anticipated disturbance to such resource, and describe why the disturbance cannot be avoided or minimized.

(B) Is served by planned or existing transportation infrastructure that conforms with “complete streets” principles as described under 19 V.S.A. § 309d and establishes pedestrian access directly to the downtown, village center, or new town center.

(C) Is compatible with and will reinforce the character of adjacent National Register Historic Districts, national or state register historic sites, and other significant cultural and natural resources identified by local or state government.

Third: In Sec. 8, 24 V.S.A. § 2793e, in subsection (d), by striking out subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(1) When approving a neighborhood development area, the State Board shall consult with the applicant about any changes the Board considers making to the boundaries of the proposed area. After consultation with the applicant, the Board may change the boundaries of the proposed area.

Fourth: In Sec. 8, 24 V.S.A. § 2793e, in subsection (d), in subdivision (2), before the words “the members”, by inserting the words at least 80 percent but no fewer than seven of, and by striking out the word “unanimously” and inserting in lieu thereof the word present

Fifth: In Sec. 8, 24 V.S.A. § 2793e, in subsection (h), after the last sentence, by adding Before reviewing such an application, the State Board shall request comment from the municipality.

Sixth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 14a to read:

Sec. 14a. 32 V.S.A. § 3850 is added to read:

**§ 3850. BLIGHTED PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

(a) At an annual or special meeting, a municipality may vote to authorize the legislative body of the municipality to exempt from municipal taxes for a period not to exceed five years the value of improvements made to dwelling units certified as blighted. As used in this section, “dwelling unit” means a building or the part of a building that is used as a primary home, residence, or sleeping place by one or more persons who maintain a household.

(b) If a municipality votes to approve the exemption described in subsection (a) of this section, the legislative body of the municipality shall appoint an independent review committee that is authorized to certify dwelling units in the municipality as blighted and exempt the value of improvements made to these dwelling units.

(c) As used in this section, a dwelling unit may be certified as blighted when it exhibits objectively determinable signs of deterioration sufficient to constitute a threat to human health, safety, and public welfare.

(d) If a dwelling unit is certified as blighted under subsection (b) of this section, the exemption shall take effect on the April 1 following the certification of the dwelling unit.

(For text see House Journal 3/20/2013 )

**H. 513**

An act relating to the Department of Financial Regulation

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 26, 8 V.S.A. § 3579, by striking out subsection (e) in its

entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) No partner or other person rendering the report required by ~~section 3578~~ the annual financial reporting rule adopted by the Commissioner under section 3578a of this title may act in that capacity for more than ~~seven~~ five consecutive years. Upon application by the insurer, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may find that the rotation requirement of this subsection would pose an unreasonable hardship on the insurer and may extend the accountant's period of qualification for an additional term. In making such determinations, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may consider the experience of the retained accountant and the size of his or her business, the premium volume of the insurer, and the number of jurisdictions in which the insurer transacts business, as provided by the annual financial reporting rule adopted by the Commissioner under section 3578 of this title.

Second: In Sec. 30, 8 V.S.A. § 3684, subdivision (b)(7), by striking out the words "is responsible for and"

Third: In Sec. 31, 8 V.S.A. § 3685, subsection (j), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and by inserting a new subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) The board of directors of a domestic insurer shall establish one or more committees composed of a majority of directors who are not officers or employees of the insurer or of any entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the insurer and who are not beneficial owners of a controlling interest in the voting stock of the insurer or any such entity. The committee or committees shall have responsibility for nominating candidates for director for election by shareholders or policyholders, evaluating the performance of officers deemed to be principal officers of the insurer, and recommending to the board of directors the selection and compensation of the principal officers. For purposes of this subsection, principal officers shall mean the chief executive officer, the president, and any chief operating officer.

Fourth: In Sec. 33, 8 V.S.A. § 3687, subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking out the words "All information, documents and copies thereof" and by inserting in lieu thereof Documents, materials, or other information in the possession or control of the Department that are

Fifth: In Sec. 33, 8 V.S.A. § 3687, subsection (f), after "confidential by law and privileged," by inserting shall not be subject to public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act,

Sixth: By adding a Sec. 35a to read:

Sec. 35a. 8 V.S.A. chapter 159 is redesignated to read:



CHAPTER 159. RISK BASED CAPITAL FOR ~~LIFE AND HEALTH~~  
INSURERS

Seventh: In Sec. 36, 8 V.S.A. § 8301, by striking out subdivision (9) in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (9) to read as follows:

~~(10)(9)~~ “Negative trend” means ~~a decreasing marginal difference of total adjusted capital over authorized control level risk based capital, with respect to a life or health insurer or fraternal benefit society, negative trend~~ over a period of time as determined in accordance with the trend test calculation ~~incorporated~~ included in the life or fraternal risk based capital instructions.

Eighth: By adding a Sec. 51a to read:

Sec. 51a. 8 V.S.A. chapter 141, subchapter 4 is redesignated to read:

Subchapter 4. Special Purpose Financial ~~Captive~~ Insurance Companies

Ninth: In Sec. 66, 8 V.S.A. § 6048o, subsection (a), by striking out the word “chapter” and inserting in lieu thereof the word subchapter

( No House Amendments )

**Action Under Rule 52**

**J.R.H. 9**

Joint resolution authorizing the 2013 Green Mountain Boys' State educational program to use the State House

**(For text see House Journal 4/30/2013)**

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

**H. 534**

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Winooski

**Rep. Townsend of South Burlington**, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, in 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 19, in § 304 (general powers and duties), in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(4) To adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce in accordance with the general laws of the State ordinances relating to the regulation or prohibition of the possession and use of dangerous objects and substances; the discharge of

firearms and air rifles; and the possession and use of other weapons and devices having a capacity to inflict personal injury.

Second: In Sec. 3, in 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 19, by striking out § 719 (local options tax) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 719. LOCAL OPTION TAX

(a) If the City Council by a majority vote recommends, the voters of the City may, at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose, by a majority vote of those present and voting, assess any or all of the following:

- (1) a one-percent meals and alcoholic beverages tax;
- (2) a one-percent rooms tax;
- (3) a one-percent sales tax.

(b) Any local option tax assessed under subsection (a) of this section shall be collected and administered and may be rescinded as provided by the general laws of this State.

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

**S. 7**

An act relating to social networking privacy protection

**Rep. Weed of Enosburgh**, for the Committee on **General, Housing and Military Affairs**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SOCIAL NETWORKING PRIVACY PROTECTION STUDY  
COMMITTEE

(a) A Committee is established to study the issue of prohibiting employers from requiring employees or applicants for employment to disclose a means of accessing the employee's or applicant's social network account.

(b) The Committee shall examine:

- (1) existing social networking privacy laws and proposed legislation in other states;
- (2) the interplay between state law and existing or proposed federal law on the subject of social networking privacy and employment; and
- (3) any other issues relevant to social networking privacy or employment.

(c) The Committee shall make recommendations, including proposed

legislation.

(d) The Committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) two representatives of employers, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the Committee on Committees;

(2) two representatives from labor organizations, one appointed by the Speaker and one by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Attorney General or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

(6) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

(7) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission or designee; and

(9) a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont.

(e) The Committee shall convene its first meeting on or before September 1, 2013. The Commissioner of Labor or designee shall be designated Chair of the Committee and shall convene the first and subsequent meetings.

(f) The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations on or before January 15, 2014 to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(g) The Committee shall cease to function upon transmitting its report.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**(Committee vote: 8-0-0 )**

**(For text see Senate Journal 3/20/2013 and 3/21/2013 )**

**Rep. Ralston of Middlebury**, for the Committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Social Networking Privacy Protection Study \* \* \*

Sec. 1. SOCIAL NETWORKING PRIVACY PROTECTION STUDY

COMMITTEE

(a) A Committee is established to study the issue of prohibiting employers from requiring employees or applicants for employment to disclose a means of accessing the employee's or applicant's social network account.

(b) The Committee shall examine:

(1) existing social networking privacy laws and proposed legislation in other states;

(2) the interplay between state law and existing or proposed federal law on the subject of social networking privacy and employment; and

(3) any other issues relevant to social networking privacy or employment.

(c) The Committee shall make recommendations, including proposed legislation.

(d) The Committee shall consist of the following members:

(1) two representatives of employers, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one by the Committee on Committees;

(2) two representatives from labor organizations, one appointed by the Speaker and one by the Committee on Committees;

(3) the Attorney General or designee;

(4) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation or designee;

(6) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

(7) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission or designee; and

(9) a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont.

(e) The Committee shall convene its first meeting on or before September 1, 2013. The Commissioner of Labor or designee shall be designated Chair of the Committee and shall convene the first and subsequent meetings.

(f) The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations on or before January 15, 2014 to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(g) The Committee shall cease to function upon transmitting its report.

\* \* \* Bad Faith Assertions of Patent Infringement \* \* \*

Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. chapter 120 is added to read:

CHAPTER 120. BAD FAITH ASSERTIONS  
OF PATENT INFRINGEMENT

§ 4195. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Vermont is striving to build an entrepreneurial and knowledge based economy. Attracting and nurturing small and medium sized internet technology (“IT”) and other knowledge based companies is an important part of this effort and will be beneficial to Vermont’s future.

(2) Patents are essential to encouraging innovation, especially in the IT and knowledge based fields. The protections afforded by the federal patent system create an incentive to invest in research and innovation, which spurs economic growth. Patent holders have every right to enforce their patents when they are infringed, and patent enforcement litigation is necessary to protect intellectual property.

(3) The General Assembly does not wish to interfere with the good faith enforcement of patents or good faith patent litigation. The General Assembly also recognizes that Vermont is preempted from passing any law that conflicts with federal patent law.

(4) Patent litigation can be technical, complex, and expensive. The expense of patent litigation, which may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars or more, can be a significant burden on small and medium sized companies. Vermont wishes to help its businesses avoid these costs by encouraging the most efficient resolution of patent infringement claims without conflicting with federal law.

(5) In order for Vermont companies to be able to respond promptly and efficiently to patent infringement assertions against them, it is necessary that they receive specific information regarding how their product, service, or technology may have infringed the patent at issue. Receiving such information at an early stage will facilitate the resolution of claims and lessen the burden of potential litigation on Vermont companies.

(6) Abusive patent litigation, and especially the assertion of bad faith infringement claims, can harm Vermont companies. A business that receives a letter asserting such claims faces the threat of expensive and protracted litigation and may feel that it has no choice but to settle and to pay a licensing fee, even if the claim is meritless. This is especially so for small and medium

sized companies and nonprofits that lack the resources to investigate and defend themselves against infringement claims.

(7) Not only do bad faith patent infringement claims impose a significant burden on individual Vermont businesses, they also undermine Vermont's efforts to attract and nurture small and medium sized IT and other knowledge based companies. Funds used to avoid the threat of bad faith litigation are no longer available to invest, produce new products, expand, or hire new workers, thereby harming Vermont's economy.

(b) Through this narrowly focused act, the General Assembly seeks to facilitate the efficient and prompt resolution of patent infringement claims, protect Vermont businesses from abusive and bad faith assertions of patent infringement, and build Vermont's economy, while at the same time respecting federal law and being careful to not interfere with legitimate patent enforcement actions.

#### § 4196. DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

(1) "Demand letter" means a letter, e-mail, or other communication asserting or claiming that the target has engaged in patent infringement.

(2) "Target" means a Vermont person:

(A) who has received a demand letter or against whom an assertion or allegation of patent infringement has been made;

(B) who has been threatened with litigation or against whom a lawsuit has been filed alleging patent infringement; or

(C) whose customers have received a demand letter asserting that the person's product, service, or technology has infringed a patent.

#### § 4197. BAD FAITH ASSERTIONS OF PATENT INFRINGEMENT

(a) A person shall not make a bad faith assertion of patent infringement.

(b) A court may consider the following factors as evidence that a person has made a bad faith assertion of patent infringement:

(1) The demand letter does not contain the following information:

(A) the patent number;

(B) the name and address of the patent owner or owners and assignee or assignees, if any; and

(C) factual allegations concerning the specific areas in which the target's products, services, and technology infringe the patent or are covered

by the claims in the patent.

(2) Prior to sending the demand letter, the person fails to conduct an analysis comparing the claims in the patent to the target's products, services, and technology, or such an analysis was done but does not identify specific areas in which the products, services, and technology are covered by the claims in the patent.

(3) The demand letter lacks the information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the target requests the information, and the person fails to provide the information within a reasonable period of time.

(4) The demand letter demands payment of a license fee or response within an unreasonably short period of time.

(5) The person offers to license the patent for an amount that is not based on a reasonable estimate of the value of the license.

(6) The claim or assertion of patent infringement is meritless, and the person knew, or should have known, that the claim or assertion is meritless.

(7) The claim or assertion of patent infringement is deceptive.

(8) The person or its subsidiaries or affiliates have previously filed or threatened to file one or more lawsuits based on the same or similar claim of patent infringement and:

(A) those threats or lawsuits lacked the information described in subdivision (1) of this subsection; or

(B) the person attempted to enforce the claim of patent infringement in litigation and a court found the claim to be meritless.

(9) Any other factor the court finds relevant.

(c) A court may consider the following factors as evidence that a person has not made a bad faith assertion of patent infringement:

(1) The demand letter contains the information described in subdivision (b)(1) of this section.

(2) Where the demand letter lacks the information described in subdivision (b)(1) of this section and the target requests the information, the person provides the information within a reasonable period of time.

(3) The person engages in a good faith effort to establish that the target has infringed the patent and to negotiate an appropriate remedy.

(4) The person makes a substantial investment in the use of the patent or in the production or sale of a product or item covered by the patent.

(5) The person is:

(A) the inventor or joint inventor of the patent or, in the case of a patent filed by and awarded to an assignee of the original inventor or joint inventor, is the original assignee; or

(B) an institution of higher education or a technology transfer organization owned or affiliated with an institution of higher education.

(6) The person has:

(A) demonstrated good faith business practices in previous efforts to enforce the patent, or a substantially similar patent; or

(B) successfully enforced the patent, or a substantially similar patent, through litigation.

(7) Any other factor the court finds relevant.

#### § 4198. BOND

If a court determines that a target has established a reasonable likelihood that a person has made a bad faith assertion of patent infringement in violation of this chapter, the court may require the person to post a bond in an amount equal to a good faith estimate of the target's costs to litigate the claim. A bond ordered pursuant to this section shall not exceed \$250,000.00.

#### § 4199. ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIES; DAMAGES

(a) The Attorney General shall have the same authority under this chapter to make rules, conduct civil investigations, bring civil actions, and enter into assurances of discontinuance as provided under chapter 63 of this title. In an action brought by the Attorney General under this chapter the court may award or impose any relief available under chapter 63 of this title.

(b) A target of conduct involving assertions of patent infringement, or a person aggrieved by a violation of this chapter or by a violation of rules adopted under this chapter, may bring an action in superior court. A court may award the following remedies to a plaintiff who prevails in an action brought pursuant to this subsection:

(1) equitable relief;

(2) damages;

(3) costs and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees; and

(4) exemplary damages in an amount equal to \$50,000.00 or three times the total of damages, costs, and fees, whichever is greater.



(c) This chapter shall not be construed to limit rights and remedies available to the State of Vermont or to any person under any other law and shall not alter or restrict the Attorney General's authority under chapter 63 of this title with regard to conduct involving assertions of patent infringement.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

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

**S. 85**

An act relating to workers' compensation for firefighters and rescue or ambulance workers

**Rep. Kitzmiller of Montpelier**, for the Committee on **Commerce and Economic Development**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

By striking out Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read:

Sec. 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Department of Health shall provide annual education and training to emergency medical personnel licensed under 18 V.S.A. chapter 17 and the Vermont Fire Academy shall provide annual education and training to firefighters on the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards 1910.134 (respiratory protection) and 1910.1030 (bloodborne pathogens).

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

( **For text see Senate Journal 3/15/2013** )