

House Calendar

Tuesday, May 06, 2014

120th DAY OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION

House Convenes at 10:00 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
ACTION CALENDAR	
Action Postponed Until May 6, 2014	
Senate Proposal of Amendment	
H. 612 Gas Pipeline Safety Program penalties	3298
H. 681 The professional regulation for veterans, military service members, and military spouses	3298
H. 882 Compensation for certain State employees	3299
S. 211 An act relating to permitting of sewage holding and pumpout tanks for public buildings	3299
S. 220 An act relating to furthering economic development.....	3300
NEW BUSINESS	
Third Reading	
S. 40 An act relating to establishing an interim committee that will develop policies to restore the 1980 ratio of state funding to student tuition at Vermont State Colleges and to make higher education more affordable	3348
S. 202 An act relating to the energy efficiency charge.....	3348
S. 256 An act relating to the solemnization of a marriage by a Judicial Bureau hearing officer	3348
S. 269 An act relating to business consumer protection and data security breaches	3348
S. 316 An act relating to child care providers	3348
NOTICE CALENDAR	
Favorable with Amendment	
H. 673 Retirement and pension amendments.....	3348
Rep. Martin for Government Operations	
Rep. Wilson for Ways and Means	3352
Rep. O'Brien for Appropriations.....	3353

S. 237 An act relating to civil forfeiture proceedings in cases of animal cruelty 3353
Rep. Conquest for Judiciary

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 225 A statewide policy on the use of and training requirements for
electronic control devices 3354
H. 497 The open meeting law 3357
H. 790 Reach Up eligibility..... 3365
H. 877 Repeal of report requirements that are at least five years old 3369
S. 239 An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances 3404

Ordered to Lie

S. 91 An act relating to privatization of public schools 3406

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until May 6, 2014

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 612

An act relating to Gas Pipeline Safety Program penalties

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

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

Sec. 2. GAS PIPELINE SAFETY RULES; BEST PRACTICES

The Public Service Board shall review and consider amending Board Rule 6.100 (Enforcement of Safety Regulations Pertaining to Intrastate Gas Pipelines and Transportation Facilities) to include additional measures or best practices, if any, that exceed the minimum federal safety standards, provided the Board determines such measures or practices are appropriate for Vermont.

(For text see House Journal 2/12/2014)

H. 681

An act relating to the professional regulation for veterans, military service members, and military spouses

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

First: In Sec. 1 (professional regulatory entities; military service licensure requirements), in subdivision (a)(1) (definition of “expedited temporary license by endorsement”), at the end of the subdivision following “licensure in another state”, by inserting or, in the case of EMS providers, based on current certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT)

Second: In Sec. 1, in subsection (b), at the beginning of the introductory paragraph, by striking out in its entirety “February 1, 2015” and inserting in lieu thereof July 1, 2015

Third: In Sec. 1, in subdivision (b)(2)(B) (expedited temporary licensure by endorsement; application requirements), at the end of subdivision (ii) following “issued in another state” by inserting or, in the case of EMS providers, proof that the applicant holds a current certification from the NREMT

Fourth: In Sec. 1, in subdivision (b)(3)(B) (renewal of licensure; eligibility), by inserting two new subdivisions to be subdivisions (i) and (ii) to read:

(i) The provisions of this subdivision (B) shall apply to an EMS licensee with a military deployment of less than two years, or greater than two years if the position served in the military was as an EMS provider or a substantially similar role.

(ii) For an EMS licensee with a military deployment of greater than two years and whose position served in the military was not as an EMS provider or a substantially similar role, the licensee shall be required to obtain certification with the NREMT prior to renewal of a license under this subdivision.

Fifth: In Sec. 2, 18 V.S.A. § 906c, in subdivision (b)(1), following “compensation upon his or her return from deployment”, by striking out “despite the lapse of licensure or certification” and inserting in lieu thereof once licensure is renewed

(For text see House Journal March 14, 2014)

H. 882

An act relating to compensation for certain State employees

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

First: In Sec. 9 (Pay Act appropriations), in subsection (a) (Executive Branch), at the end of the introductory paragraph following “; and salary increases for”, by striking out “classified employees not in a bargaining unit and exempt employees” and inserting in lieu thereof employees in the Executive Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements.

Second: In Sec. 9, in subsection (b) (Judicial Branch), in subdivision (2), at the end of the introductory paragraph following “June 30, 2016 and salary increases for” by striking out “exempt employees” and inserting in lieu thereof employees in the Judicial Branch not covered by the bargaining agreements.

(For text see House Journal 3/27/2014)

S. 211

An act relating to permitting of sewage holding and pumpout tanks for public buildings

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment thereto:

By striking out Secs. 2, 3, 4, and 5 and all reader’s guides in their entirety

and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

**(For House Proposal of Amendment see House Journal April 24, 2014
Page 1279)**

S. 220

An act relating to furthering economic development

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment thereto by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following::

* * * One-Stop Shop Business Portal * * *

Sec. 1. ONE-STOP SHOP WEB PORTAL

(a) In order to simplify the process for business creation and growth, the Office of the Secretary of State, Department of Taxes, Department of Labor, the Vermont Attorney General, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Administration have formed a Business Portal Committee to create an online “one-stop shop” for business registration, business entity creation, and registration compliance.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Business Portal Committee shall report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to inform the committees of the status of the project and a timeline for its completion.

* * * Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending Program;
Vermont Entrepreneurial Investment Tax Credit * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. chapter 12 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 12. VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

* * *

Subchapter 12. ~~Technology Loan~~ Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending
Program

§ 280aa. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a)(1) ~~Technology-based companies~~ Vermont-based seed, start-up, and early growth-stage businesses are a vital source of innovation, employment, and economic growth in Vermont. The continued development and success of

~~this increasingly important sector of Vermont's economy~~ these businesses is dependent upon the availability of flexible, risk-based capital.

(2) Because the primary assets of ~~technology-based companies~~ sometimes seed, start-up, and early growth-stage businesses often consist almost entirely of intellectual property or insufficient tangible assets to support conventional lending, ~~such~~ these companies frequently do not have access to conventional means of raising capital, such as asset-based bank financing.

(b) To support the growth of ~~technology-based companies~~ seed, start-up, and early growth-stage businesses and the resultant creation of high-wage employment in Vermont, ~~a technology loan program is established under this subchapter~~ the General Assembly hereby creates in this subchapter the Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending Program to support the growth and development of seed, start-up, and early growth-stage businesses.

§ 280bb. ~~TECHNOLOGY LOAN~~ VERMONT ENTREPRENEURIAL LENDING PROGRAM

(a) There is created ~~a technology (TECH) loan program~~ the Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending Program to be administered by the Vermont ~~economic development authority~~ Economic Development Authority. The ~~program~~ Program shall seek to meet the working capital and capital-asset financing needs of ~~technology-based companies~~ start-up, early stage, and early growth-stage businesses in Vermont. The Program shall specifically seek to fulfill capital requirement needs that are unmet in Vermont, including:

(1) loans up to \$100,000.00 for manufacturing businesses with innovative products that typically reflect long-term growth;

(2) loans from \$250,000.00 through \$1,000,000.00 to early growth-stage companies who do not meet the current underwriting criteria of other public and private lending institutions; and

(3) loans to businesses that are unable to access adequate capital resources because the primary assets of these businesses are typically intellectual property or similar nontangible assets.

(b) The ~~economic development authority~~ Authority shall ~~establish such~~ adopt regulations, policies, and procedures for the program Program as are necessary to ~~carry out the purposes of this subchapter~~. ~~The authority's lending criteria shall include consideration of in-state competition and whether a company has made reasonable efforts to secure capital in the private sector~~ increase the amount of investment funds available to Vermont businesses whose capital requirements are not being met by conventional lending sources.

(c) When considering entrepreneurial lending through the Program, the

Authority shall give additional consideration and weight to an application of a business whose business model and practices will have a demonstrable effect in achieving other public policy goals of the State, including:

(1) The business will create jobs in strategic sectors such as the knowledge-based economy, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, wood products manufacturing, and value-added agricultural processing.

(2) The business is located in a designated downtown, village center, growth center, or other significant geographic location recognized by the State.

(3) The business adopts energy and thermal efficiency practices in its operations or otherwise operates in a way that reflects a commitment to green energy principles.

(4) The business will create jobs that pay a livable wage and significant benefits to Vermont employees.

(d) The Authority shall include provisions in the terms of an entrepreneurial loan made under the Program to ensure that an entrepreneurial loan recipient shall maintain operations within the State for a minimum of five years from the date on which the recipient receives the entrepreneurial loan funds from the Authority.

* * *

Sec. 3. VERMONT ENTREPRENEURIAL LENDING PROGRAM; LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUNDS; CAPITALIZATION

(a) The Vermont Economic Development Authority shall capitalize loan loss reserves for the Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending Program created in 10 V.S.A. § 280bb with up to \$1,000,000.00 from Authority funds or eligible federal funds currently administered by the Authority.

(b) The Vermont Economic Development Authority shall use the funds allocated to the Program, as referenced in subsection (a) of this section, solely for the purpose of establishing and maintaining loan loss reserves to guarantee entrepreneurial loans.

* * * Electricity Rates for Businesses * * *

Sec. 4. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SERVICE STUDY; BUSINESS ELECTRICITY RATES

(a) The Commissioner of Public Service, in consultation with the Public Service Board and the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, shall conduct a study of how best to advance the public good through consideration of the competitiveness of Vermont's energy-intensive businesses with regard to electricity costs. As used in this section, "energy-intensive

business” or “business” means a manufacturer, a business that uses 1,000 MWh or more of electricity per year, or a business that meets another energy threshold deemed more appropriate by the Commissioner.

(b) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall consider:

(1) how best to incorporate into rate design proceedings the impact of electricity costs on business competitiveness and the identification of the costs of service incurred by businesses;

(2) with regard to the energy efficiency programs established under 30 V.S.A. § 209, potential changes to their delivery, funding, financing, and participation requirements;

(3) the history and outcome of any evaluations of the Energy Savings Account or Customer Credit programs, as well as best practices for customer self-directed energy efficiency programs;

(4) the history and outcome of any evaluations of retail choice programs or policies, as they relate to business competitiveness, that have been undertaken in Vermont and in other jurisdictions;

(5) any other programs or policies the Commissioner deems relevant; and

(6) whether and to what extent any programs or policies considered by the Commissioner under this section would impose cost shifts onto other customers, result in stranded costs (costs that cannot be recovered by a regulated utility due to a change in regulatory structure or policy), or conflict with renewable energy requirements in Vermont.

(c) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall provide the following persons and entities an opportunity for written and oral comments:

(1) consumer and business advocacy groups;

(2) regional development corporations; and

(3) any other person or entity as determined by the Commissioner.

(d) On or before December 15, 2014, the Commissioner shall provide a status report to the General Assembly of his or her findings regarding regulatory or statutory changes that would reduce electric energy costs for Vermont businesses and promote the public good. On or before December 15, 2015, the Commissioner shall provide a final report to the General Assembly of such findings and recommendations.

* * * Domestic Export Program * * *

Sec. 5. DOMESTIC MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM FOR VERMONT AGRICULTURE AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in collaboration with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Chief Marketing Officer, may create a Domestic Export Program Pilot Project within the “Made in Vermont” designation program, the purpose of which shall be to connect Vermont producers with brokers, buyers, and distributors in other U.S. state and regional markets, and to provide technical and marketing assistance to Vermont producers to convert these connections into increased sales and sustainable commercial relationships.

* * * Criminal Penalties for Computer Crimes * * *

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. chapter 87 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 87. COMPUTER CRIMES

* * *

§ 4104. ALTERATION, DAMAGE, OR INTERFERENCE

(a) A person shall not intentionally and without lawful authority, alter, damage, or interfere with the operation of any computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, computer program, or data contained in such computer, computer system, computer program, or computer network.

(b) Penalties. A person convicted of violating this section shall be:

(1) if the damage or loss does not exceed \$500.00 for a first offense, imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$5,000.00, or both;

(2) if the damage or loss does not exceed \$500.00 for a second or subsequent offense, imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$10,000.00, or both; or

(3) if the damage or loss exceeds \$500.00, imprisoned not more than 10 years or fined not more than ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$100,000.00, or both.

§ 4105. THEFT OR DESTRUCTION

(a)(1) A person shall not intentionally and without claim of right deprive the owner of possession, take, transfer, copy, conceal, or retain possession of, or intentionally and without lawful authority, destroy any computer system, computer network, computer software, computer program, or data contained in such computer, computer system, computer program, or computer network.

(2) Copying a commercially available computer program or computer software is not a crime under this section, provided that the computer program and computer software has a retail value of \$500.00 or less and is not copied for resale.

(b) Penalties. A person convicted of violating this section shall be:

(1) if the damage or loss does not exceed \$500.00 for a first offense, imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$5,000.00, or both;

(2) if the damage or loss does not exceed \$500.00 for a second or subsequent offense, imprisoned not more than two years or fined not more than ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$10,000.00, or both; or

(3) if the damage or loss exceeds \$500.00, imprisoned not more than 10 years or fined not more than ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$100,000.00, or both.

§ 4106. CIVIL LIABILITY

A person damaged as a result of a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action against the violator for damages, costs, and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees, and such other relief as the court deems appropriate.

* * *

* * * Statute of Limitations to Commence Action
for Misappropriation of Trade Secrets * * *

Sec. 7. 12 V.S.A. § 523 is amended to read:

§ 523. TRADE SECRETS

An action for misappropriation of trade secrets under 9 V.S.A. chapter 143 ~~of Title 9~~ shall be commenced within ~~three~~ five years after the cause of action accrues, and not after. The cause of action shall be deemed to accrue as of the date the misappropriation was discovered or reasonably should have been discovered.

* * * Protection of Trade Secrets * * *

Sec. 8. 9 V.S.A. chapter 143 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 143. TRADE SECRETS

§ 4601. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Improper means" includes theft, bribery, misrepresentation, breach or inducement of a breach of a duty to maintain secrecy, or espionage through

electronic or other means.

(2) “Misappropriation” means:

(A) acquisition of a trade secret of another by a person who knows or has reason to know that the trade secret was acquired by improper means; or

(B) disclosure or use of a trade secret of another without express or implied consent by a person who:

(i) used improper means to acquire knowledge of the trade secret; or

(ii) at the time of disclosure or use, knew or had reason to know that his or her knowledge of the trade secret was:

(I) derived from or through a person who had utilized improper means to acquire it;

(II) acquired under circumstances giving rise to a duty to maintain its secrecy or limit its use; or

(III) derived from or through a person who owed a duty to the person seeking relief to maintain its secrecy or limit its use; or

(iii) before a material change of his or her position, knew or had reason to know that it was a trade secret and that knowledge of it had been acquired by accident or mistake.

(3) “Trade secret” means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that:

(A) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and

(B) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

§ 4602. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

(a) ~~Actual~~ A court may enjoin actual or threatened misappropriation ~~may be enjoined~~ of a trade secret. Upon application to the court, an injunction shall be terminated when the trade secret has ceased to exist, but the injunction may be continued for an additional reasonable period of time in order to eliminate commercial advantage that otherwise would be derived from the misappropriation.

(b) In exceptional circumstances, an injunction may condition future use

upon payment of a reasonable royalty for no longer than the period of time for which use could have been prohibited. Exceptional circumstances include, ~~but are not limited to,~~ a material and prejudicial change of position prior to acquiring knowledge or reason to know of misappropriation that renders a prohibitive injunction inequitable.

(c) In appropriate circumstances, affirmative acts to protect a trade secret may be compelled by court order.

§ 4603. DAMAGES

(a)(1) Except to the extent that a material and prejudicial change of position prior to acquiring knowledge or reason to know of misappropriation renders a monetary recovery inequitable, a complainant is entitled to recover damages for misappropriation.

(2) Damages can include both the actual loss caused by misappropriation and the unjust enrichment caused by misappropriation that is not taken into account in computing actual loss.

(3) In lieu of damages measured by any other methods, the damages caused by misappropriation may be measured by imposition of liability for a reasonable royalty for a misappropriator's unauthorized disclosure or use of a trade secret.

(4) A court shall award a successful complainant his or her costs and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising from a misappropriation of the complainant's trade secret.

(b) If malicious misappropriation exists, the court may award punitive damages.

§ 4605. PRESERVATION OF SECRECY

In an action under this chapter, a court shall preserve the secrecy of an alleged trade secret by reasonable means, which may include granting protective orders in connection with discovery proceedings, holding in-camera hearings, sealing the records of the action, and ordering any person involved in the litigation not to disclose an alleged trade secret without prior court approval.

§ 4607. EFFECT ON OTHER LAW

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this chapter displaces conflicting tort, restitutionary, and any other law of this ~~state~~ State providing civil remedies for misappropriation of a trade secret.

(b) This chapter does not affect:

(1) contractual remedies, whether or not based upon misappropriation of a trade secret;

(2) other civil remedies that are not based upon misappropriation of a trade secret; or

(3) criminal remedies, whether or not based upon misappropriation of a trade secret.

* * *

* * * Technology Businesses and Government
Contracting * * *

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 346 is added to read:

§ 346. STATE CONTRACTING; INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, SOFTWARE DESIGN, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(a) The Secretary of Administration shall include in Administrative Bulletin 3.5 a policy direction applicable to State procurement contracts that include services for the development of software applications, computer coding, or other intellectual property, which would allow the State of Vermont to grant permission to the contractor to use the intellectual property created under the contract for the contractor's commercial purposes.

(b) The Secretary may recommend contract provisions that authorize the State to negotiate with a contractor to secure license terms and license fees, royalty rights, or other payment mechanism for the contractor's commercial use of intellectual property developed under a State contract.

(c) If the Secretary authorizes a contractor to own intellectual property developed under a State contract, the Secretary shall recommend language to ensure the State retains a perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, and fully paid right to continue to use the intellectual property.

* * * Study; Commercial Lenders * * *

Sec. 10. STUDY; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; LICENSED LENDER REQUIREMENTS; COMMERCIAL LENDERS

On or before January 15, 2015, the Department of Financial Regulation shall evaluate and report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs any statutory and regulatory changes to the State's licensed lender requirements that are necessary to open private capital markets and remove unnecessary barriers to business investment in Vermont.

* * * Tourism Funding; Study * * *

Sec. 11. TOURISM FUNDING; PILOT PROJECT STUDY

On or before January 15, 2015, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report that analyzes the results of the performance-based funding pilot project for the Department of Tourism and Marketing and recommends appropriate legislative or administrative changes to the funding mechanism for tourism and marketing programs.

* * * Land Use; Housing; Industrial Development * * *

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 238 is added to read:

§ 238. AVAILABILITY OF LOANS AND ASSISTANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the developer of a project in an industrial park permitted under chapter 151 of this title shall have access to the loans and assistance available to a local development corporation from the Vermont Economic Development Authority for the improvement of industrial parks under this subchapter.

Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 6001(35) is added to read:

(35) “Industrial park” means an area of land permitted under this chapter that is planned, designed, and zoned as a location for one or more industrial buildings, that includes adequate access roads, utilities, water, sewer, and other services necessary for the uses of the industrial buildings, and includes no retail use except that which is incidental to an industrial use, and no office use except that which is incidental or secondary to an industrial use.

Sec. 14. REVIEW OF MASTER PLAN POLICY

On or before January 1, 2015, the Natural Resources Board shall review its master plan policy and commence the policy’s adoption as a rule. The proposed rule shall include provisions for efficient master plan permitting and master plan permit amendments for industrial parks. The Board shall consult with affected parties when developing the proposed rule.

* * * Primary Agricultural Soils; Industrial Parks * * *

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 6093(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) Industrial parks.

(A) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a conversion of primary agricultural soils located in an industrial park ~~as defined~~

~~in subdivision 212(7) of this title and~~ permitted under this chapter and in existence as of January 1, 2006, shall be allowed to pay a mitigation fee computed according to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that it shall be entitled to a ratio of 1:1, protected acres to acres of affected primary agricultural soil. If an industrial park is developed to the fullest extent before any expansion, this ratio shall apply to any contiguous expansion of such an industrial park that totals no more than 25 percent of the area of the park or no more than 10 acres, whichever is larger; provided any expansion based on percentage does not exceed 50 acres. Any expansion larger than that described in this subdivision shall be subject to the mitigation provisions of this subsection at ratios that depend upon the location of the expansion.

(B) In any application to a ~~district commission for expansion of~~ District Commission to amend a permit for an existing industrial park, compact development patterns shall be encouraged that assure the most efficient and full use of land and the realization of maximum economic development potential through appropriate densities shall be allowed consistent with all applicable criteria of subsection 6086(a) of this title. Industrial park expansions and industrial park infill shall not be subject to requirements established in subdivision 6086(a)(9)(B)(iii) of this title, nor to requirements established in subdivision ~~6086(a)(9)(C)(iii).~~

* * * Affordable Housing * * *

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:

§ 6001. DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

* * *

(3)(A) “Development” means each of the following:

* * *

(iv) The construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, or dwellings, or construction or maintenance of mobile homes or ~~trailer~~ mobile home parks, with 10 or more units, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land, owned or controlled by a person, within a radius of five miles of any point on any involved land, and within any continuous period of five years. However:

(I) A priority housing project shall constitute a development under this subdivision (3)(A)(iv) only if the number of housing units in the project is:

(aa) 275 or more, in a municipality with a population of 15,000 or more;

(bb) 150 or more, in a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more but less than 15,000;

(cc) 75 or more, in a municipality with a population of 6,000 or more but less than 10,000.

(dd) 50 or more, in a municipality with a population of 3,000 or more but less than 6,000;

(ee) 25 or more, in a municipality with a population of less than 3,000; and

(ff) notwithstanding subdivisions (aa) through (ee) of this subdivision (3)(A)(iv)(I), 10 or more if the construction involves the demolition of one or more buildings that are listed on or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. However, demolition shall not be considered to create jurisdiction under this subdivision if the Division for Historic Preservation has determined the proposed demolition will have no adverse effect; no adverse effect provided that specified conditions are met; or will have an adverse effect but that adverse effect will be adequately mitigated. Any imposed conditions shall be enforceable through a grant condition, deed covenant, or other legally binding document.

(II) The determination of jurisdiction over a priority housing project shall count only the housing units included in that discrete project.

(III) Housing units in a priority housing project shall not count toward determining jurisdiction over any other project.

* * *

~~(B)(i) Smart Growth Jurisdictional Thresholds. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3)(A) of this section, if a project consists exclusively of mixed income housing or mixed use, or any combination thereof, and is located entirely within a growth center designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2793c or entirely within a downtown development district designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2793, “development” means:~~

~~(I) Construction of mixed income housing with 200 or more housing units or a mixed use project with 200 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 15,000 or more.~~

~~(II) Construction of mixed income housing with 100 or more housing units or a mixed use project with 100 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more but less than 15,000.~~

~~(III) Construction of mixed income housing with 50 or more housing units or a mixed use project with 50 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 6,000 or more and less than 10,000.~~

~~(IV) Construction of mixed income housing with 30 or more housing units or a mixed use project with 30 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 3,000 or more but less than 6,000.~~

~~(V) Construction of mixed income housing with 25 or more housing units or a mixed use project with 25 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of less than 3,000.~~

~~(VI) Historic Buildings. Construction of 10 or more units of mixed income housing or a mixed use project with 10 or more housing units where the construction involves the demolition of one or more buildings that are listed on or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. However, demolition shall not be considered to create jurisdiction under this subdivision if the Division for Historic Preservation has determined the proposed demolition will have: no adverse effect; no adverse effect provided that specified conditions are met; or, will have an adverse effect, but that adverse effect will be adequately mitigated. Any imposed conditions shall be enforceable through a grant condition, deed covenant, or other legally binding document.~~

~~(ii) Mixed Income Housing Jurisdictional Thresholds. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (3)(A) of this section, if a project consists exclusively of mixed income housing and is located entirely within a Vermont neighborhood designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2793d or a neighborhood development area as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2791(16), “development” means:~~

~~(I) Construction of mixed income housing with 200 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 15,000 or more.~~

~~(II) Construction of mixed income housing with 100 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more but less than 15,000.~~

~~(III) Construction of mixed income housing with 50 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 6,000 or more and less than 10,000.~~

~~(IV) Construction of mixed income housing with 30 or more housing units, in a municipality with a population of 3,000 or more but less than 6,000.~~

~~(V) Construction of mixed income housing with 25 or more~~

housing units, in a municipality with a population of less than 3,000.

~~(VI) Historic Buildings. Construction of 10 or more units of mixed income housing where the construction involves the demolition of one or more buildings that are listed on or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. However, demolition shall not be considered to create jurisdiction under this subdivision if the Division for Historic Preservation has determined the proposed demolition will have: no adverse effect; no adverse effect provided that specified conditions are met; or will have an adverse effect, but that adverse effect will be adequately mitigated. Any imposed conditions shall be enforceable through a grant condition, deed covenant, or other legally binding document. [Repealed.]~~

(C) For the purposes of determining jurisdiction under subdivisions subdivision (3)(A) and (3)(B) of this section, the following shall apply:

~~(i) Incentive for Growth Inside Designated Areas. Notwithstanding subdivision (3)(A)(iv) of this section, housing units constructed by a person partially or completely outside a designated downtown development district, designated growth center, designated Vermont neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area shall not be counted to determine jurisdiction over housing units constructed by that person entirely within a designated downtown development district, designated growth center, designated Vermont neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area. [Repealed.]~~

~~(ii) Five Year, Five Mile Radius Jurisdiction Analysis. Within any continuous period of five years, housing units constructed by a person entirely within a designated downtown district, designated growth center, designated Vermont neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area shall be counted together with housing units constructed by that person partially or completely outside a designated downtown development district, designated growth center, designated Vermont neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area to determine jurisdiction over the housing units constructed by a person partially or completely outside the designated downtown development district, designated growth center, designated Vermont neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area and within a five-mile radius in accordance with subdivision (3)(A)(iv) of this section. [Repealed.]~~

~~(iii) Discrete Housing Projects in Designated Areas and Exclusive Counting for Housing Units. Notwithstanding subdivisions (3)(A)(iv) and (19) of this section, jurisdiction shall be determined exclusively by counting housing units constructed by a person within a designated downtown development district, designated growth center, designated Vermont~~

~~neighborhood, or designated neighborhood development area, provided that the housing units are part of a discrete project located on a single tract or multiple contiguous tracts of land. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(27) “Mixed income housing” means a housing project in which the following apply:

(A) Owner-occupied housing. At the option of the applicant, owner-occupied housing may be characterized by either of the following:

(i) at least 15 percent of the housing units have a purchase price which at the time of first sale does not exceed 85 percent of the new construction, targeted area purchase price limits established and published annually by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency; or

(ii) at least 20 percent of the housing units have a purchase price which at the time of first sale does not exceed 90 percent of the new construction, targeted area purchase price limits established and published annually by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency;

(B) ~~Affordable~~ Rental Housing. At least 20 percent of the housing units that is are rented by the occupants whose gross annual household income does not exceed 60 percent of the county median income, or 60 percent of the standard metropolitan statistical area income if the municipality is located in such an area, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for use with the Housing Credit Program under Section 42(g) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the total annual cost of the housing, as defined at Section 42(g)(2)(B), is not more than 30 percent of the gross annual household income as defined at Section 42(g)(2)(C), and with constitute affordable housing and have a duration of affordability of no less than 30 20 years.

(28) “Mixed use” means construction of both mixed income housing and construction of space for any combination of retail, office, services, artisan, and recreational and community facilities, provided at least 40 percent of the gross floor area of the buildings involved is mixed income housing. “Mixed use” does not include industrial use.

(29) “Affordable housing” means either of the following:

(A) ~~Housing~~ housing that is owned by its occupants whose gross annual household income does not exceed 80 percent of the county median income, or 80 percent of the standard metropolitan statistical area income if the municipality is located in such an area, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the total annual cost of

the housing, including principal, interest, taxes, insurance, and condominium association fees, is not more than 30 percent of the gross annual household income; or

(B) ~~Housing~~ housing that is rented by the occupants whose gross annual household income does not exceed 80 percent of the county median income, or 80 percent of the standard metropolitan statistical area income if the municipality is located in such an area, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the total annual cost of the housing, including rent, utilities, and condominium association fees, is not more than 30 percent of the gross annual household income.

* * *

(36) "Priority housing project" means a discrete project located on a single tract or multiple contiguous tracts of land that consists exclusively of:

(A) mixed income housing or mixed use, or any combination thereof, and is located entirely within a designated downtown development district, designated growth center, or designated village center that is also a designated neighborhood development area under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A; or

(B) mixed income housing and is located entirely within a designated Vermont neighborhood or designated neighborhood development area under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A.

* * *

* * * Credit Facility for Vermont Clean Energy Loan Fund * * *

Sec. 17. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 87, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

Sec. 8. INVESTMENT OF STATE MONIES

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

* * * Licensed Lender Requirements; Exemption for De Minimis Lending Activity * * *

Sec. 18. 8 V.S.A. § 2201 is amended to read:

2201. LICENSES REQUIRED

(a) No person shall without first obtaining a license under this chapter from the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner:

(1) engage in the business of making loans of money, credit, goods, or things in action and charge, contract for, or receive on any such loan interest, a

finance charge, discount, or consideration ~~therefore~~ therefor;

- (2) act as a mortgage broker;
- (3) engage in the business of a mortgage loan originator; or
- (4) act as a sales finance company.

(b) Each licensed mortgage loan originator must register with and maintain a valid unique identifier with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry and must be either:

(1) ~~an~~ An employee actively employed at a licensed location of, and supervised and sponsored by, only one licensed lender or licensed mortgage broker operating in this ~~state~~; State.

(2) ~~an~~ An individual sole proprietor who is also a licensed lender or licensed mortgage broker; ~~or~~.

(3) ~~an~~ An employee engaged in loan modifications employed at a licensed location of, and supervised and sponsored by, only one third-party loan servicer licensed to operate in this ~~state~~ State pursuant to chapter 85 of this title. ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this subsection, “loan modification” means an adjustment or compromise of an existing residential mortgage loan. The term “loan modification” does not include a refinancing transaction.

(c) A person licensed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section may engage in mortgage brokerage and sales finance if such person informs the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner in advance that he or she intends to engage in sales finance and mortgage brokerage. Such person shall inform the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner of his or her intention on the original license application under section 2202 of this title, any renewal application under section 2209 of this title, or pursuant to section 2208 of this title, and shall pay the applicable fees required by subsection 2202(b) of this title for a mortgage broker license or sales finance company license.

(d) No lender license, mortgage broker license, or sales finance company license shall be required of:

(1) ~~a state~~ A State agency, political subdivision, or other public instrumentality of the ~~state~~; State.

(2) ~~a~~ A federal agency or other public instrumentality of the United States; ~~;~~

(3) ~~a~~ A gas or electric utility subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board engaging in energy conservation or safety loans; ~~;~~

(4) a A depository institution or a financial institution as defined in 8 V.S.A. § 11101(32);

(5) a A pawnbroker;

(6) ~~an~~ An insurance company;

(7) a A seller of goods or services that finances the sale of such goods or services, other than a residential mortgage loan;

(8) ~~any~~ Any individual who offers or negotiates the terms of a residential mortgage loan secured by a dwelling that served as the individual's residence, including a vacation home, or inherited property that served as the deceased's dwelling, provided that the individual does not act as a mortgage loan originator or provide financing for such sales so frequently and under such circumstances that it constitutes a habitual activity and acting in a commercial context;

(9) ~~lenders~~ Lenders that conduct their lending activities, other than residential mortgage loan activities, through revolving loan funds, that are nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c), and that register with the ~~commissioner of economic development~~ Commissioner of Economic Development under 10 V.S.A. § 690a;

(10) ~~persons~~ Persons who lend, other than residential mortgage loans, an aggregate of less than \$75,000.00 in any one year at rates of interest of no more than 12 percent per annum;

(11) a A seller who, pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 2355(f)(1)(D), includes the amount paid or to be paid by the seller to discharge a security interest, lien interest, or lease interest on the traded-in motor vehicle in a motor vehicle retail installment sales contract, provided that the contract is purchased, assigned, or otherwise acquired by a sales finance company licensed pursuant to this title to purchase motor vehicle retail installment sales contracts or a depository institution;

(12)(A) a A person making an unsecured commercial loan, which loan is expressly subordinate to the prior payment of all senior indebtedness of the commercial borrower regardless of whether such senior indebtedness exists at the time of the loan or arises thereafter. The loan may or may not include the right to convert all or a portion of the amount due on the loan to an equity interest in the commercial borrower;

(B) ~~for purposes of~~ As used in this subdivision (12), "senior indebtedness" means:

(i) all indebtedness of the commercial borrower for money

borrowed from depository institutions, trust companies, insurance companies, and licensed lenders, and any guarantee thereof; and

(ii) any other indebtedness of the commercial borrower that the lender and the commercial borrower agree shall constitute senior indebtedness;

(13) ~~nonprofit~~ Nonprofit organizations established under testamentary instruments, exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), and which make loans for postsecondary educational costs to students and their parents, provided that the organizations provide annual accountings to the Probate Division of the Superior Court;

(14) ~~any~~ Any individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan with or on behalf of an immediate family member of the individual;

(15) ~~a~~ A housing finance agency.

(16) A person who makes no more than three mortgage loans in any consecutive three-year period beginning on or after July 1, 2011.

(e) No mortgage loan originator license shall be required of:

(1) Registered mortgage loan originators, when employed by and acting for an entity described in subdivision 2200(22) of this chapter.

(2) Any individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan with or on behalf of an immediate family member of the individual.

(3) Any individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan secured by a dwelling that served as the individual's residence, including a vacation home, or inherited property that served as the deceased's dwelling, provided that the individual does not act as a mortgage loan originator or provide financing for such sales so frequently and under such circumstances that it constitutes a habitual activity and acting in a commercial context.

(4) An individual who is an employee of a federal, ~~state~~ State, or local government agency, or an employee of a housing finance agency, who acts as a mortgage loan originator only pursuant to his or her official duties as an employee of the federal, ~~state~~ State, or local government agency or housing finance agency.

(5) A licensed attorney who negotiates the terms of a residential mortgage loan on behalf of a client as an ancillary matter to the attorney's

representation of the client, unless the attorney is compensated by a lender, a mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator or by any agent of such lender, mortgage broker, or other mortgage loan originator. To the extent an attorney licensed in this State undertakes activities that are covered by the definition of a mortgage loan originator, such activities do not constitute engaging in the business of a mortgage loan originator, provided that:

(A) such activities are considered by the State governing body responsible for regulating the practice of law to be part of the authorized practice of law within this State;

(B) such activities are carried out within an attorney-client relationship; and

(C) the attorney carries them out in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, ethics, and standards.

(6) A person who makes no more than three mortgage loans in any consecutive three-year period beginning on or after July 1, 2011

(f) If a person who offers or negotiates the terms of a mortgage loan is exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (d)(16) or (e)(6) of this section, there is a rebuttable presumption that he or she is not engaged in the business of making loans or being a mortgage loan originator.

(g) Independent contractor loan processors or underwriters. A loan processor or underwriter who is an independent contractor may not engage in the activities of a loan processor or underwriter unless such independent contractor loan processor or underwriter obtains and maintains a mortgage loan originator license. Each independent contractor loan processor or underwriter licensed as a mortgage loan originator must have and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry.

~~(g)~~(h) This chapter shall not apply to commercial loans of \$1,000,000.00 or more.

* * * Workforce Education and Training * * *

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 545 is added to read:

§ 545. WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING LEADER

(a) The Commissioner of Labor shall have the authority to designate one existing full-time position within the Department as “Workforce Education and Training Leader.”

(b) The Workforce Leader shall have primary authority within State government to conduct an inventory of the workforce education and training activities throughout the State both within State government agencies and

departments that perform those activities and with State partners who perform those activities with State funding, and to coordinate those activities to ensure an integrated workforce education and training system throughout the State.

(c) In conducting the inventory pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Workforce Leader shall design and implement a stakeholder engagement process that brings together employers with potential employees, including students, the unemployed, and incumbent employees seeking further training.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of State law to the contrary, and to the fullest extent allowed under federal law, the Leader shall ensure that in each State and State-funded workforce education and training program, the program administrator collects and reports individual data and outcomes at the individual level by Social Security Number or equivalent.

Sec. 20. INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PERSONS

On or before January 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Labor shall submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report that details the internship opportunities available to Vermonters between 15 and 18 years of age and recommends one or more means to expand these opportunities through the Vermont Career Internship Program, 10 V.S.A. § 544, or through other appropriate mechanisms.

* * * Vermont Strong Scholars Program * * *

Sec. 21. 16 V.S.A. chapter 90 is redesignated to read:

CHAPTER 90. FUNDING OF POSTSECONDARY ~~INSTITUTIONS~~ EDUCATION

Sec. 22. 16 V.S.A. § 2888 is added to read:

§ 2888. VERMONT STRONG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

(a) Program creation. There is created a postsecondary loan forgiveness program to be known as the Vermont Strong Scholars Program designed to forgive a portion of Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (the Corporation) loans in order to encourage Vermonters to select majors that prepare them for jobs that are critical to the Vermont economy, to enroll and remain enrolled in a Vermont postsecondary institution, and to live in Vermont upon graduation.

(b) Academic majors; projections.

(1) Annually, on or before November 15, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development (the Secretary), in consultation with the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, the Corporation, the Commissioner of Labor, and the Secretary of Education, shall identify eligible

postsecondary majors, projecting at least four years into the future, that:

(A) are offered by the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, or Vermont independent colleges (the eligible institutions); and

(B) lead to jobs the Secretary has identified as critical to the Vermont economy.

(2) The Secretary shall prioritize the identified majors and shall select a similar number of associate's degree and bachelor's degree programs. A major shall be identified as eligible for this Program for no less than two years.

(3) Based upon the identified majors, the Secretary of Administration shall annually provide the General Assembly with the estimated cost of the Corporation's loan forgiveness awards under the Program during the then-current fiscal year and each of the four following fiscal years.

(c) Eligibility. An individual shall be eligible for loan forgiveness under this section if he or she:

(1) was classified as a Vermont resident by the eligible institution from which he or she was graduated;

(2) is a graduate of an eligible institution;

(3) shall not hold a prior bachelor's degree;

(4) was awarded an associate's or bachelor's degree in a field identified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section;

(5) completed the associate's degree within three years or the bachelor's degree within five years;

(6) is employed in Vermont in a field or specific position closely related to the identified degree during the period of loan forgiveness; and

(7) is a Vermont resident throughout the period of loan forgiveness.

(d) Loan forgiveness.

(1) An eligible individual shall have his or her postsecondary loan from the Corporation forgiven as follows:

(A) for an individual awarded an associate's degree by an eligible institution, in an amount equal to the tuition rate for 15 credits at the Community College of Vermont during the individual's final semester of enrollment, to be prorated over the three years following graduation; and

(B) for an individual awarded a bachelor's degree by an eligible institution, in an amount equal to the in-state tuition rate at the Vermont State Colleges during the individual's final year of enrollment, to be prorated over

the five years following graduation;

(2) Loan forgiveness may be awarded on a prorated basis to an otherwise eligible Vermont resident who transfers to and is graduated from an eligible institution.

(e) Program management and funding. The Secretary shall develop all organizational details of the Program consistent with the purposes and requirements of this section, including the identification of eligible major programs and eligible jobs. The Secretary may contract with the Corporation for management of the Program. The Secretary may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary to implement the Program. The availability and payment of loan forgiveness awards under this section are subject to funding available to the Corporation for the awards.

(f) Fund creation.

(1) There is created a special fund to be known as the Vermont Strong Scholars Fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5. The Fund shall be used and administered solely for the purposes of this section. Any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward in the Fund.

(2) The Fund shall consist of sums to be identified by the Secretary from any source accepted for the benefit of the Fund and interest earned from the investment of Fund balances.

Sec. 23. VERMONT STRONG INTERIM REPORT

On or before November 1, 2014, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on the organizational and economic details of the Vermont Strong Scholars Program, and specifically on the majors selected for forgiveness and the projected annual cost, the proposed funding source, and the projected fund balance for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2018.

* * * Vermont Products Program * * *

Sec. 24. VERMONT PRODUCTS PROGRAM; STUDY; REPORT

(a) On or before September 1, 2015, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, after consulting with appropriate stakeholders, shall report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on creating a Vermont Products Program for the purpose of providing Vermont businesses with a means of promoting and marketing products and services that are manufactured, designed, engineered, or formulated in Vermont and avoiding confusion by consumers when the

Vermont brand is used in marketing products or services.

(b) The report required by this section shall describe the method, feasibility, and cost of creating a Vermont Products Program that includes the following elements:

(1) The program shall include a licensing system that enables qualifying persons to make marketing claims concerning significant business activities occurring in Vermont, and to self-certify products and services that are manufactured, designed, engineered, or formulated in Vermont. Under this system, the Secretary shall identify and craft branding and marketing guidelines that concern whether and how qualifying products or services manufactured, designed, engineered, or formulated in Vermont can be properly claimed so as to be licensed. The licensing system shall permit an applicant to self-certify compliance with designated criteria and attest to the accuracy of claims authorized by the Secretary in order to obtain a license to advertise and promote a product or service using the licensed materials.

(2) The program may charge an annual fee for the issuance of the license.

(3) The program shall include an on-line application process that permits an applicant to obtain the license if he or she certifies compliance with criteria designated by the Secretary, attests to the accuracy of statements designated by the Secretary, and pays the required fee.

(4) Licenses issued under the program shall include a provision requiring that disputes regarding the license be resolved by alternative dispute resolution. A person who objects to the issuance of a license may file a complaint with the Secretary, who shall refer it for alternative dispute resolution as provided in the license.

(5) A special fund, comprising license fees and any monies appropriated by the General Assembly, may be created for the administration and advertising of the program.

(c) The report required by this section shall include a recommendation as to whether the Vermont Products Program should replace the rules regarding Vermont Origin adopted by the Attorney General.

* * * 10 Percent for Vermont * * *

Sec. 25. VERMONT STATE TREASURER; CREDIT FACILITY FOR LOCAL INVESTMENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Vermont State Treasurer shall have the authority to establish a credit facility of up to 10 percent of the State's average cash balance on terms acceptable to the

Treasurer for purposes established by the Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee.

(b) The amount authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall include all credit facilities authorized by the General Assembly and established by the Treasurer prior to or subsequent to the effective date of this section, and the renewal or replacement of those credit facilities.

Sec. 26. TREASURER'S LOCAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation of committee. The Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is established to advise the Treasurer on funding priorities and address other mechanisms to increase local investment.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of six members as follows:

(A) the State Treasurer or designee;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Economic Development Authority or designee;

(C) the Chief Executive Officer of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation or designee;

(D) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency or designee;

(E) the Director of the Municipal Bond Bank or designee; and

(F) the Director of Efficiency Vermont or designee.

(2) The State Treasurer shall be the Chair of the Advisory Committee and shall appoint a vice chair and secretary. The appointed members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for terms of six years and shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified.

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Committee shall:

(1) meet regularly to review and make recommendations to the State Treasurer on funding priorities and using other mechanisms to increase local investment in the State of Vermont;

(2) invite regularly State organizations and citizens groups to Advisory Committee meetings to present information on needs for local investment, capital gaps, and proposals for financing; and

(3) consult with constituents and review feedback on changes and needs

in the local and State investment and financing environments.

(d) Meetings. The Advisory Committee shall meet no more than six times per calendar year. The meetings shall be convened by the State Treasurer.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Ways and Means and on Government Operations. The report shall include the following:

(1) the amount of the subsidies associated with lending through each credit facility authorized by the General Assembly and established by the Treasurer;

(2) a description of the Advisory Committee's activities; and

(3) any information gathered by the Advisory Committee on the State's unmet capital needs, and other opportunities for State support for local investment and the community.

(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee report described in subsection (e) of this section that is due on or before January 15, 2015 shall include a recommendation on whether to grant statutory authority to the Vermont Economic Development Authority to engage in banking activities.

* * * Vermont Enterprise Fund * * *

Sec. 27. VERMONT ENTERPRISE FUND

(a) There is created a Vermont Enterprise Fund, the sums of which may be used by the Governor, with the approval of the Emergency Board, for the purpose of making economic and financial resources available to businesses facing circumstances that necessitate State government support and response more rapidly than would otherwise be available from, or that would be in addition to, other economic incentives.

(b)(1) The Fund shall be administered by the Commissioner of Finance and Management as a special fund under the provisions of chapter 7, subchapter 5 of this title.

(2) The Fund shall contain any amounts transferred or appropriated to it by the General Assembly.

(3) Interest earned on the Fund and any balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the Fund.

(4) The Commissioner shall maintain records that indicate the amount of

money in the Fund at any given time.

(c) The Governor is authorized to use amounts available in the Fund to offer economic and financial resources to an eligible business pursuant to this section, subject to approval by the Emergency Board as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

(d) To be eligible for an investment through the Fund, the Governor shall determine that a business:

(1) adequately demonstrates:

(A) a substantial statewide or regional economic or employment impact; or

(B) approval or eligibility for other economic development incentives and programs offered by the State of Vermont; and

(2) is experiencing one or more of the following circumstances:

(A) a merger or acquisition may cause the closing of all or a portion of a Vermont business, or closure or relocation outside Vermont will cause the loss of employment in Vermont;

(B) a prospective purchaser is considering the acquisition of an existing business in Vermont;

(C) an existing employer in Vermont, which is a division or subsidiary of a multistate or multinational company, may be closed or have its employment significantly reduced; or

(D) is considering Vermont for relocation or expansion.

(e)(1) Any economic and financial resources offered by the Governor under this section must be approved by the Emergency Board before an eligible business may receive assistance from the Fund.

(2) The Board shall invite the Chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the Chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to participate in Board deliberations under this section in an advisory capacity.

(3) The Governor or designee, shall present to the Emergency Board for its approval:

(A) information on the company;

(B) the circumstances supporting the offer of economic and financial resources;

(C) a summary of the economic activity proposed or that would be

forgone:

(D) other State incentives and programs offered or involved;

(E) the economic and financial resources offered by the Governor requiring use of monies from the Fund;

(F) employment, investment, and economic impact of Fund support on the employer, including a fiscal cost-benefit analysis; and

(G) terms and conditions of the economic and financial resources offered, including:

(i) the total dollar amount and form of the economic and financial resources offered;

(ii) employment creation, employment retention, and capital investment performance requirements; and

(iii) disallowance and recapture provisions.

(4) The Emergency Board shall have the authority to approve, disapprove, or modify an offer of economic and financial resources in its discretion, including consideration of the following:

(A) whether the business has presented sufficient documentation to demonstrate compliance with subsection (d) of this section;

(B) whether the Governor has presented sufficient information to the Board under subdivision (3) of this subsection (e);

(C) whether the business has received other State resources and incentives, and if so, the type and amount; and

(D) whether the business and the Governor have made available to the Board sufficient information and documentation for the Auditor of Accounts to perform an adequate performance audit of the program, including the extent to which necessary information or documentation is or will be withheld under a claim that it is confidential, proprietary, or subject to executive privilege.

(f)(1) Proprietary business information and materials or other confidential financial information submitted by a business to the State, or submitted by the Governor to the Emergency Board, for the purpose of negotiating or approving economic and financial resources under this section shall not be subject to public disclosure under the State's public records law in 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, but shall be available to the Joint Fiscal Office or its agent upon authorization of the Chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee, and shall also be available to the Auditor of Accounts in connection with the performance of duties under

section 163 of this title; provided, however, that the Joint Fiscal Office or its agent, and the Auditor of Accounts, shall not disclose, directly or indirectly, to any person any proprietary business or other confidential information or any information which would identify a business except in accordance with a judicial order or as otherwise specifically provided by law.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the publication of statistical information, rulings, determinations, reports, opinions, policies, or other information so long as the data are disclosed in a form that cannot identify or be associated with a particular business.

(g) On or before January 15 of each year following a year in which economic and financial resources were made available pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall submit to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means and to the Senate Committees on Finance and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report on the resources made available pursuant to this section, including:

(1) the name of the recipient;

(2) the amount and type of the resources;

(3) the aggregate number of jobs created or retained as a result of the resources;

(4) a statement of costs and benefits to the State; and

(5) whether any offer of resources was disallowed or recaptured.

(h) This section shall sunset on June 30, 2016 and any remaining balance in the Fund shall be transferred to the General Fund.

Sec. 28. CONTINGENT FISCAL YEAR 2014 APPROPRIATION

(a) After satisfying the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 308, and after other reserve requirements have been met and prior to any funds reserved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 308c, any remaining unreserved and undesignated end of fiscal year General Fund surplus up to \$5,000,000 shall be appropriated to the extent available, in the following order:

(1) \$500,000 to the Vermont Economic Development Authority for loan loss reserves within the Vermont Entrepreneurial Lending Program for the purposes specified in 10 V.S.A. § 280bb as amended by S.220 of 2014;

(2) \$4,500,000 to the Vermont Enterprise Fund for the purposes specified in Sec. E.100.5 of this act.

* * * Telecommunications; Legislative Purpose; Intent * * *

Sec. 29. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE; FINDINGS

It is the intent of the General Assembly to maintain a robust and modern telecommunications network in Vermont by making strategic investments in improved technology for all Vermonters. To achieve that goal, it is the purpose of this act to upgrade the State's telecommunications objectives and reorganize government functions in a manner that results in more coordinated and efficient State programs and policies, and, ultimately, produces operational savings that may be invested in further deployment of broadband and mobile telecommunications services for the benefit of all Vermonters. In addition, it is the intent of the General Assembly to update and provide for a more equitable application of the Universal Service Fund (USF) surcharge. Together, these operational savings and additional USF monies will raise at least \$1.45 million annually, as follows:

(1) \$650,000.00 from an increase in the USF charge to a flat two percent;

(2) \$500,000.00 from application of the USF charge to prepaid wireless telecommunications service providers; and

(3) \$300,000.00 in operational savings from the transfer and consolidation of State telecommunications functions.

* * * USF; Connectivity Fund; Prepaid Wireless; Rate of Charge * * *

Sec. 30. 30 V.S.A. § 7511 is amended to read:

§ 7511. DISTRIBUTION GENERALLY

(a) As directed by the ~~public service board~~, Public Service Board funds collected by the fiscal agent, and interest accruing thereon, shall be distributed as follows:

(1) ~~To~~ to pay costs payable to the fiscal agent under its contract with the ~~public service board~~. Board;

(2) ~~To~~ to support the Vermont telecommunications relay service in the manner provided by section 7512 of this title;

(3) ~~To~~ to support the Vermont ~~lifeline~~ Lifeline program in the manner provided by section 7513 of this title;

(4) ~~To~~ to support ~~enhanced-911~~ Enhanced-911 services in the manner provided by section 7514 of this title; and

(5) ~~To reduce the cost to customers of basic telecommunications service in high-cost areas, in the manner provided by section 7515 of this title to~~ support the Connectivity Fund established in section 7516 of this chapter.

(b) If insufficient funds exist to support all of the purposes contained in subsection (a) of this section, the ~~public service board~~ Board shall conduct an expedited proceeding to allocate the available funds, giving priority in the order listed in subsection (a).

Sec. 31. 30 V.S.A. § 7516 is added to read:

§ 7516. CONNECTIVITY FUND

(a) There is created a Connectivity Fund for the purpose of providing access to Internet service that is capable of speeds of at least 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to every E-911 business and residential location in Vermont, beginning with locations not served as of December 31, 2013 according to the minimum technical service characteristic objectives applicable at that time. Within this category of unserved Vermonters, priority shall be given to locations having access to only satellite or dial-up Internet service. Any new services funded in whole or in part by monies in this Fund shall be capable of being continuously upgraded to reflect the best available, most economically feasible service capabilities.

(b) The fiscal agent shall determine annually, on or before September 1, the amount of funds available to the Connectivity Fund. The Department of Public Service shall publish annually a list of census blocks eligible for funding based on the Department's most recent broadband mapping data. The Department annually shall solicit proposals from service providers, the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, and the Division for Connectivity to deploy broadband to eligible census blocks. The Department shall give priority to proposals that reflect the lowest cost of providing services to unserved locations; however, the Department also shall consider:

(1) the proposed data transfer rates and other data transmission characteristics of services that would be available to consumers;

(2) the price to consumers of services;

(3) the proposed cost to consumers of any new construction, equipment installation service, or facility required to obtain service;

(4) whether the proposal would use the best available technology that is economically feasible;

(5) the availability of service of comparable quality and speed; and

(6) the objectives of the State's Telecommunications Plan.

Sec. 32. 30 V.S.A. § 7521 is amended to read:

§ 7521. CHARGE IMPOSED; WHOLESAL EXEMPTION

(a) A universal service charge is imposed on all retail telecommunications service provided to a Vermont address. Where the location of a service and the location receiving the bill differ, the location of the service shall be used to determine whether the charge applies. The charge is imposed on the person purchasing the service, but shall be collected by the telecommunications provider. Each telecommunications service provider shall include in its tariffs filed at the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board a description of its billing procedures for the universal service fund charge.

(b) The universal service charge shall not apply to wholesale transactions between telecommunications service providers where the service is a component part of a service provided to an end user. This exemption includes, ~~but is not limited to,~~ network access charges and interconnection charges paid to a local exchange carrier.

(c) In the case of mobile telecommunications service, the universal service charge is imposed when the customer's place of primary use is in Vermont. The terms "customer," "place of primary use," and "mobile telecommunications service" have the meanings given in 4 U.S.C. § 124. All provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 9782 shall apply to the imposition of the universal service charge under this section.

(d)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in the case of prepaid wireless telecommunications services, the universal service charge shall be imposed on the provider in the manner determined by the Public Service Board pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(2) As used in this subsection, "prepaid wireless telecommunications service" means a telecommunications service as defined in section 203(5) of this title that a consumer pays for in advance and that is sold in predetermined units or dollars that decline with use.

(3) The Public Service Board shall establish a formula to ensure the universal service charge imposed on prepaid wireless telecommunications service providers reflects two percent of retail prepaid wireless telecommunications service in Vermont beginning on September 1, 2014.

Sec. 33. 30 V.S.A. § 7523 is amended to read:

§ 7523. RATE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY OF CHARGE

~~(a) Annually, after considering the probable expenditures for programs funded pursuant to this chapter, the probable service revenues of the industry and seeking recommendations from the department, the public service board shall establish a rate of charge to apply during the 12 months beginning on the following September 1. However, the rate so established shall not at any time~~

~~exceed two percent of retail telecommunications service. The board's decision shall be entered and announced each year before July 15. However, if the general assembly does not enact an authorization amount for E-911 before July 15, the board may defer decision until 30 days after the E-911 authorization is established, and the existing charge rate shall remain in effect until the board establishes a new rate.~~ Beginning on July 1, 2014, the annual rate of charge shall be two percent of retail telecommunications service.

(b) Universal service charges imposed and collected by the fiscal agent under this subchapter shall not be transferred to any other fund or used to support the cost of any activity other than in the manner authorized by section 7511 of this title.

Sec. 34. 30 V.S.A. § 7524 is amended to read:

§ 7524. PAYMENT TO FISCAL AGENT

(a) Telecommunications service providers shall pay to the fiscal agent all universal service charge receipts collected from customers. A report in a form approved by ~~the public service board~~ Public Service Board shall be included with each payment.

(b) Payments shall be made monthly, by the 15th day of the month, and shall be based upon amounts collected in the preceding month. If the amount is small, the ~~board~~ Board may allow payment to be made less frequently, and may permit payment on an accrual basis.

(c) Telecommunications service providers shall maintain records adequate to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this chapter. The ~~board~~ Board or the fiscal agent may examine those records in a reasonable manner.

(d) When a payment is due under this section by a telecommunications service provider who has provided customer credits under the ~~lifeline~~ Lifeline program, the amount due may be reduced by the amount of credit granted.

(e) The fiscal agent shall examine the records of telecommunications service providers to determine whether their receipts reflect application of the universal service charge on all assessable telecommunications services under this chapter, including the federal subscriber line charge, directory assistance, enhanced services unless they are billed as separate line items, and toll-related services.

* * * State Telecommunications Plan; Division for Connectivity; VTA * * *

Sec. 35. 30 V.S.A. § 202c is amended to read:

§ 202c. STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS; POLICY AND PLANNING

(a) The General Assembly finds that advances in telecommunications

technology and changes in federal regulatory policy are rapidly reshaping telecommunications services, thereby promising the people and businesses of the State communication and access to information, while creating new challenges for maintaining a robust, modern telecommunications network in Vermont.

(b) Therefore, to direct the benefits of improved telecommunications technology to all Vermonters, it is the purpose of this section and section 202d of this title to:

(1) ~~Strengthen~~ strengthen the State's role in telecommunications planning-;

(2) ~~Support~~ support the universal availability of appropriate infrastructure and affordable services for transmitting voice and high-speed data-;

(3) ~~Support~~ support the availability of modern mobile wireless telecommunications services along the State's travel corridors and in the State's communities-;

(4) ~~Provide~~ provide for high-quality, reliable telecommunications services for Vermont businesses and residents-;

(5) ~~Provide~~ provide the benefits of future advances in telecommunications technologies to Vermont residents and businesses-;

(6) ~~Support~~ support competitive choice for consumers among telecommunications service providers and promote open access among competitive service providers on nondiscriminatory terms to networks over which broadband and telecommunications services are delivered-;

(7) ~~Support, to the extent practical and cost-effective,~~ support the application of telecommunications technology to maintain and improve governmental and public services, public safety, and the economic development of the State-;

(8) ~~Support~~ support deployment of broadband infrastructure that:

(A) ~~Uses~~ uses the best commercially available technology-; and

(B) ~~Does~~ does not negatively affect the ability of Vermont to take advantage of future improvements in broadband technology or result in widespread installation of technology that becomes outmoded within a short period after installation-; and

(9) ~~In~~ in the deployment of broadband infrastructure, encourage the use of existing facilities, such as existing utility poles and corridors and other structures, in preference to the construction of new facilities or the replacement

of existing structures with taller structures.

(10) support measures designed to ensure that by the end of the year 2024 every E-911 business and residential location in Vermont has infrastructure capable of delivering Internet access with service that has a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps and is symmetrical.

Sec. 36. 30 V.S.A. § 202d is amended to read:

§ 202d. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

(a) ~~The department of public service~~ Department of Public Service shall constitute the responsible planning agency of the ~~state~~ State for the purpose of obtaining for all consumers in the ~~state~~ State stable and predictable rates and a technologically advanced telecommunications network serving all service areas in the ~~state~~ State. ~~The department of public service~~ Department shall be responsible for the provision of plans for meeting emerging trends related to telecommunications technology, markets, financing, and competition.

(b) ~~The department of public service~~ Department shall prepare a ~~telecommunications plan~~ Telecommunications Plan for the ~~state~~ State. ~~The department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and Information, the Division for Connectivity and ~~the agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall assist the ~~department of public service~~ Department of Public Service in preparing the ~~plan~~ Plan. The ~~plan~~ Plan shall be for a ~~seven-year~~ ten-year period and shall serve as a basis for ~~state~~ State telecommunications policy. Prior to preparing the ~~plan~~ Plan, the ~~department of public service~~ Department shall prepare:

(1) an overview, looking ~~seven~~ ten years ahead, of future requirements for telecommunications services, considering services needed for economic development, technological advances, and other trends and factors which, as determined by the ~~department of public service~~ Department of Public Service, will significantly affect ~~state~~ State telecommunications policy and programs;

(2) a survey of Vermont residents and businesses, conducted in cooperation with the ~~agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Division for Connectivity, to determine what telecommunications services are needed now and in the succeeding ~~seven~~ ten years;

(3) an assessment of the current state of telecommunications infrastructure;

(4) an assessment, conducted in cooperation with the ~~department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and Information and the

Division for Connectivity, of the current ~~state~~ State telecommunications system and evaluation of alternative proposals for upgrading the system to provide the best available and affordable technology for use by government; and

(5) an assessment of the state of telecommunications networks and services in Vermont relative to other states, including price comparisons for key services and comparisons of the state of technology deployment.

(c) In developing the ~~plan~~ Plan, the ~~department~~ Department shall take into account the policies and goals of section 202c of this title.

(d) In establishing plans, public hearings shall be held and the ~~department of public service~~ Department shall consult with members of the public, representatives of telecommunications utilities, other providers, and other interested ~~state~~ State agencies, particularly the ~~agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Division for Connectivity, and the ~~department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and Information, whose views shall be considered in preparation of the ~~plan~~ Plan. To the extent necessary, the ~~department of public service~~ Department shall include in the ~~plan~~ Plan surveys to determine existing, needed, and desirable plant improvements and extensions, access and coordination between telecommunications providers, methods of operations, and any change that will produce better service or reduce costs. To this end, the ~~department of public service~~ Department may require the submission of data by each company subject to supervision by the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board.

(e) Before adopting a ~~plan~~ Plan, the ~~department~~ Department shall conduct public hearings on a final draft and shall consider the testimony presented at such hearings in preparing the final ~~plan~~ Plan. At least one hearing shall be held jointly with ~~committees~~ Committees of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly designated by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly for this purpose. The ~~plan~~ Plan shall be adopted by ~~September 1, 2004~~ September 1, 2014.

(f) The ~~department~~ Department, from time to time, but in no event less than every three years, institute proceedings to review a ~~plan~~ Plan and make revisions, where necessary. The three-year major review shall be made according to the procedures established in this section for initial adoption of the ~~plan~~ Plan. For good cause or upon request by a ~~joint resolution~~ Joint Resolution passed by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, an interim review and revision of any section of the ~~plan~~ Plan may be made after conducting public hearings on the interim revision. At least one hearing shall be held jointly with ~~committees~~ Committees of the ~~general assembly~~ General

Assembly designated by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly for this purpose.

(g) The Department shall review and update the minimum technical service characteristic objectives not less than every three years beginning in 2017. In the event such review is conducted separately from an update of the Plan, the Department shall issue revised minimum technical service characteristic objectives as an amendment to the Plan.

Sec. 37. 3 V.S.A. § 2225 is added to read:

§ 2225. DIVISION FOR CONNECTIVITY

(a) Creation. The Division for Connectivity is created within the Agency of Administration as the successor in interest to and the continuation of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority. A Director for Connectivity shall be appointed by the Secretary of Administration. The Division shall receive administrative support from the Agency.

(b) Purposes. The purposes of the Division are to promote:

(1) access to affordable broadband service to all residences and businesses in all regions of the State, to be achieved in a manner that is consistent with the State Telecommunications Plan;

(2) universal availability of mobile telecommunication services, including voice and high-speed data along roadways, and near universal availability statewide;

(3) investment in telecommunications infrastructure in the State that creates or completes the network for service providers to create last-mile connection to the home or business and supports the best available and economically feasible service capabilities;

(4) the continuous upgrading of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure in all areas of the State is to reflect the rapid evolution in the capabilities of available mobile telecommunications and broadband technologies, and in the capabilities of mobile telecommunications and broadband services needed by persons, businesses, and institutions in the State; and

(5) the most efficient use of both public and private resources through State policies by encouraging the development of open access telecommunications infrastructure that can be shared by multiple service providers.

(c) Duties. To achieve its purposes, the Division shall:

(1) provide resources to local, regional, public, and private entities in the

form of grants, technical assistance, coordination, and other incentives;

(2) prioritize the use of existing buildings and structures, historic or otherwise, as sites for visually-neutral placement of mobile telecommunications and wireless broadband antenna facilities;

(3) inventory and assess the potential to use federal radio frequency licenses held by instrumentalities of the State to enable broadband service in unserved areas of the State; take steps to promote the use of those licensed radio frequencies for that purpose; and recommend to the General Assembly any further legislative measures with respect to ownership, management, and use of these licenses as would promote the general good of the State.

(4) coordinate telecommunications initiatives among Executive Branch agencies, departments, and offices.

(5) from information reasonably available after public notice to and written requests made of mobile telecommunications and broadband service providers, develop and maintain an inventory of locations at which mobile telecommunications and broadband services are not available within the State, develop and maintain an inventory of infrastructure that is available or reasonably likely to be available to support the provision of services to unserved areas, and develop and maintain an inventory of infrastructure necessary for the provision of these services to the unserved areas;

(6) identify the types and locations of infrastructure and services needed to carry out the purposes stated in subsection (b) of this section;

(7) formulate an action plan that conforms with the State Telecommunications Plan and carries out the purposes stated in subsection (b) of this section;

(8) coordinate the agencies of the State to make public resources available to support the extension of mobile telecommunications and broadband infrastructure and services to all unserved areas;

(9) support and facilitate initiatives to extend the availability of mobile telecommunications and broadband services, and promote development of the infrastructure that enables the provision of these services;

(10) through the Department of Innovation and Information, aggregate and broker access at reduced prices to services and facilities required to provide wireless telecommunications and broadband services; and waive or reduce State fees for access to State-owned rights-of-way in exchange for comparable value to the State, unless payment for use is otherwise required by federal law; and

(11) receive all technical and administrative assistance as deemed

necessary by the Director for Connectivity.

(d)(1) Deployment. The Director may request voluntary disclosure of information regarding deployment of broadband, telecommunications facilities, or advanced metering infrastructure that is not publicly funded. Such information may include data identifying projected coverage areas, projected average speed of service, service type, and the anticipated date of completion in addition to identifying the location and routes of proposed cables, wires, and telecommunications facilities.

(2) The Director may enter into a nondisclosure agreement with respect to any voluntary disclosures under this subsection and the information disclosed pursuant thereto shall remain confidential. Alternatively, entities that voluntarily provide information requested under this subsection may select a third party to be the recipient of such information. The third party may aggregate information provided by the entities, but shall not disclose the information it has received to any person, including the Director. The third party shall only disclose the aggregated information to the Director. The Director may publicly disclose aggregated information based upon the information provided under this subsection. The confidentiality requirements of this subsection shall not affect whether information provided to any agency of the State or a political subdivision of the State pursuant to other laws is or is not subject to disclosure.

(e) Minimum technical service characteristics. The Division only shall promote the expansion of broadband services that offer actual speeds that meet or exceed the minimum technical service characteristic objectives contained in the State's Telecommunications Plan.

(f) Annual Report. Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before January 15 of each year, the Director shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the General Assembly. Each report shall include an operating and financial statement covering the Division's operations during the year, including a summary of all grant awards and contracts and agreements entered into by the Division, as well as the action plan required under subdivision (c)(7) of this section. In addition, the report shall include an accurate map and narrative description of each of the following:

(1) the areas served and the areas not served by wireless communications service, as identified by the Department of Public Service, and cost estimates for providing such service to unserved areas;

(2) the areas served and the areas not served by broadband that has a download speed of at least 0.768 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 0.2 Mbps, as identified by the Department of Public Service, and cost estimates

for providing such service to unserved areas;

(3) the areas served and the areas not served by broadband that has a combined download and upload speed of at least 5 Mbps, as identified by the Department of Public Service, and the costs for providing such service to unserved areas; and

(4) the areas served and the areas not served by broadband that has a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and is symmetrical, as identified by the Department of Public Service, and the costs for providing such service to unserved areas.

Sec. 38. REPEAL

3 V.S.A. § 2222b (Secretary of Administration responsible for coordination and planning); 3 V.S.A. § 2222c (Secretary of Administration to prepare deployment report); 30 V.S.A. § 8077 (minimum technical service characteristics); and 30 V.S.A. § 8079 (broadband infrastructure investment) are repealed.

Sec. 39. CREATION OF POSITIONS; TRANSFER OF VACANT POSITIONS; REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

(a) The following exempt positions are created within the Division for Connectivity: one full-time Director and up to six additional full-time employees as deemed necessary by the Secretary of Administration.

(b) The positions created under subsection (a) of this section shall only be filled to the extent there are existing vacant positions in the Executive Branch available to be transferred and converted to the new positions in the Division for Connectivity, as determined by the Secretary of Administration and the Commissioner of Human Resources, so that the total number of authorized positions in the State shall not be increased by this act.

(c) All full-time personnel of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority employed by the Authority on the day immediately preceding the effective date of this act, who do not obtain a position in the Division for Connectivity pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall be entitled to the same reemployment or recall rights available to nonmanagement State employees under the existing collective bargaining agreement entered into between the State and the Vermont State Employees' Association.

Sec. 40. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

(a) Personnel. The Secretary of Administration shall determine where the offices of the Division for Connectivity shall be housed.

(b) Assets and liabilities. The assets and liabilities of the Vermont

Telecommunications Authority (VTA) shall become the assets and liabilities of the Agency of Administration.

(c) Legal and contractual obligations. The Executive Director of the VTA, in consultation with the Secretary of Administration, shall identify all grants and contracts of the VTA and create a plan to redesignate the Agency of Administration as the responsible entity. The plan shall ensure that all existing grantors, grantees, and contractors are notified of the redesignation.

* * * Conduit Standards; Public Highways * * *

Sec. 41. 3 V.S.A. § 2226 is added to read:

§ 2226. PUBLIC HIGHWAYS; CONDUIT STANDARDS

(a) Intent. The intent of this section is to provide for the construction of infrastructure sufficient to allow telecommunications service providers seeking to deploy communication lines in the future to do so by pulling the lines through the conduit and appurtenances installed pursuant to this section. This section is intended to require those constructing public highways, including State, municipal, and private developers, to provide and install such conduit and appurtenances as may be necessary to accommodate future telecommunications needs within public highways and rights-of-way without further excavation or disturbance.

(b) Rules; standards. On or before January 1, 2015, the Secretary of Administration, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Service, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, shall adopt rules requiring the installation of conduit and such vaults and other appurtenances as may be necessary to accommodate installation and connection of telecommunications lines within the conduit during highway construction projects. The rules shall specify construction standards with due consideration given to existing and anticipated technologies and industry standards. The standards shall specify the minimum diameter of the conduit and interducts to meet the requirements of this section. All conduit and appurtenances installed by private parties under this section shall be conveyed and dedicated to the State or the municipality, as the case may be, with the dedication and conveyance of the public highway or right-of-way. Any and all installation costs shall be the responsibility of the party constructing the public highway.

* * * Extension of 248a; Automatic Party Status * * *

Sec. 42. 30 V.S.A. § 248a is amended to read:

§ 248a. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

(a) Certificate. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the applicant seeks approval for the construction or installation of telecommunications facilities that are to be interconnected with other telecommunications facilities proposed or already in existence, the applicant may obtain a certificate of public good issued by the Public Service Board under this section, which the Board may grant if it finds that the facilities will promote the general good of the State consistent with ~~subsection 202e(b) of this title~~ the State Telecommunications Plan. A single application may seek approval of one or more telecommunications facilities. An application under this section shall include a copy of each other State and local permit, certificate, or approval that has been issued for the facility under a statute, ordinance, or bylaw pertaining to the environment or land use.

* * *

(i) Sunset of Board authority. Effective July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016, no new applications for certificates of public good under this section may be considered by the Board.

* * *

(m) Municipal bodies; participation. The legislative body and the planning commission for the municipality in which a telecommunications facility is located shall have the right to appear and participate on any application under this section seeking a certificate of public good for the facility.

Sec. 43. 10 V.S.A. § 1264(j) is amended to read:

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an application to discharge stormwater runoff pertains to a telecommunications facility as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 248a and is filed before July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016 and the discharge will be to a water that is not principally impaired by stormwater runoff:

(1) The Secretary shall issue a decision on the application within 40 days of the date the Secretary determines the application to be complete, if the application seeks authorization under a general permit.

(2) The Secretary shall issue a decision on the application within 60 days of the date the Secretary determines the application to be complete, if the application seeks or requires authorization under an individual permit.

Sec. 44. 10 V.S.A. § 8506 is amended to read:

§ 8506. RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT; TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; APPEALS

(a) Within 30 days of the date of the act or decision, any person aggrieved

by an act or decision of the ~~secretary~~ Secretary, under the provisions of law listed in section 8503 of this title, or any party by right may appeal to the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board if the act or decision concerns a renewable energy plant for which a certificate of public good is required under 30 V.S.A. § 248 or a telecommunications facility for which the applicant has applied or has served notice under 30 V.S.A. § 248a(e) that it will apply for approval under 30 V.S.A. § 248a. This section shall not apply to a facility that is subject to section 1004 (dams before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) or 1006 (certification of hydroelectric projects) or chapter 43 (dams) of this title. This section shall not apply to an appeal of an act or decision of the ~~secretary~~ Secretary regarding a telecommunications facility made on or after July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016.

* * *

Sec. 45. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 53, Sec. 14d is amended to read:

Sec. 14d. **PROSPECTIVE REPEALS; EXEMPTIONS FROM MUNICIPAL BYLAWS AND ORDINANCES**

Effective July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016:

(1) 24 V.S.A. § 4413(h) (limitations on municipal bylaws) shall be repealed; and

(2) 24 V.S.A. § 2291(19) (municipal ordinances; wireless telecommunications facilities) is amended to read:

* * *

Sec. 46. 3 V.S.A. § 2809 is amended to read:

§ 2809. REIMBURSEMENT OF AGENCY COSTS

(a)(1) The Secretary may require an applicant for a permit, license, certification, or order issued under a program that the Secretary enforces under 10 V.S.A. § 8003(a) to pay for the cost of research, scientific, programmatic, or engineering expertise provided by the Agency of Natural Resources, provided:

(A) ~~the~~ The Secretary does not have such expertise or services and such expertise is required for the processing of the application for the permit, license, certification, or order; ~~or~~.

(B) ~~the~~ The Secretary does have such expertise but has made a determination that it is beyond the ~~agency's~~ Agency's internal capacity to effectively utilize that expertise to process the application for the permit, license, certification, or order. In addition, the Secretary shall determine that such expertise is required for the processing of the application for the permit,

license, certification, or order.

(2) The Secretary may require an applicant under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to pay for the time of Agency of Natural Resources personnel providing research, scientific, or engineering services or for the cost of expert witnesses when ~~agency~~ Agency personnel or expert witnesses are required for the processing of the permit application.

(3) In addition to the authority set forth under 10 V.S.A. chapters 59 and 159 and § section 1283, the Secretary may require a person who caused the ~~agency~~ Agency to incur expenditures or a person in violation of a permit, license, certification, or order issued by the Secretary to pay for the time of ~~agency~~ Agency personnel or the cost of other research, scientific, or engineering services incurred by the ~~agency~~ Agency in response to a threat to public health or the environment presented by an emergency or exigent circumstance.

* * *

(g) Concerning an application for a permit to discharge stormwater runoff from a telecommunications facility as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 248a that is filed before July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016:

(1) Under subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the ~~agency~~ Agency shall not require an applicant to pay more than \$10,000.00 with respect to a facility.

(2) The provisions of subsection (c) (mandatory meeting) of this section shall not apply.

* * * Administration Report; E-911; Vermont USF Fiscal Agent; Vermont Communications Board; FirstNet * * *

Sec. 47. ADMINISTRATION REPORT; TRANSFERS AND CONSOLIDATION; VERMONT USF FISCAL AGENT

(a) On January 1, 2015, after receiving input from State and local agencies potentially impacted, the Secretary of Administration shall submit a report to the General Assembly proposing a plan for transferring the responsibilities and powers of the Enhanced 911 Board, including necessary positions, to the Division for Connectivity, the Department of Public Service, or the Department of Public Safety, as he or she deems appropriate. The plan shall include budgetary recommendations and shall strive to achieve annual operational savings of at least \$300,000.00, as well as enhanced coordination and efficiency, and reductions in operational redundancies. The report shall include draft legislation implementing the Secretary's plan. In addition, the report shall include findings and recommendations on whether it would be cost effective to select an existing State agency to serve as fiscal agent to the

Vermont Universal Service Fund.

(b) As part of the report required in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall also make findings and recommendations regarding the status of the Vermont Communications Board, Department of Public Safety, and the Vermont Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (Vermont FirstNet). If not prohibited by federal law, the Secretary shall propose draft legislation creating an advisory board within the Division for Connectivity or the Department of Public Safety comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor to assume functions of the current Enhanced 911 Board, the Vermont Communications Board, and Vermont FirstNet, as the Secretary deems appropriate. Upon establishment of the new advisory board and not later than July 1, 2015, the E-911 Board and the Vermont Communications Board shall cease to exist.

* * * DPS Deployment Report * * *

Sec. 48. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE; DEPLOYMENT REPORT

On July 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Public Service shall submit to the General Assembly a report, including maps, indicating the service type and average speed of service of mobile telecommunications and broadband services available within the State by census block as of June 30, 2015.

* * * VTA; Dormant Status * * *

Sec. 49. 30 V.S.A. § 8060a is added to read:

§ 8060a. PERIOD OF DORMANCY

On July 1, 2015, the Division for Connectivity established under 3 V.S.A. § 2225 shall become the successor in interest to and the continuation of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority, and the Authority shall cease all operations and shall not resume its duties as specified under this chapter or under any other Vermont law unless directed to do so by enactment of the General Assembly or, if the General Assembly is not in session, by order of the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Joint Fiscal Committee shall issue such order only upon finding that, due to an unforeseen change in circumstances, implementation of the Authority's capacity to issue revenue bonds would be the most effective means of furthering the State's telecommunications goals and policies. Upon the effective date of such enactment or order, the duties of the Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Authority shall resume in accordance with 30 V.S.A. chapter 91 and the Director for Connectivity shall be the acting Executive Director of the Authority, until the position is filled pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8061(e).

* * * Telecommunications; CPGs; Annual Renewals;

Retransmission Fees * * *

Sec. 50. 30 V.S.A. § 231 is amended to read:

§ 231. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD; ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE; HEARING

(a) A person, partnership, unincorporated association, or previously incorporated association, which desires to own or operate a business over which the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board has jurisdiction under the provisions of this chapter shall first petition the ~~board~~ Board to determine whether the operation of such business will promote the general good of the ~~state~~, State and conforms with the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable, and shall at that time file a copy of any such petition with the ~~department~~ Department. The ~~department~~ Department, within 12 days, shall review the petition and file a recommendation regarding the petition in the same manner as is set forth in subsection 225(b) of this title. Such recommendation shall set forth reasons why the petition shall be accepted without hearing or shall request that a hearing on the petition be scheduled. If the ~~department~~ Department requests a hearing on the petition, or, if the ~~board~~ Board deems a hearing necessary, it shall appoint a time and place in the county where the proposed corporation is to have its principal office for hearing the petition, and shall make an order for the publication of the substance thereof and the time and place of hearing two weeks successively in a newspaper of general circulation in the county to be served by the petitioner, the last publication to be at least seven days before the day appointed for the hearing. The ~~director for public advocacy~~ Director for Public Advocacy shall represent the public at such hearing. If the ~~board~~ Board finds that the operation of such business will promote the general good of the ~~state~~, State and will conform with the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable, it shall give such person, partnership, unincorporated association or previously incorporated association a certificate of public good specifying the business and territory to be served by such petitioners. For good cause, after opportunity for hearing, the ~~board~~ Board may amend or revoke any certificate awarded under the provisions of this section. If any such certificate is revoked, the person, partnership, unincorporated association, or previously incorporated association shall no longer have authority to conduct any business which is subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~board~~ Board whether or not regulation thereunder has been reduced or suspended, under section 226a or 227a of this title.

(b) A company subject to the general supervision of the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board under section 203 of this title may not abandon or curtail any service subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~board~~ Board or abandon all

or any part of its facilities if it would in doing so effect the abandonment, curtailment or impairment of the service, without first obtaining approval of the ~~public service board~~ Board, after notice and opportunity for hearing, and upon finding by the ~~board~~ Board that the abandonment or curtailment is consistent with the public interest and the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable; provided, however, this section shall not apply to disconnection of service pursuant to valid tariffs or to rules adopted under ~~section~~ subsections 209(b) and (c) of this title.

Sec. 51. 30 V.S.A. § 504 is amended to read:

§ 504. CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC GOOD

(a) Certificates of public good granted under this chapter shall be for a period of 11 years.

(b) Issuance of a certificate shall be after opportunity for hearing and findings by the ~~board~~ Board that the applicant has complied or will comply with requirements adopted by the ~~board~~ Board to ensure that the system provides:

(1) designation of adequate channel capacity and appropriate facilities for public, educational, or governmental use;

(2) adequate and technically sound facilities and equipment, and signal quality;

(3) a reasonably broad range of public, educational, and governmental programming;

(4) the prohibition of discrimination among customers of basic service; ~~and~~

(5) basic service in a competitive market, and if a competitive market does not exist, that the system provides basic service at reasonable rates determined in accordance with section 218 of this title; and

(6) service that conforms with the relevant provisions of the State Telecommunications Plan.

(c) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the ~~board~~ Board shall ~~insure~~ ensure that the system provides or utilizes:

(1) a reasonable quality of service for basic, premium or otherwise, having regard to available technology, subscriber interest, and cost;

(2) construction, including installation, which conforms to all applicable ~~state~~ State and federal laws and regulations and the National Electric Safety Code;

(3) a competent staff sufficient to provide adequate and prompt service and to respond quickly and comprehensively to customer and ~~department~~ Department complaints and problems;

(4) unless waived by the ~~board~~ Board, an office which shall be open during usual business hours, have a listed toll-free telephone so that complaints and requests for repairs or adjustments may be received; and

(5) reasonable rules and policies for line extensions, disconnections, customer deposits, and billing practices.

(d) A certificate granted to a company shall represent nonexclusive authority of that company to build and operate a cable television system to serve customers only within specified geographical boundaries. Extension of service beyond those boundaries may be made pursuant to the criteria in ~~section 504 of this title~~ this section, and the procedures in section 231 of this title.

(e) Subdivision (b)(6) of this section (regarding conformity with the State Telecommunications Plan) shall apply only to certificates that expire or new applications that are filed after the year 2014.

Sec. 52. 30 V.S.A. § 518 is added to read:

§ 518. DISCLOSURE OF RETRANSMISSION FEES

A retransmission agreement entered into between a commercial broadcasting station and a cable company pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 325 shall not include terms prohibiting the company from disclosing to its subscribers any fees incurred for program content retransmitted on the cable network under the retransmission agreement.

* * * Statutory Revision Authority * * *

Sec. 53. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STATUTORY REVISION AUTHORITY; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

(a) The staff of the Office of the Legislative Council in its statutory revision capacity is authorized and directed to amend the Vermont Statutes Annotated as follows:

(1) deleting all references to “by the end of the year 2013” in 30 V.S.A. chapter 91; and

(2) during the interim of the 2015 biennium of the General Assembly, in 30 V.S.A. § 227e, replacing every instance of the words “Secretary of Administration” and “Secretary” with the words “Director for Connectivity” and “Director,” respectively.

(b) Any duties and responsibilities that arise by reference to the Division for Connectivity in the Vermont Statutes Annotated shall not be operative until the Division is established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2225.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 54. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014, except that 16 V.S.A. § 2888(d) in Sec. 22 and Secs. 37, 38, and 39 (regarding the Division for Connectivity) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(For House Proposal of Amendment see House Journal April 30, 2014 Page 1581)

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

S. 40

An act relating to establishing an interim committee that will develop policies to restore the 1980 ratio of state funding to student tuition at Vermont State Colleges and to make higher education more affordable

S. 202

An act relating to the energy efficiency charge

S. 256

An act relating to the solemnization of a marriage by a Judicial Bureau hearing officer

S. 269

An act relating to business consumer protection and data security breaches

S. 316

An act relating to child care providers

**NOTICE CALENDAR
Favorable with Amendment**

H. 673

An act relating to retirement and pension amendments

Rep. Martin of Wolcott, for the Committee on **Government Operations**, recommends the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1944b is added to read:

§ 1944b. RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

FUND

(a) There is established a Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits Fund (Benefits Fund) to pay retired teacher health and medical benefits, including prescription drug benefits, when due in accordance with the terms established by the Board of Trustees of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont pursuant to subsection 1942(p) and subdivision 1944(c)(12) of this title. The Benefits Fund shall be administered by the Treasurer.

(b) The Benefits Fund shall consist of:

(1) all monies remitted to the State on behalf of the members of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont for prescription drug plans pursuant to the Employer Group Waiver Plan with Wrap pursuant to the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003;

(2) any monies appropriated by the General Assembly for the purpose of paying the health and medical benefits for retired members and their dependents provided by subsection 1942(p) and subdivision 1944(c)(12) of this title;

(3) any monies pursuant to subsection (e) of this section;

(4) any monies the General Assembly transfers from the Supplemental Property Tax Relief Fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 6075; and

(5) any monies pursuant to section 1944d of this title.

(c) No employee contributions shall be deposited in the Benefits Fund.

(d) Interest earned shall remain in the Benefits Fund, and all balances remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over to the following year; provided, however, that any amounts received in repayment of interfund loans established under subsection (e) of this section may be reinvested by the State Treasurer.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the State Treasurer is authorized to use interfund loans from the General Fund for payment into the Benefits Fund, which monies shall be identified exclusively for the purposes of payments of retired teacher health and medical benefits pursuant to this section. Any monies borrowed through an interfund loan pursuant to this section shall be paid from monies in the Benefits Fund or from other funds legally available for this purpose. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate sufficient General Fund revenue, after consideration of all other revenue and disbursements, such that the interfund loan may be paid in full on or before June 30, 2023. The Governor shall include in the annual budget

request an amount sufficient to repay any interfund borrowing according to a schedule developed by the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall pay the interest and principal as due in accordance with authority granted under 32 V.S.A. § 902(b). The State Treasurer shall assess a rate of interest on the outstanding balance of the interfund loan comparable to the rate paid by private depositories of the State's monies, or to the yield available on investments made pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433.

(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate the required contributions necessary to pay retired teacher health and medical benefits by combining annual increases in base spending and surplus revenues as they become available, so that the full cost of retired teacher health and medical benefits payments may be met in base appropriations by fiscal year 2024. To the extent that other revenue sources are identified, the General Fund obligation may be reduced, but only after all annual disbursements to repay the interfund loan in subsection (e) of this section are satisfied.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1944 is amended to read:

§ 1944. VERMONT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND

(a) Fund. All of the assets of the system shall be credited to the ~~Vermont teachers' retirement fund~~ Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund.

(b) Member contributions.

(1) Contributions deducted from the compensation of members shall be accumulated in the ~~fund~~ Fund and separately recorded for each member.

(2) The proper authority or officer responsible for making up each employer payroll shall cause to be deducted from the compensation of each group A member five and one-half percent of the member's earnable compensation ~~and~~; from each group C member with at least five years of membership service as of July 1, 2014, five percent of the member's earnable compensation; and from each group C member with less than five years of membership service as of July 1, 2014, six percent of the member's earnable compensation, including compensation paid for absence as provided by subsection 1933(d) of this title. In determining the amount earnable by a member in a payroll period, the ~~board~~ Board may consider the rate of compensation payable to such member on the first day of a payroll period as continuing throughout the payroll period, and it may omit deduction from compensation for any period less than a full payroll period if a teacher was not a member on the first day of the payroll period, and to facilitate the making of deductions it may modify the deduction required of any member by such an amount as shall not exceed one-tenth of one percent of the annual earnable compensation upon the basis of which such deduction is made. The actuary

shall make annual valuations of the reduction to the recommended State contribution attributable to the increase from five to six percent, and the Board shall include the amount of this reduction in its written report pursuant to subsection 1942(r) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1944c is added to read:

§ 1944c. EMPLOYER CHARGES FOR FEDERAL GRANTS OR REIMBURSEMENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, effective July 1, 2016, the employer retirement costs and administrative operating expenses related to the retirement plans applicable to those teachers whose funding is provided from federal grants or through federal reimbursement shall be paid by local school systems or educational entities that participate in the Vermont Teachers' Retirement Fund from those federal monies.

(b) The percentage rates to be applied shall be determined by an actuary approved by the Board of Trustees of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont and shall be applied to the total earnable compensation of members prepared by the actuary in compliance with subsection 1942(r) of this title. The Secretary of Education shall annually provide an accounting of federal grants and federal reimbursements, by school system, upon which payment by the participating schools shall be determined.

(c) The State Treasurer and the Secretary of Education shall establish procedures for the collection and deposit of those monies in the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont. The Secretary of Education may delay implementation upon review of the federal grant program to permit timely and accurate claims for reimbursement of retirement expenses under a particular federal program in order to receive funding under that program. The Secretary of Education shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Education regarding progress in implementation of this section.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1944d is added to read:

§ 1944d. EMPLOYER ANNUAL CHARGE FOR TEACHER HEALTH CARE

The employer of teachers who become members of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont on or after July 1, 2015 shall pay an annual assessment for those teachers' health and medical benefits. The assessment shall be the value, as approved annually by the Board of Trustees based on the

actuary's recommendation, of the portion of future retired teachers' health and medical benefits attributable to those teachers for each year of service in the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont. For the year starting on July 1, 2015, the assessment for each teacher becoming a member of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont as of or after that date shall be \$1,072.00, which is based on the June 30, 2013 actuarial valuation.

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B)(ix) is added to read:

(ix) The assessment paid by the employer of teachers who become members of the State Teachers' Retirement System of Vermont on or after July 1, 2015, pursuant to section 1944d of this title.

Sec. 6. RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH AND MEDICAL BENEFITS
TRANSITION COMMITTEE

There is established a Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits Transition Committee to develop recommendations regarding how retired teachers' health and medical benefits will make the transition when the State implements Green Mountain Care. The Committee shall consist of:

- (1) the State Treasurer or designee;
- (2) the Governor or designee;
- (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;
- (4) the Attorney General or designee;
- (5) a representative of the Vermont Retired Teachers' Association;
- (6) a representative of the Vermont School Boards Association; and
- (7) a representative of the Vermont-National Education Association.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act relating to retired teachers' health care costs"

(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)

Rep. Wilson of Manchester, for the Committee on **Ways and Means**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on **Government Operations** and when further amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by striking out "Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the" and inserting in lieu

thereof The, and in the third sentence, by striking out the word “may” after the words “the interfund loan” and inserting in lieu thereof the word shall.

Second: In Sec. 1, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting a new subsection (f) to read: It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate the required contributions necessary to pay retired teacher health and medical benefits by combining annual increases in General Fund appropriations and surplus revenues as they become available, so that the full cost of retired teacher health and medical benefits payments shall be met in General Fund appropriations by fiscal year 2024. The General Fund obligation shall not be reduced until all annual disbursements to repay the interfund loan in subsection (e) of this section are satisfied.

Third: In Sec. 3, in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking out the year “2016” and inserting in lieu thereof the year 2015.

Fourth: In Sec. 4, in the third sentence, after the words “For the,” by inserting the word “fiscal”

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 6 in its entirety.

and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

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

Rep. O'Brien of Richmond, for the Committee on **Appropriations**, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committees on **Government Operations and Ways and Means**.

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

S. 237

An act relating to civil forfeiture proceedings in cases of animal cruelty

Rep. Conquest of Newbury, for the Committee on **Judiciary**, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 13 V.S.A. § 354, in subsection (d), in the second sentence, after the words “motion for forfeiture” by adding, if a criminal charge has been filed, or a petition for forfeiture if no criminal charge has been filed

Second: In Sec. 1, 13V.S.A. § 354, in subdivision (f)(2), after the second sentence by adding “Upon request of the other party or the Court, the party offering an affidavit shall make the affiant available by telephone at the hearing.”

(**Committee vote: 8-0-3**)

(**For text see Senate Journal March 11, 2014**)

Senate Proposal of Amendment

H. 225

An act relating to a statewide policy on the use of and training requirements for electronic control devices

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

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2367 is added to read:

§ 2367. STATEWIDE POLICY; ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES; REPORTING

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Electronic control device” means a device primarily designed to disrupt an individual’s central nervous system by means of deploying electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual’s voluntary motor responses.

(2) “Law enforcement officer” means a sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, capitol police officer, State game warden, State Police officer, constable who exercises law enforcement authority pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1936a and who is trained in compliance with section 2358 of this title, and a certified law enforcement officer employed by a State branch, agency, or department, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of State’s Attorney, the Secretary of State, and the Department of Liquor Control.

(b) On or before January 1, 2015, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board shall establish a statewide policy on the use of and training requirements for the use of electronic control devices. On or before January 1, 2016, every State, local, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall adopt this policy. If a law enforcement agency or officer that is required to adopt a policy pursuant to this subsection fails to do so on or before January 1, 2016, that agency or officer shall be deemed to have adopted, and shall follow and enforce, the model policy established by the Law Enforcement Advisory Board. The policy shall include the following provisions:

(1) Electronic control devices are less-lethal, but not necessarily non-lethal, alternatives to lethal force.

(2) Officers may deploy an electronic control device only:

(A) against subjects who are exhibiting active aggression or who are actively resisting in a manner that, in the officer’s judgment, is likely to result

in injuries to others or themselves; or

(B) if, without further action or intervention by the officer, injuries to the subject or others will likely occur.

(3) Neither an officer, a subject, or a third party has actually to suffer an injury before an officer is permitted to use an electronic control device, and officers are not required to use alternatives that increase the danger to the public or themselves.

(4) When it is safe to do so, officers shall attempt to de-escalate situations and shall provide a warning prior to deploying an electronic control device.

(5) Electronic control devices shall not be used in a punitive or coercive manner and shall not be used to awaken, escort, or gain compliance from passively resisting subjects. The act of fleeing or of destroying evidence, in and of itself, does not justify the use of an electronic control device.

(6) The use of electronic control devices shall comply with all recommendations by manufacturers for the reduction of risk of injury to subjects, including situations where a subject's physical susceptibilities are known.

(7) Electronic control devices shall be used in a manner that recognizes the potential additional risks that can result from situations:

(A) involving persons who are in an emotional crisis that may interfere with their ability to understand the consequences of their actions or to follow directions;

(B) involving persons with disabilities whose disability may impact their ability to communicate with an officer, or respond to an officer's directions; and

(C) involving higher risk populations that may be more susceptible to injury as a result of electronic control devices.

(8) Electronic control devices shall not be used on animals unless necessary to deter vicious or aggressive behavior that threatens the safety of officers or others.

(c) The Criminal Justice Training Council shall adopt rules and develop training to ensure that the policies and standards of this section are met. The Criminal Justice Training Council shall ensure that a law enforcement officer receives appropriate and sufficient training before becoming authorized to carry or use an electronic control device.

(d) On or before June 30, 2017, every State, local, county, and municipal

law enforcement agency that employs one or more certified law enforcement officers shall ensure that all officers have completed the training established in 2004 Acts and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 13(a), and every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall have completed this training.

(e) The Criminal Justice Training Council shall coordinate training initiatives with the Department of Mental Health related to law enforcement interventions, training for joint law enforcement and mental health crisis team responses, and enhanced capacity for mental health emergency responses.

(f) Every State, local, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and every constable who is not employed by a law enforcement agency shall report all incidents involving the use of an electronic control device to the Criminal Justice Training Council in a form to be determined by the Council.

(g) The Law Enforcement Advisory Board shall:

(1) study and make recommendations as to whether officers authorized to carry electronic control devices should be required to wear body cameras;

(2) establish a policy on the calibration and testing of electronic control devices;

(3) on or before January 15, 2015, report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary concerning the recommendations and policy developed pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection; and

(4) on or before April 15, 2015, ensure that all electronic control devices carried or used by law enforcement officers are in compliance with the policy established pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

Sec. 2. REPORTS

(a) On or before January 15, 2015, the Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary on the progress made implementing the rules, training, and certification standards required by this act.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Department of Mental Health shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary on the adequacy of resources to support the requirements of this act.

(c) On or before March 15, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Judiciary all incidents involving the use of an electronic control device, a review of compliance with standards, the adequacy of training and certification requirements, and the adequacy of funding for

mental health collaboration.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(For text see House Journal March 18, 19, 2014)

H. 497

An act relating to the open meeting law

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

Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

§ 310. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Deliberations” means weighing, examining, and discussing the reasons for and against an act or decision, but expressly excludes the taking of evidence and the arguments of parties.

(2) “Meeting” means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a public body for the purpose of discussing the business of the public body or for the purpose of taking action. “Meeting” shall not mean written correspondence or an electronic communication, including e-mail, telephone, or teleconferencing, between members of a public body for the purpose of scheduling a meeting, organizing an agenda, or distributing materials to discuss at a meeting, provided that such a written correspondence or such an electronic communication that results in written or recorded information shall be available for inspection and copying under the Public Records Act as set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title.

(3) “Public body” means any board, council, or commission of the ~~state~~ State or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the ~~state~~ State or one or more of its political subdivisions, or any committee of any of the foregoing boards, councils, or commissions, except that “public body” does not include councils or similar groups established by the ~~governor~~ Governor for the sole purpose of advising the ~~governor~~ Governor with respect to policy.

(4) “Publicly announced” means that notice is given to an editor, publisher, or news director of a newspaper or radio station serving the area of the ~~state~~ State in which the public body has jurisdiction, and to any ~~editor, publisher or news director~~ person who has requested under subdivision 312(c)(5) of this title to be notified of special meetings.

(5) "Quasi-judicial proceeding" means a proceeding which is:

(A) a contested case under the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act; or

(B) a case in which the legal rights of one or more persons who are granted party status are adjudicated, which is conducted in such a way that all parties have opportunity to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses presented by other parties, which results in a written decision, and the result of which is appealable by a party to a higher authority.

Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 312 is amended to read:

§ 312. RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF PUBLIC AGENCIES

(a)(1) All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times, except as provided in section 313 of this title. No resolution, rule, regulation, appointment, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such open meeting, except as provided under ~~section subdivision~~ 313(a)(2) of this title. ~~A meeting may be conducted by audio conference or other electronic means, as long as the provisions of this subchapter are met. A meeting of a public body is subject to the public accommodation requirements of 9 V.S.A. chapter 139. A public body shall electronically record by audio tape, all public hearings held to provide a forum for public comment on a proposed rule, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 840. The public shall have access to copies of such tapes~~ electronic recordings as described in section 316 of this title.

(2) Participation in meetings through electronic or other means.

(A) As long as the requirements of this subchapter are met, one or more of the members of a public body may attend a regular, special, or emergency meeting by electronic or other means without being physically present at a designated meeting location.

(B) If one or more members attend a meeting by electronic or other means, such members may fully participate in discussing the business of the public body and voting to take an action, but any vote of the public body shall be taken by roll call.

(C) Each member who attends a meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location shall:

(i) identify himself or herself when the meeting is convened; and

(ii) be able to hear the conduct of the meeting and be heard throughout the meeting.

(D) If a quorum or more of the members of a public body attend a

meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the following additional requirements shall be met:

(i) At least 24 hours prior to the meeting, or as soon as practicable prior to an emergency meeting, the public body shall publicly announce the meeting, and a municipal public body shall post notice of the meeting in or near the municipal clerk's office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality.

(ii) The public announcement and posted notice of the meeting shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the public body, or at least one staff or designee of the public body, shall be physically present at each designated meeting location.

(b)(1) Minutes shall be taken of all meetings of public bodies. The minutes shall cover all topics and motions that arise at the meeting and give a true indication of the business of the meeting. Minutes shall include at least the following minimal information:

(A) All members of the public body present;

(B) All other active participants in the meeting;

(C) All motions, proposals, and resolutions made, offered, and considered, and what disposition is made of same; and

(D) The results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

(2) Minutes of all public meetings shall be matters of public record, shall be kept by the clerk or secretary of the public body, and shall be available for inspection by any person and for purchase of copies at cost upon request after five days from the date of any meeting. Meeting minutes shall be posted no later than five days from the date of the meeting to a website, if one exists, that the public body maintains or has designated as the official website of the body.

(c)(1) The time and place of all regular meetings subject to this section shall be clearly designated by statute, charter, regulation, ordinance, bylaw, resolution, or other determining authority of the public body, and this information shall be available to any person upon request. The time and place of all public hearings and meetings scheduled by all Executive Branch State agencies, departments, boards, or commissions shall be available to the public as required under 3 V.S.A. § 2222(c).

(2) The time, place, and purpose of a special meeting subject to this section shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Municipal public bodies shall post notices of special meetings in or near the municipal clerk's office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality, at least 24 hours before the meeting. In addition, notice shall be given, either orally or in writing, to each member of the public body at least 24 hours before the meeting, except that a member may waive notice of a special meeting.

(3) Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement, without posting of notices and without 24-hour notice to members, provided some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the public body.

(4) Any adjourned meeting shall be considered a new meeting, unless the time and place for the adjourned meeting is announced before the meeting adjourns.

(5) ~~An editor, publisher or news director of any newspaper, radio station or television station serving the area of the state in which the public body has jurisdiction~~ A person may request in writing that a public body notify the ~~editor, publisher or news director~~ person of special meetings of the public body. The request shall apply only to the calendar year in which it is made, unless made in December, in which case it shall apply also to the following year.

~~(d)(1) The~~ At least 48 hours prior to a regular meeting, and at least 24 hours prior to a special meeting, a meeting agenda for a regular or special meeting shall be:

(A) posted to a website, if one exists, that the public body maintains or designates as the official website of the body; and

(B) in the case of a municipal public body, posted in or near the municipal office and in at least two other designated public places in the municipality.

(2) A meeting agenda shall be made available to the news media or concerned persons a person prior to the meeting upon specific request.

(3)(A) Any addition to or deletion from the agenda shall be made as the first act of business at the meeting.

(B) Any other adjustment to the agenda may be made at any time during the meeting.

(e) Nothing in this section or in section 313 of this title shall be construed as extending to the ~~judicial branch~~ Judicial Branch of the ~~government~~

Government of Vermont or of any part of the same or to the ~~public-service board~~ Public Service Board; nor shall it extend to the deliberations of any public body in connection with a quasi-judicial proceeding; nor shall anything in this section be construed to require the making public of any proceedings, records, or acts which are specifically made confidential by the laws of the United States of America or of this ~~state~~ State.

(f) A written decision issued by a public body in connection with a quasi-judicial proceeding need not be adopted at an open meeting if the decision will be a public record.

(g) The provisions of this subchapter shall not apply to site inspections for the purpose of assessing damage or making tax assessments or abatements, clerical work, or work assignments of staff or other personnel. Routine, day-to-day administrative matters that do not require action by the public body, may be conducted outside a duly warned meeting, provided that no money is appropriated, expended, or encumbered.

(h) At an open meeting the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the public body during the meeting as long as order is maintained. Public comment shall be subject to reasonable rules established by the chairperson. This subsection shall not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the ~~parole board~~ Parole Board from meeting at correctional facilities with attendance at the meeting subject to rules regarding access and security established by the superintendent of the facility.

Sec. 3. 1 V.S.A. § 313 is amended to read:

§ 313. EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

(a) No public body ~~described in section 312 of this title~~ may hold an executive session from which the public is excluded, except by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members present in the case of any public body of State government or of a majority of its members present in the case of any public body of a municipality or other political subdivision. A motion to go into executive session shall indicate the nature of the business of the executive session, and no other matter may be considered in the executive session. Such vote shall be taken in the course of an open meeting and the result of the vote recorded in the minutes. No formal or binding action shall be taken in executive session except for actions relating to the securing of real estate options under subdivision (2) of this subsection. Minutes of an executive session need not be taken, but if they are, shall not be made public subject to subsection 312(b) of this title. A public body may not hold an executive

session except to consider one or more of the following:

(1) ~~Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where~~ after making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality, other public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage;

(A) contracts;

(B) labor relations agreements with employees;

(C) arbitration or mediation;

(D) grievances, other than tax grievances;

(E) pending or probable civil litigation or a prosecution, to which the public body is or may be a party;

(F) confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body;

(2) ~~The~~ the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options;

(3) ~~The~~ the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee other than the appointment of a person to a public body or to any elected office;

(4) A a disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee; but nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair the right of such officer or employee to a public hearing if formal charges are brought;

(5) A a clear and imminent peril to the public safety;

(6) ~~Discussion or consideration of records or documents excepted records exempt~~ from the access to public records provisions of section 317 316 of this title. Discussion or consideration of the exempt record or document; provided, however, that discussion of the exempt record shall not itself permit an extension of the executive session to the general subject to which the record or document pertains;

(7) ~~The~~ the academic records or suspension or discipline of students;

(8) ~~Testimony~~ testimony from a person in a parole proceeding conducted by the Parole Board if public disclosure of the identity of the person could result in physical or other harm to the person;

(9) ~~Information~~ information relating to a pharmaceutical rebate or to supplemental rebate agreements, which is protected from disclosure by federal

law or the terms and conditions required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a condition of rebate authorization under the Medicaid program, considered pursuant to 33 V.S.A. §§ 1998(f)(2) and 2002(c);

(10) municipal or school security or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety.

* * *

Sec. 4. 1 V.S.A. § 314 is amended to read:

§ 314. PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

(a) A person who is a member of a public body and who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of this subchapter, a person who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of this subchapter on behalf or at the behest of a public body, or a person who knowingly and intentionally participates in the wrongful exclusion of any person or persons from any meeting for which provision is herein made, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$500.00.

(b)(1) ~~The attorney general~~ Prior to instituting an action under subsection (c) of this section, the Attorney General or any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this subchapter shall provide the public body written notice that alleges a specific violation of this subchapter and requests a specific cure of such violation. The public body will not be liable for attorney's fees and litigation costs under subsection (d) of this section if it cures in fact a violation of this subchapter in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) Upon receipt of the written notice of alleged violation, the public body shall respond publicly to the alleged violation within seven business days by:

(A) acknowledging the violation of this subchapter and stating an intent to cure the violation within 14 calendar days; or

(B) stating that the public body has determined that no violation has occurred and that no cure is necessary.

(3) Failure of a public body to respond to a written notice of alleged violation within seven business days shall be treated as a denial of the violation for purposes of enforcement of the requirements of this subchapter.

(4) Within 14 calendar days after a public body acknowledges a violation under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection, the public body shall cure the violation at an open meeting by:

(A) either ratifying, or declaring as void, any action taken at or resulting from a meeting in violation of this subchapter; and

(B) adopting specific measures that actually prevent future violations.

(c) Following an acknowledgment or denial of a violation and, if applicable, following expiration of the 14-calendar-day cure period for public bodies acknowledging a violation, the Attorney General or any person aggrieved by a violation of the provisions of this subchapter may apply to the superior court bring an action in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in the county in which the violation has taken place for appropriate injunctive relief or for a declaratory judgment. An action may be brought under this section no later than one year after the meeting at which the alleged violation occurred or to which the alleged violation relates. Except as to cases the court Court considers of greater importance, proceedings before the superior court Civil Division of the Superior Court, as authorized by this section and appeals therefrom, take precedence on the docket over all cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

(d) The Court shall assess against a public body found to have violated the requirements of this subchapter reasonable attorney's fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this subchapter in which the complainant has substantially prevailed, unless the Court finds that:

(1)(A) the public body had a reasonable basis in fact and law for its position; and

(B) the public body acted in good faith. In determining whether a public body acted in good faith, the Court shall consider, among other factors, whether the public body responded to a notice of an alleged violation of this subchapter in a timely manner under subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) the public body cured the violation in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 1964 is amended to read:

§ 1964. STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE BOARDS;
CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
MEETINGS

(a) Each community justice center:

(1) ~~Shall~~ shall have an advisory board comprised of at least 51 percent citizen volunteers;

(2) ~~May~~ may use a variety of community-based restorative justice approaches, including community restorative justice panels or boards, group conferencing, or mediation; and

(3) ~~Shall~~ shall include programs to resolve disputes, address the needs of victims, address the wrongdoing of the offender, and promote the rehabilitation of youthful and adult offenders.

(b) Meetings of restorative justice panels and meetings to conduct restorative justice group conferencing or mediation shall not be subject to the Vermont Open Meeting Law, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014. However, a person who violates 1 V.S.A. § 312(b)(2) as amended by this act (requirement to post minutes to website, if any) shall not be subject to prosecution for such violation pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 314(a) in connection with any meeting that occurs before July 1, 2015.

(For text see House Journal May 2, 5, 2014)

H. 790

An act relating to Reach Up eligibility

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

* * * Reach Up Asset Limit and Earned Income Counseling * * *

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1103 is amended to read:

§ 1103. ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT LEVELS

(a) Financial assistance shall be given for the benefit of a dependent child to the relative or caretaker with whom the child is living unless otherwise provided. The amount of financial assistance to which an eligible person is entitled shall be determined with due regard to the income, resources, and maintenance available to that person and, as far as funds are available, shall provide that person a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The Commissioner may fix by regulation maximum amounts of financial assistance, and act to ~~insure~~ ensure that the expenditures for the programs shall not exceed appropriations for them consistent with section 101 of this title. In no case may the Department expend State funds in excess of the appropriations for the programs under this chapter.

* * *

(c) The Commissioner shall adopt rules for the determination of eligibility for the Reach Up program and benefit levels for all participating families that include the following provisions:

* * *

(5) The value of assets accumulated from the earnings of adults and children in participating families and from any federal or Vermont earned income tax credit shall be excluded for purposes of determining continuing eligibility for the Reach Up program. The asset limitation shall be ~~increased from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00~~ \$5,000.00 for participating families for the purposes of determining continuing eligibility for the Reach Up program.

* * *

Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1107(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) The Commissioner shall provide all Reach Up services to participating families through a case management model informed by knowledge of the family's home, community, employment, and available resources. Services may be delivered in the district office, the family's home, or community in a way that facilitates progress toward accomplishment of the family development plan. Case management may be provided to other eligible families. The case manager, with the full involvement of the family, shall recommend, and the Commissioner shall modify as necessary a family development plan established under the Reach First or Reach Up program for each participating family, with a right of appeal as provided by section 1132 of this title. A case manager shall be assigned to each participating family as soon as the family begins to receive financial assistance. If administratively feasible and appropriate, the case manager shall be the same case manager the family was assigned in the Reach First program. The applicant for or recipient of financial assistance, under this chapter, shall have the burden of demonstrating the existence of his or her condition.

(2) In addition to the services provided pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Commissioner shall provide for a mandatory case review for each participating family with a program director or the program director's designee when the family reaches 18 and 36 months of enrollment, respectively, in the Reach Up program to assess whether the participating family:

(A) is in compliance with a family development plan or work requirement;

(B) is properly claiming a deferment, if applicable; ~~and~~

(C) has any unaddressed barriers to self-sufficiency and, if so, how those barriers may be better addressed by the Department for Children and Families or other State programs; and

(D) has additional opportunities to achieve earned income through the program without a corresponding loss of benefits.

(3) The case manager shall meet with each participating family

following any statutory or rule changes affecting the amount of the earned income disregard, asset limitations, or other eligibility or benefit criteria in the Reach Up program to inform the family of the changes and advise the family about ways to maximize the opportunities to achieve earned income without a corresponding loss of benefits.

* * * Enhanced Child Care Services Subsidy * * *

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 3512 is amended to read:

§ 3512. CHILD CARE SERVICES ~~PROGRAM~~ PROGRAMS;
ELIGIBILITY

(a)(1) A child care services program is established to subsidize, to the extent that funds permit, the costs of child care for families that need child care services in order to obtain employment, to retain employment or to obtain training leading to employment. Families seeking employment shall not be entitled to participate in the program for a period in excess of one month, unless that period is extended by the Commissioner.

~~(b)(2)~~ (2) The subsidy authorized by this ~~section~~ subsection shall be on a sliding scale basis. The scale shall be established by the Commissioner, by rule, and shall bear a reasonable relationship to income and family size. The lower limit of the fee scale shall include families whose gross income is up to and including 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The upper income limit of the fee scale shall be neither less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines nor more than 100 percent of the ~~state~~ State median income, adjusted for the size of the family. The scale shall be structured so that it encourages employment.

(b)(1) An enhanced child care services subsidy program is established for families participating in the Reach Ahead program.

(2) The enhanced child care services subsidy program established by this subsection shall be administered by the Department's Child Development Division. The Commissioner shall adopt rules necessary for the administration of the program pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(3) The subsidy authorized by this subsection shall be no greater than 100 percent of the subsidy provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(4) A participating family shall remain eligible for the enhanced child care services subsidy program between 12 and 24 months as long as one or more dependent children of a working parent or parents are receiving child care services. The Commissioner for Children and Families may extend the subsidy beyond 24 months if the Commissioners for Children and Families and of Finance and Management determine jointly that an extension can be

accommodated within appropriated resources.

(5) The enhanced child care services subsidy program shall be funded through savings resulting from caseload reductions in the Reach Up program. If there are insufficient savings from caseload reductions to fund the program, the program shall be suspended or modified.

Sec. 4. INTERIM REPORT

The Department for Children and Families shall submit a written report to the Health Care Oversight Committee on or before November 1, 2014 regarding the estimated cost of the enhanced child care services subsidy program and projected caseload reduction savings in the Reach Up program.

Sec. 5. BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Department for Children and Families shall include as part of its fiscal year 2016 budget presentation to the General Assembly a preliminary estimate of the projected Reach Up program cost reduction associated with caseload estimates below the level appropriated for fiscal year 2015, as well as the parameters and cost projections for the enhanced child care services subsidy established pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3512(b).

* * * Asset Limit and Child Care Services Subsidy Offset * * *

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 1204 is amended to read:

§ 1204. FOOD ASSISTANCE

(a)(1) An eligible family shall receive monthly food assistance equal to ~~\$100.00~~ \$50.00 to be applied to the family's electronic benefit transfer (EBT) food account for the first ~~six~~ 12 months after the family has become eligible for Reach Ahead.

(2) For the ~~seventh~~ 12th through ~~12th~~ 24th months, the family shall receive a monthly food assistance of ~~\$50.00~~ \$25.00.

* * *

(d) The 12th through the 24th months of assistance shall be funded through savings resulting from caseload reductions in the Reach Up program. If there are insufficient savings from caseload reductions to fund the 12th through the 24th months of assistance, the assistance shall be suspended or modified.

Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 1205 is amended to read:

§ 1205. REQUIRED SERVICES TO PARTICIPATING FAMILIES

(a) The Commissioner shall provide participating families Reach Ahead services, case management services if necessary, and referral to any agencies

or programs, including workforce development, that provide the services needed by participating families to improve the family's prospects for employment retention. Reach Ahead services shall be provided for ~~12~~ 24 months.

(b) A participating family shall be eligible for an enhanced child care services subsidy during its 12th through 24th month on the Reach Ahead program pursuant to subsection 3512(b) of this title.

Sec. 8. REACH AHEAD; GRANDFATHER PROVISION

Notwithstanding 33 V.S.A. § 1204(a), any family within the first six months of its participation in the Reach Ahead program on January 1, 2015 shall continue to receive monthly food assistance equal to \$100.00 until its seventh month of participation in the program, at which time it shall receive monthly food assistance equal to \$50.00 for the remainder of the initial 12-month period.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014, except that:

(1) Secs. 1, 6(a)(1), and 8 shall take effect on January 1, 2015; and

(2) Secs. 3, 6(a)(2) and (d), and 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(For text see House Journal March 21, 2014)

H. 877

An act relating to repeal of report requirements that are at least five years old

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

* * * Reports Exempt from 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) * * *

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 263(j) is amended to read:

(j) The ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State shall prepare a list of names and addresses of lobbyists and their employers and the list shall be published at the end of the second legislative week of each regular or adjourned session. Supplemental lists shall be published monthly during the remainder of the legislative session. No later than March 15 of the first year of each legislative biennium, the ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State shall publish no fewer than 500 booklets containing an alphabetical listing of all registered lobbyists, including, at a minimum, a current passport-type photograph of the lobbyist, the lobbyist's business address, telephone and fax numbers, a list of the

lobbyist's clients and a subject matter index. The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 2. 2 V.S.A. § 404(b)(6) is amended to read:

(6) Except when the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly is in session and upon the request of any person provide him or her, on a weekly basis, with a list of all public hearings or meetings scheduled by a council, committee, subcommittee, commission or study committee of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly or any cancellations of hearings or meetings thereof previously scheduled. The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision;

Sec. 3. 2 V.S.A. § 802(b) is amended to read:

(b) At least annually, the ~~committee~~ Committee shall report its activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 4. 2 V.S.A. § 970(g) is amended to read:

(g) At least annually, by January 15, the Committee shall report its activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly. The report shall be in brief summary form. The provisions of subsection 20(d) (expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 23(d) is amended to read:

(d) Reporting. The ~~commission~~ Commission shall submit an annual report, which shall be prepared by the ~~secretary of commerce and community development~~ Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, to the ~~house committee on commerce~~ House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the ~~senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs~~ Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, the ~~governor~~ Governor, and Vermont's congressional delegation. The report shall contain information acquired pursuant to activities carried out under subsection (c) of this section. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 309(a)(19) is amended to read:

(19) Annually on or before January 15, the ~~commissioner of human resources~~ Commissioner of Human Resources shall submit to the ~~general~~

~~assembly~~ General Assembly a report on the status of the ~~state~~ State employee workforce. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. All reporting on numbers of ~~state~~ State employees shall include numbers stated in “full-time equivalent” positions. The report shall consolidate reports mandated by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, as well as other information regarding developments in ~~state~~ State employment, including:

- (A) Use of temporary employees.
- (B) Use of limited service positions.
- (C) Vacancies of more than six months’ duration.
- (D) Use of emergency volunteer leave under section 265 of this title.
- (E) Development of compensation plans.
- (F) Developments in equal employment opportunity.
- (G) Use of the position management system.
- (H) Abolished or transferred classified and exempt ~~state~~ State positions.

Sec. 7. 3 V.S.A. § 344(b) is amended to read:

(b) The information on contracts shall be reported to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly in the annual workforce report required under subdivision 309(a)(19) of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 8. 3 V.S.A. § 471 is amended to read:

§ 471. RETIREMENT BOARD; MEDICAL BOARD; ACTUARY; RATES OF CONTRIBUTION; SAFEKEEPING OF SECURITIES

* * *

(g) The ~~retirement board~~ Retirement Board shall keep a record of all its proceedings, which shall be open to public inspection. It shall publish annually and distribute to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly a report showing the fiscal transactions of the retirement system for the preceding fiscal year, the amount of the accumulated cash and securities of the system, and the last balance sheet showing the financial condition of the retirement system by means of an actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the system. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

* * *

(n) The ~~board~~ Board shall review annually the amount of ~~state~~ State contribution recommended by the actuary of the retirement system as necessary to achieve and preserve the financial integrity of the fund established pursuant to section 473 of this title. Based on this review, the ~~board~~ Board shall recommend the amount of ~~state~~ State contribution that should be appropriated for the next fiscal year to achieve and preserve the financial integrity of the fund. On or before November 1 of each year, the ~~board~~ Board shall submit this recommendation to the ~~governor~~ Governor and the ~~house and senate committees on government operations and appropriations~~ House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and Appropriations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 473a is amended to read:

§ 473a. PERIODIC ACTUARIAL REPORTS

The ~~board~~ Board shall cause to be made an actuarial reevaluation of the rate of member contributions deducted from earnable compensation pursuant to subdivision 473(b)(2) of this title, on a periodic basis at least every three years, to determine whether the amount deducted is necessary to make the contributions picked up and paid by the ~~state~~ State for such members cost neutral to the ~~general fund~~ General Fund. The actuarial reevaluation shall consider all relevant factors, including federal tax law changes. The ~~board~~ Board shall report the results of the actuarial reevaluation to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly together with any recommendations for adjustment in the members' contribution rate under subdivision 473(b)(2). The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 10. 3 V.S.A. § 847(b) is amended to read:

(b) The ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State shall publish not less than quarterly a bulletin setting forth the text of all rules filed since the immediately preceding publication and any objections filed under subsection 842(b) or 844(e) of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 11. 3 V.S.A. § 2222(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Secretary shall compile, weekly, a list of all public hearings and meetings scheduled by all ~~executive branch state~~ Executive Branch State agencies, departments, boards, or commissions during the next ensuing week. The list shall be distributed to any person in the State at that person's request. Each ~~executive branch state~~ Executive Branch State agency, department, board, or commission shall notify the Secretary of all public hearings and

meetings to be held and any cancellations of such hearings or meetings. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 12. 3 V.S.A. § 2281 is amended to read:

§ 2281. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The ~~department of finance and management~~ Department of Finance and Management is created in the ~~agency of administration~~ Agency of Administration and is charged with all powers and duties assigned to it by law, including the following:

(1) ~~to~~ To administer the financial transactions of the ~~state~~ State, including payroll transactions, in accordance with the law and within the limits of appropriations made by the ~~general assembly~~; General Assembly.

(2) ~~to~~ To conduct management studies and audits of the performance of ~~state~~ State government;

(3) ~~to~~ To prepare the ~~executive~~ Executive budget;

(4) ~~to~~ To report on an annual basis to the ~~joint fiscal committee~~ Joint Fiscal Committee at its November meetings on the allocation of funds contained in the annual pay acts and the allocation of funds in the annual appropriations act which relate to those annual pay acts. The report shall include the formula for computing these funds, the basis for the formula, and the distribution of the different funding sources among state agencies. The report shall also be submitted to the members of the ~~house and senate committees on government operations and appropriations~~; House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and Appropriations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

(5) ~~to~~ To maintain a central payroll office which shall be the successor to and continuation of the payroll functions of the ~~department of human resources~~ Department of Human Resources.

Sec. 13. 4 V.S.A. § 608(e) is amended to read:

(e) On or before the tenth Thursday after the convening of each biennial and adjourned session the ~~committee~~ Committee shall report to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly its recommendation whether the candidates should continue in office, with any amplifying information which it may deem appropriate, in order that the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly may discharge its obligation under section 34 of Chapter II of the Constitution of the State of Vermont ~~constitution~~. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under

this subsection.

Sec. 14. 6 V.S.A. § 793(a) is amended to read:

(a) The council shall:

* * *

(2) Submit policy recommendations to the ~~secretary~~ Secretary on any of the subject matter set forth under subdivision (1) of this subsection. A copy of the policy recommendations submitted to the ~~secretary~~ Secretary shall be provided to the ~~house and senate committees on agriculture~~ House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products and the Senate Committee on Agriculture. Recommendations may be in the form of proposed legislation. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

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

(4) Submit minutes of the council annually, on or before January 15, to the ~~house and senate committees on agriculture~~ House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products and the Senate Committee on Agriculture. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 15. 6 V.S.A. § 2966(e) is amended to read:

(e) Annual report. The Board shall make available a report, at least annually, to the Administration, the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and the people of Vermont on the State's progress toward attaining the goals and outcomes identified in the comprehensive agricultural and forest products economic development plan. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 217(b) is amended to read:

(b) Prior to February 1 in each year, the ~~authority~~ Authority shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the ~~governor~~ Governor and to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year. The ~~authority~~ Authority shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by a certified public accountant and its cost shall be considered an expense of the ~~authority~~ Authority and a copy shall be filed with the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer. The provisions of 2 V.S.A.

§ 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 639(a) is amended to read:

(a) On or before the last day of January in each year, the ~~agency~~ Agency shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the ~~governor~~ Governor and to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, specifically the committees in the ~~house~~ House and ~~senate~~ Senate with jurisdiction over housing. Each report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year, including the ~~agency's~~ Agency's present and projected economic health, amount of indebtedness, a statement of the amounts received from funds generated by interest from real estate escrow and trust accounts established pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 2214(c), a list and description of the programs to which IORTA funds were provided and the amounts distributed to each county. The ~~agency~~ Agency shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by certified public accountants; the cost shall be considered an expense of the agency and a copy shall be filed with the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 18. 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d) is amended to read:

(d) The Secretary shall determine what degree of water quality and classification should be obtained and maintained for those waters not classified by the Board before 1981 following the procedures in sections 1254 and 1258 of this title. Those waters shall be classified in the public interest. The Secretary shall revise all 17 basin plans by January 1, 2006, and update them every five years thereafter. On or before January 1 of each year, the Secretary shall report to the House Committees on Agriculture and Forest ~~Product~~ Products, on Natural Resources and Energy, and on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources, and to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy regarding the progress made and difficulties encountered in revising basin plans. By January 1, 1993, the Secretary shall prepare an overall management plan to ensure that the water quality standards are met in all State waters. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 1941(e) is amended to read:

(e) The Secretary shall establish a Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee which shall meet not less than annually to review receipts and disbursements from the Fund, to evaluate the effectiveness of the Fund in meeting its purposes, the reasonableness of the cost of cleanup and to

recommend alterations and statutory amendments deemed appropriate. The Advisory Committee shall submit an annual report of its findings to the General Assembly on January 15 of each year. In its annual report, the Advisory Committee shall review the financial stability of the Fund, evaluate the implementation of assistance related to underground farm or residential heating fuel storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks, and the need for continuing assistance, and shall include recommendations for sustainable funding sources to finance the provision of that assistance. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The membership of the Committee shall include the following or their designated representative:

- (1) the Secretary of Natural Resources who shall be chairperson;
- (2) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation;
- (3) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation;
- (4) a licensed gasoline distributor;
- (5) a retail gasoline dealer;
- (6) a representative of a statewide refining-marketing petroleum association;
- (7) one member of the House to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (8) one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Committee on Committees;
- (9) a licensed heating fuel dealer;
- (10) a representative of a statewide heating fuel dealers' association;
- (11) a licensed real estate broker.

Sec. 20. 10 V.S.A. § 1961(a)(5) is amended to read:

(5) On or before June 15, 1991 and every January thereafter present a report to the Vermont legislature General Assembly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision. The report shall include the following:

- (A) An update on the quality of the waters of the lake.
- (B) Findings of pertinent research.
- (C) An action plan including, ~~but not limited to,~~ water quality and fishery improvement measures and ways to enhance public use of and access to the lake.

(D) Recommended budgets and revenue sources including an expanded lake user fee structure.

Sec. 21. 10 V.S.A. § 2721(c) is amended to read:

(c) ~~The commissioner of forests, parks and recreation~~ Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall report in writing to the ~~senate and house committees on agriculture~~ Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products and the ~~senate and house committees on natural resources and energy~~ Senate and House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy on or before January 31 of each year on the activities and performance of the forestry and forest products viability program. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. At a minimum, the report shall include:

(1) an evaluation of the program utilizing the performance goals and evaluative measures established pursuant to subdivision (a)(5)(C) of this section;

(2) a summary of the money received in the ~~fund~~ Fund and expended from the ~~fund~~ Fund;

(3) an estimate of the financial impact of the Vermont ~~forestry and forest products viability program~~ Forestry and Forest Products Viability Program on the forestry and forest products industries;

(4) an assessment of the potential demand for the ~~program~~ Program over the succeeding three years; and

(5) a listing of individuals, trade associations, and other persons or entities consulted in preparation of the report.

Sec. 22. 10 V.S.A. § 4145(c) is amended to read:

(c) ~~The commissioner~~ Commissioner shall keep account of funds, including private donations and ~~state~~ State appropriations, which are deposited into the ~~fish and wildlife fund~~ Fish and Wildlife Fund for the purpose of building and maintaining access areas and shall annually, on or before January 15, report to the ~~house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources~~ House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources, the ~~senate committee on natural resources and energy~~ Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and to the ~~senate and house committees on appropriations~~ Senate and House Committees on Appropriations, concerning the use of those funds in the past year and plans for use of the funds for the coming year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 23. 10 V.S.A. § 6503(a) is amended to read:

(a) The ~~committee~~ Committee shall report to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly its recommendation to approve or not to approve the petition for the facility together with such additional information and comment it deems appropriate. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 24. 10 V.S.A. § 8017 is amended to read:

§ 8017. ANNUAL REPORT

The ~~secretary~~ Secretary and the ~~attorney general~~ Attorney General shall report annually to the ~~president pro tempore of the senate~~ President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House, the ~~house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources~~ House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources, and the ~~senate and house committees on natural resources and energy~~ Senate and House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy. The report shall be filed no later than January 15, on the enforcement actions taken under this chapter, and on the status of citizen complaints about environmental problems in the ~~state~~ State. The report shall describe, at a minimum, the number of violations, the actions taken, disposition of cases, the amount of penalties collected, and the cost of administering the enforcement program. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 25. 15 V.S.A. § 1140(g) is amended to read:

(g) The ~~commission~~ Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the ~~governor~~ Governor, the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, the ~~chief justice of the Vermont supreme court~~ Chief Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, and the Vermont ~~council on domestic violence~~ Council on Domestic Violence no later than the third Tuesday in January of the first year of the biennial session. The report shall be available to the public through the ~~office of the attorney general~~ Office of the Attorney General. The ~~commission~~ Commission may issue data or other information periodically, in addition to the biennial report. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 26. 16 V.S.A. § 164(17) is amended to read:

(17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a school by school basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision 164(9) of this

section, number and types of complaints of harassment or hazing made pursuant to section 565 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school to determine its strengths and weaknesses. ~~The commissioner~~ Commissioner shall use the information in the report in determining whether students in each school are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 27. 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) is amended to read:

(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. In the case of a regional technical center, the community means the school districts in the service region. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision. The school report shall include:

* * *

Sec. 28. 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r) is amended to read:

(r) ~~The board~~ Board shall review annually the amount of ~~state~~ State contribution recommended by the actuary of the retirement system as necessary to achieve and preserve the financial integrity of the fund established pursuant to section 1944 of this title. Based on this review, ~~the board~~ Board shall determine the amount of ~~state~~ State contribution necessary for the next fiscal year to achieve and preserve the financial integrity of the funds. On or before November 1 of each year, ~~the board~~ Board shall inform ~~the governor~~ Governor and ~~the house and senate committees on government operations and on appropriations~~ House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Appropriations in writing about the amount needed. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 29. 16 V.S.A. § 2835 is amended to read:

§ 2835. CONTROLS, AUDITS, AND REPORTS

Control of funds appropriated and all procedures incident to the carrying out of the purposes of this chapter shall be vested in ~~the board~~ Board. The books of account of the corporation shall be audited annually by an independent public accounting firm registered in the ~~state~~ State of Vermont in accordance

with government auditing standards issued by the ~~United States~~ U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the resulting audit report filed with the ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration not later than November 1 each year. The ~~auditor of accounts~~ Auditor of Accounts or his or her designee shall be the ~~state's~~ State's nonvoting representative to an audit committee established by the ~~board~~ Board. Biennially, the ~~board~~ Board shall report to the ~~legislature~~ Legislature on its activities during the preceding biennium. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 30. 16 V.S.A. § 2905(h) is amended to read:

(h) The ~~council~~ Council shall report on its activities to the ~~house and senate committees on education~~ House and Senate Committees on Education and to the ~~state board of education~~ State Board of Education each year in January. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 31. 16 V.S.A. § 2967(a) is amended to read:

(a) On or before December 15, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall publish an estimate, by town school district, city school district, union school district, unified union school district, incorporated school district, and the member school districts of an interstate school district, of the amount of ~~state~~ State assistance necessary to fully fund sections 2961 through 2963 of this title in the ensuing school year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 32. 16 V.S.A. § 4010(i) is amended to read:

(i) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall evaluate the accuracy of the weights established in subsection (c) of this section and, at the beginning of each biennium, shall propose to the ~~house and senate committees on education~~ House and Senate Committees on Education whether the weights should stay the same or be adjusted. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 33. 18 V.S.A. § 709 is amended to read:

§ 709. ANNUAL REPORT

(a) The director of the Blueprint shall report annually, no later than January ~~45~~ 31, on the status of implementation of the Vermont Blueprint for Health for the prior calendar year and shall provide the report to the ~~house committee on health care~~ House Committee On Health Care, the ~~senate committee on health and welfare~~ Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and the ~~health care oversight committee~~ Health Care Oversight Committee.

(b) The report required by subsection (a) of this section shall include the number of participating insurers, health care professionals, and patients; the progress made in achieving statewide participation in the chronic care management plan, including the measures established under this subchapter; the expenditures and savings for the period; the results of health care professional and patient satisfaction surveys; the progress made toward creation and implementation of privacy and security protocols; information on the progress made toward the requirements in this subchapter; and other information as requested by the committees. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 34. 18 V.S.A. § 9352(e) is amended to read:

(e) Report. No later than January 15 of each year, VITL shall file a report with the Secretary of Administration; the Commissioner of Information and Innovation; the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access; the Secretary of Human Services; the Commissioner of Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; and the House Committee on Health Care. The report shall include an assessment of progress in implementing health information technology in Vermont and recommendations for additional funding and legislation required. In addition, VITL shall publish minutes of VITL meetings and any other relevant information on a public website. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 35. 18 V.S.A. § 9410(i) is amended to read:

(i) On or before January 15, 2008 and every three years thereafter, the Commissioner shall submit a recommendation to the General Assembly for conducting a survey of the health insurance status of Vermont residents. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 36. 21 V.S.A. § 1309 is amended to read:

§ 1309. REPORTS; SOLVENCY OF TRUST FUND

On or before January 31 of each year, the Commissioner shall submit to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means a report covering the administration and operation of this chapter during the preceding calendar year. The report shall include a balance sheet of the ~~moneys~~ monies

in the Fund and data as to probable reserve requirements based upon accepted actuarial principles, with respect to business activity, and other relevant factors for the longest available period. The report shall also include recommendations for amendments of this chapter as the Board considers proper. Whenever the Commissioner believes that the solvency of the Fund is in danger, the Commissioner shall promptly inform the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance, and the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means, and make recommendations for preserving an adequate level in the Trust Fund. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 37. 24 V.S.A. § 1354 is amended to read:

§ 1354. ACCOUNTS; ANNUAL REPORT

The supervisor or supervisors shall maintain an account showing in detail the revenue raised and the expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of the supervisor's duties. The supervisor or supervisors shall prepare an annual fiscal report by July 1 which shall conform to procedural and substantive requirements to be established by the ~~board of governors~~ Board of Governors and which, upon approval by the ~~board of governors~~ Board of Governors, shall be distributed to the residents of the gores. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 38. 24 V.S.A. § 4498 is amended to read:

§ 4498. HOUSING BUDGET AND INVESTMENT REPORTS

The ~~commissioner of housing and community affairs~~ Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs shall:

(1) Create a Vermont housing budget designed to assure efficient expenditure of ~~state~~ State funds appropriated for housing development, to encourage and enhance cooperation among housing organizations, to eliminate overlap and redundancy in housing development efforts, and to ensure appropriate geographic distribution of housing funds. The Vermont housing budget shall include any ~~state~~ State funds of \$50,000.00 or more awarded or appropriated for housing. The Vermont housing budget and appropriation recommendations shall be submitted to the General Assembly annually on or before January 15. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the recommendations to be made under this subdivision, and the report shall include the amounts and purposes of funds appropriated for or awarded to the following:

(A) The Vermont ~~housing and conservation trust fund~~ Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.

(B) The ~~agency of human services~~ Agency of Human Services.

(C) The ~~agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

(D) Any other entity that fits the funding criteria.

(2) Annually, develop a Vermont housing investment plan in consultation with the Vermont ~~housing council~~ Housing Council. The housing investment plan shall be consistent with the Vermont consolidated plan for housing, in order to coordinate the investment of ~~state~~ State, federal and other resources, such as ~~state~~ State appropriations, tax credits, rental assistance, and mortgage revenue bonds, to increase the availability and improve the quality of Vermont's housing stock. The housing investment plan shall be submitted to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, annually on January 15. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this subdivision, and the plan shall:

(A) target investments at single-family housing, mobile homes, multifamily housing, and housing for homeless persons and people with special needs;

(B) recommend approaches that maximize the use of available ~~state~~ State and federal resources;

(C) identify areas of the state that face the greatest housing shortages; and

(D) recommend strategies to improve coordination among ~~state~~ State, local, and regional offices in order to remedy identified housing shortages.

Sec. 39. 24 V.S.A. § 4594 is amended to read:

§ 4594. ANNUAL REPORT; AUDIT

On or before the last day of February in each year, the bank shall make a report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the ~~governor~~ Governor and to the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly. Each report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year. The bank shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by certified public accountants and the cost thereof shall be considered an expense of the bank and a copy thereof shall be filed with the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 40. 24 V.S.A. § 4753a(a) is amended to read:

(a) Pollution control. The General Assembly shall approve all categories of awards made from the special funds established by section 4753 of this title for water pollution control facility construction, in order to assure that such awards conform with State policy on water quality and pollution abatement, and with the State policy that municipal entities shall receive first priority in the award of public monies for such construction, including monies returned to the revolving funds from previous awards. To facilitate this legislative oversight, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall annually no later than January 15 report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, and the House and Senate Committees on Resources and Energy on all awards made from the relevant special funds during the prior and current fiscal years, and shall report on and seek legislative approval of all the types of projects for which awards are proposed to be made from the relevant special funds during the current or any subsequent fiscal year. Where feasible, the specific projects shall be listed. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 41. 24 V.S.A. § 4753b(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Commissioner shall report receipt of a grant under this section to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Joint Fiscal Committee. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 42. 26 V.S.A. § 3105(d) is amended to read:

(d) Prior to review under this chapter and consideration by the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly of any bill to regulate a profession or occupation, the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office of Professional Regulation shall make, in writing, a preliminary assessment of whether any particular request for regulation meets the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The ~~office~~ Office shall report its preliminary assessment to the appropriate ~~house or senate committee on government operations~~ House or Senate Committee on Government Operations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 43. 26 V.S.A. § 3106 is amended to read:

§ 3106. DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; ANNUAL REPORT

Annually, the ~~director of the office of professional regulation~~ Director of

the Office of Professional Regulation shall prepare a concise report on the activities of all boards under his or her jurisdiction. Prior to the commencement of each legislative session, the ~~director~~ Director shall prepare a report for publication on the office's website containing his or her assessments, conclusions, and recommendations with proposals for legislation, if any, to the ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House and to the ~~chairpersons of the government operations committees of the house and senate~~ Chairpersons of the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations and the chairpersons of the boards. The office shall also provide written copies of the report to the ~~house and senate committees on government operations~~ House and Senate Committees on Government Operations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 44. 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(25) is amended to read:

(25) Transfer any unexpended project balances from previous capital construction acts for the purpose of emergency projects not authorized in a capital construction act in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00; provided the Commissioner shall send timely written notice of such expenditures to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 45. 29 V.S.A. § 531(c) is amended to read:

(c) Each ~~state~~ State land manager shall adopt a written statement of objectives, policies, procedures, and a program to guide the development of the ~~state's~~ State's oil and gas resources. Biennially, each ~~state~~ State land manager and the ~~board~~ Board shall prepare and submit to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly a proposed four-year oil and gas leasing and management program and a report on all leasing and management activities undertaken during the preceding two years. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. Managers may elect to collaborate on a joint program of planning, leasing, and reporting to fulfill the requirements of this section.

Sec. 46. [Deleted.]

Sec. 47. [Deleted.]

Sec. 48. 30 V.S.A. § 203a(c) is amended to read:

(c) Report. On or before January 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, the ~~Public Service~~ Department of Public Service shall report to the ~~Legislature~~

General Assembly on the expenditure of funds from the Fuel Efficiency Fund to meet the public's needs for energy efficiency services. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 49. 30 V.S.A. § 209(d)(3)(A) is amended to read:

(A) Balances in the Electric Efficiency Fund shall be ratepayer funds, shall be used to support the activities authorized in this subdivision, and shall be carried forward and remain in the Fund at the end of each fiscal year. These monies shall not be available to meet the general obligations of the State. Interest earned shall remain in the Fund. The Board will annually provide the General Assembly with a report detailing the revenues collected and the expenditures made for energy efficiency programs under this section. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 50. 30 V.S.A. § 255(e) is amended to read:

(e) Reports. By January 15 of each year, commencing in 2007, the Department of Public Service in consultation with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Public Service Board shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House Committee on Commerce a report detailing the implementation and operation of RGGI and the revenues collected and the expenditures made under this section, together with recommended principles to be followed in the allocation of funds. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 51. 30 V.S.A. § 5038(a) is amended to read:

(a) On or before the last day of January in each year, the authority shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding calendar year to the ~~governor~~ Governor, the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board, and the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. Each report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its operations during the year, and shall contain a full and complete statement of the authority's anticipated budget and operations for the ensuing year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The authority shall cause an audit of its books and accounts to be made at least once in each year by certified public accountants; the cost shall be considered an expense of the authority and copies shall be filed with the ~~state treasurer~~ State Treasurer and the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board.

Sec. 52. 30 V.S.A. § 8105(b) is amended to read:

(b) Beginning March 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Service shall submit a report to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committees on Ways and Means, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on Natural Resources and Energy, and the Governor which shall include an update on progress made in the development of the Vermont village green renewable projects authorized under this chapter. The report also shall include an analysis of the costs and benefits of the projects as well as any recommendations consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 53. 30 V.S.A. § 8015(e)(7)(A) is amended to read:

(A) By January 15 of each year, provide to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development a report for the fiscal year ending the preceding June 30 detailing the activities undertaken, the revenues collected, and the expenditures made under this subchapter. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 54. 32 V.S.A. § 5(a)(3) is amended to read:

(3) This section shall not apply to the acceptance of grants, gifts, donations, loans, or other things of value with a value of \$5,000.00 or less, or to the acceptance by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation of grants, gifts, donations, loans, or other things of value with a value of \$15,000.00 or less, provided that such acceptance will not incur additional expense to the State or create an ongoing requirement for funds, services, or facilities. The Secretary of Administration and Joint Fiscal Office shall be promptly notified of the source, value, and purpose of any items received under this subdivision. The Joint Fiscal Office shall report all such items to the Joint Fiscal Committee quarterly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 55. 32 V.S.A. § 166 is amended to read:

§ 166. PAYMENTS TO TOWNS; RETURNS BY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

On or before January 10 of each year, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall transmit to the ~~Auditors~~ auditors of each town a statement

showing the amount of money paid by the State to the town and the purpose for which paid during the year ending December 31 preceding the date of such statement, the date of such payments and purpose for which made, unless the Commissioner of Finance and Management is requested to send such statement at some other date to conform to the fiscal year of such municipality. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 56. 32 V.S.A. § 306 is amended to read:

§ 306. BUDGET REPORT

(a) The Governor shall submit to the General Assembly, not later than the third Tuesday of every annual session, a budget which shall embody his or her estimates, requests, and recommendations for appropriations or other authorizations for expenditures from the State Treasury. In the first year of the biennium, the budget shall relate to the two succeeding fiscal years. In the second year of the biennium, it shall relate to the succeeding fiscal year. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

(b) The Governor shall also submit to the General Assembly, not later than the third Tuesday of each session of every biennium, a tax expenditure budget which shall embody his or her estimates, requests, and recommendations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The tax expenditure budget shall be divided into three parts and made as follows:

(1) A budget covering tax expenditures related to nonprofits and charitable organizations and covering miscellaneous expenditures shall be made by the third Tuesday of the legislative session beginning in January 2012 and every three years thereafter.

(2) A budget covering tax expenditures related to economic development, including business, investment, and energy, shall be made by the third Tuesday of the legislative session beginning in January 2013 and every three years thereafter.

(3) A budget covering tax expenditures made in furtherance of Vermont's human services, including tax expenditures affecting veterans, shall be made by the third Tuesday of the legislative session beginning in January 2014 and every three years thereafter.

(c) The tax expenditure budget shall be provided to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance, which committees shall review the tax expenditure budget and shall report their recommendations

in bill form.

Sec. 57. 32 V.S.A. § 309(e) is added to read:

(e) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to any report to be made under this section.

Sec. 58. 32 V.S.A. § 311(b) is amended to read:

(b) At the request of the House or Senate Committee on Government Operations or on Appropriations, the State Treasurer, and the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall present to the requesting committees the recommendations submitted under 3 V.S.A. § 471(n) and 16 V.S.A. § 1942(r). The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 59. 32 V.S.A. § 312(b) is amended to read:

(b) Tax expenditure reports. Biennially, as part of the budget process, beginning January 15, 2009, the Department of Taxes and the Joint Fiscal Office shall file with the House Committees on Ways and Means and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations a report on tax expenditures in the personal and corporate income taxes, sales and use tax, and meals and rooms tax, insurance premium tax, bank franchise tax, education property tax, diesel fuel tax, gasoline tax, motor vehicle purchase and use tax, and such other tax expenditures for which the Joint Fiscal Office and the Department of Taxes jointly have produced revenue estimates. The Office of Legislative Council shall also be available to assist with this tax expenditure report. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. The report shall include, for each tax expenditure, the following information:

- (1) ~~A~~ a description of the tax expenditure;
- (2) ~~The~~ the most recent fiscal information available on the direct cost of the tax expenditure in the past two years;
- (3) ~~The~~ the date of enactment of the expenditure; and
- (4) ~~A~~ a description of and estimate of the number of taxpayers directly benefiting from the expenditure provision.

Sec. 60. 32 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

§ 511. EXCESS RECEIPTS

If any receipts including federal receipts exceed the appropriated amounts, the receipts may be allocated and expended on the approval of the

Commissioner of Finance and Management. If, however, the expenditure of those receipts will establish or increase the scope of the program, which establishment or increase will at any time commit the State to the expenditure of State funds, they may only be expended upon the approval of the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly. Excess federal receipts, whenever possible, shall be utilized to reduce the expenditure of State funds. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee quarterly with a cumulative list and explanation of the allocation and expenditure of such excess receipts. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 61. 32 V.S.A. § 605(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Governor shall, no later than the third Tuesday of every annual legislative session, submit a consolidated Executive Branch fee report and request to the General Assembly, which shall accompany the Governor's annual budget report and request submitted to the General Assembly as required by section 306 of this title, except that the first fee report shall be submitted by October 1, 1996 to the House and Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the House and Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committee on Government Operations. The first fee request shall be submitted during the 1997 session as provided herein ~~above~~. The content of each annual report and request for fees concerning State agency public records maintained pursuant to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3 shall be prepared by the Secretary of State, who shall base all recommended fee amounts on "actual cost." The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 62. 32 V.S.A. § 605a(a) is amended to read:

(a) The ~~Justices~~ justices of the Supreme Court or the Court Administrator if one is appointed pursuant to 4 V.S.A. § 21, in consultation with the ~~Justices~~ justices of the Supreme Court, shall submit a consolidated Judicial Branch fee report and request no later than the third Tuesday of the legislative session of 2011 and every three years thereafter. The report shall be submitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 63. 32 V.S.A. § 704 is amended to read:

§ 704. INTERIM BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS

(a) The General Assembly recognizes that acts of appropriations and their sources of funding reflect the priorities for expenditures of public funds

enacted by the Legislature, and that major reductions or adjustments, when required by reduced State revenues or other reasons, ought to be made whenever possible by an act of the Legislature reflecting its revisions of those priorities. Nevertheless, if the General Assembly is not in session, authorized appropriations and their sources of funding may be adjusted and funds may be transferred pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(b)(1) If the official State revenue estimates of the Emergency Board for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, or federal funds, determined under section 305a of this title have been reduced by one percent or more from the estimates determined and assumed for purposes of the general appropriations act or budget adjustment act, and if the General Assembly is not in session, in order to adjust appropriations and their sources of funding under this subdivision, the Secretary shall prepare a plan for approval by the Joint Fiscal Committee, and authorized appropriations and their sources of funding may be adjusted and funds transferred pursuant to a plan approved under this section.

(2) If the Secretary of Administration determines that the current fiscal year revenues for the General Fund, Transportation Fund, or federal funds are likely to be reduced from the official revenue estimates by less than one percent, the Secretary may prepare and implement an expenditure reduction plan, and implement appropriations reductions in accordance with the plan. The Secretary may implement a plan under this subdivision without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee if reductions to any individual appropriation do not exceed five percent of the appropriation's amount for personal services, operating expenses, grants, and other categories, and provided that the plan is designed to minimize any negative effects on the delivery of services to the public, and shall not have any unduly disproportionate effect on any single function, program, service, benefit, or county. Plans not requiring the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee shall be filed with the Joint Fiscal Office prior to implementation. If the Secretary's plan consists of disproportionate reductions greater than five percent in any line item, such plan shall not be implemented without the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

(c) A plan prepared by the Secretary shall indicate the amounts to be adjusted in each appropriation, and in personal services, operating expenses, grants, and other categories, shall indicate the effect of each adjustment in appropriations and their sources of funding, and each fund transfer, on the primary purposes of the program, and shall indicate how it is designed to minimize any negative effects on the delivery of services to the public, and any unduly disproportionate effect the plan may have on any single function, program, service, benefit, or county.

(d) An expenditure reduction plan under subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall not include any reduction in:

(1) appropriations authorized and necessary to fulfill the State's debt obligations;

(2) appropriations authorized for the Judicial or Legislative ~~Branches~~ Branch, except that the plan may recommend reductions for consideration by the Judicial or Legislative ~~Branches~~ Branch; or

(3) appropriations for the salaries of elected officers of the Executive Branch listed in subsection 1003(a) of this title.

(e)(1) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall have 21 days from the date of submission of a plan under subdivision (b)(1) of this section to consider the plan, and may approve or disapprove the plan upon a vote of a majority of the members of the Committee. If the Committee vote results in a tie, the plan shall be deemed disapproved; and if the Committee fails for any other reason to take final action on such plan within 21 days of its submission to the Committee, it shall be deemed to be disapproved. During the 21-day period for consideration of the plan, the Committee shall conduct a public hearing and provide an opportunity for public comment on the plan.

(2) If the plan is disapproved, then in order to communicate the priorities of the General Assembly, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Secretary for amendments to the plan. Within seven days after the Committee notifies the Secretary of its disapproval of a plan, the Secretary may submit a final plan to the Committee. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall have 14 days from the date of submission of a final plan to consider that plan and to vote by a majority of the members of the Committee to approve or disapprove the plan; but if the Committee fails to approve or disapprove the plan by a majority vote, the plan shall be deemed disapproved. If the Secretary's final plan includes any changes from the original plan other than those recommended by the Committee, then during the 14-day period for consideration of the final plan, the Committee shall conduct a public hearing and provide an opportunity for public comment, with the scope of the hearing and the comments limited to the changes from the original plan.

(3) In determining whether to approve a plan submitted by the Secretary under this subsection, the Committee shall consider whether the plan minimizes any negative effects on the delivery of services to the public, and whether the plan will have any unduly disproportionate effect on any single function, program, service, benefit, or county.

(4) Any plan disapproved under this section shall not be implemented.

(5) For purposes of this section, the Committee shall be convened at the call of the Chair or at the request of at least three members of the Committee.

(f) In the event of a reduction in the official revenue estimate of one percent or more, the Secretary may implement an expenditure reduction plan in the manner provided for in subdivision (b)(2) of this section, provided that the reduction in appropriations is not greater than one percent of the prior official revenue estimate.

(g) No plan may be approved or implemented under this section which:

(1) would reduce appropriations from any fund by more than the cumulative reductions in the official State revenue estimates of the Emergency Board for the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, or federal funds, determined under section 305a of this title, from the estimate originally determined and assumed for purposes of the general appropriations act or budget adjustment act; minus the total reductions in appropriations already taken under this section in that fund in the fiscal year; or

(2) would result in total reductions under this section in appropriations in the fiscal year from any fund by more than four percent of the estimate originally determined and assumed for purposes of the general appropriations act or budget adjustment act; or

(3) would adjust revenues or expenditures of the Education Fund as prescribed by law.

(h) The provisions of this section shall apply to each official State revenue estimate of the Emergency Board in the fiscal year and when the General Assembly is not in session.

(i) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the plan to be made under this section.

Sec. 64. 32 V.S.A. § 705(c) is amended to read:

(c) The authority conferred by this section is granted solely for the ministerial purpose of managing the State's financial accounts. Nothing contained in this section shall authorize any decrease in any such appropriation. If allotments have been made, the Secretary shall report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on or before the 15th day of each quarter, identifying and describing the allotments made pursuant to the authority granted by this section during the preceding quarter. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 65. 32 V.S.A. § 1001(c) is amended to read:

(c) Committee estimate of a prudent amount of net State tax-supported debt; affordability considerations. On or before September 30 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly the Committee's estimate of net State tax-supported debt which prudently may be authorized for the next fiscal year, together with a report explaining the basis for the estimate. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection. In developing its annual estimate, and in preparing its annual report, the Committee shall consider:

* * *

Sec. 66. 32 V.S.A. § 1001a is amended to read:

§ 1001a. REPORTS

The Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee shall prepare and submit consistent with 2 V.S.A. § 20(a) a report on:

(1) ~~general~~ General obligation debt, pursuant to subsection 1001(c) of this title; ~~and.~~

(2) ~~how~~ How many, if any, Transportation Infrastructure Bonds have been issued and under what conditions. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 67. 32 V.S.A. § 3101(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Commissioner shall:

(1) report biennially to the General Assembly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision;

* * *

(11) from time to time prepare and publish statistics reasonably available with respect to the operation of this title, including amounts collected, classification of taxpayers, tax liabilities, and such other facts as the Commissioner or the General Assembly considers pertinent. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision;

(12) [Repealed.]

(13) from time to time provide municipalities with recommended methods for determining, for municipal tax purposes, the fair market value of renewable energy plants that are subject to taxation under section 8701 of this

title.

Sec. 68. 32 V.S.A. § 3412 is amended to read:

§ 3412. ANNUAL REPORT

Before January 15 of each year, the Director shall deliver to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate copies of an annual report including in that report all rules issued in the preceding year. The report shall include the rate per dollar and the amount of all taxes assessed in each and all of the towns, gores, school and fire districts and villages for and during the year ending with June 30, preceding, and the value of all exempt property on each grand list as required by subsection 4152(a) of this title. The report shall also include an analysis of the appraisal practices and methods employed through the State. The Director shall include recommendations for statutory changes as he or she feels necessary. Copies of the annual report shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Selectboard of each town. The presiding officer shall refer the report to the appropriate committees of the General Assembly for their review and recommendation. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 69. [Deleted.]

Sec. 70. 33 V.S.A. § 2032(e) is amended to read:

(e) The Department shall conduct comprehensive evaluations of the Board's success in improving clinical and utilization outcomes using claims data and a survey of health care professional satisfaction. The Department shall report annually by January 15 to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the results of the most recent evaluation or evaluations and a summary of the Board's activities and recommendations since the last report. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 71. 33 V.S.A. § 4603(16) is amended to read:

(16) Report to the Governor and the legislative committees of jurisdiction during the first month of each legislative biennium on the Council's findings and recommendations, progress toward outcomes consistent with No. 68 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010), and recommendations for priorities for the biennium. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 72. 2005 Acts and Resolves No. 71, Sec. 142a(a) as amended by 2006

Acts and Resolves No. 93, Sec. 47 is amended to read:

(a) It is the intent of the ~~legislature~~ General Assembly that should the projected need for out-of-state beds be reduced from the amount budgeted at any time during any fiscal year and this need is expected to remain at or below this new level for at least 12 months, the resources within the correctional services budget that would have been used for out-of-state bed capacity be reallocated first to community supervision to create and fill at least five community supervision positions, including caseworkers and community corrections officers for each ~~50-bed~~ 50-bed reduction in long-term projected out-of-state bed need. Projections of out-of-state bed need for at least the subsequent 12 months shall be made by the ~~department of corrections~~ Department of Corrections for presentation at each meeting to the ~~legislative joint corrections oversight committee~~ Legislative Joint Corrections Oversight Committee. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 73. [Deleted.]

Sec. 74. [Deleted.]

Sec. 75. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 38, Sec. 3(5) is amended to read:

(5) Report to the ~~senate and house committees on education~~ Senate and House Committees on Education on or before January 15, 2011 regarding implementation of this section and in January of each subsequent year until implementation is complete. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subdivision.

Sec. 76. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 49 is amended to read:

Sec. 49. CLOSING OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; APPROVAL

The ~~secretary of administration~~ Secretary of Administration shall not plan to close or significantly reduce operations at any correctional facility unless approval to proceed with such closing or reduction plans is granted by both the ~~joint committee on corrections oversight~~ Joint Committee on Corrections Oversight and the ~~joint fiscal committee~~ Joint Fiscal Committee. Any plan submitted to the committees shall include an analysis of the regional impact, including how the increased transportation costs will be funded. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

Sec. 77. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 44, Sec. 44(b) is amended to read:

(b) On or before January 15 of each year through January 2020, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall report to the ~~senate and house committees~~

~~on education~~ Senate and House Committees on Education regarding the state's State's progress in achieving the goal of a 100 percent secondary school completion rate. At the time of the report, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall also recommend other initiatives, if any, to improve both graduation rates and secondary school success for all Vermont students. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 78. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 25(b) is amended to read:

(b) The committee shall include recommendations on the issues described in subsection (a) of this section in its annual report to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

Sec. 79. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 154, Sec. 235b is amended to read:

Sec. 235b. **WEIGHTED CASELOAD STUDY**

The ~~court administrator~~ Court Administrator shall conduct a weighted caseload study and analysis or equivalent study within the ~~superior court and judicial bureau~~ Superior Court and Judicial Bureau every three years. The results of the study shall be reported to the ~~senate and house committees on judiciary and government operations~~ Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations. The study may be used to review and consider adjustments to the compensation of ~~probate~~ Probate judges. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

* * * Report Requirements Repealed * * *

Sec. 80. 1 V.S.A. § 853(d)(7) is amended to read:

(7) ~~The commission shall provide a detailed written report of its findings and conclusions to the applicant and the legislative committees along with a recommendation that the general assembly recognize or deny recognition to the applicant as a Native American Indian tribe. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 81. 2 V.S.A. § 951(d) is amended to read:

(d) ~~The Vermont directors of the association shall report to the general assembly on or before January 1 of each year with a summary of the activities of the association, and any findings and recommendations for making prescription drugs more affordable and accessible to Vermonters. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 82. 3 V.S.A. § 2807(d) is amended to read:

(d) ~~Report. Every year, by January 15, the commissioner shall report to the house and senate committees on natural resources and energy on the sources of~~

~~the fund, and on fund balances and expenditures from the fund. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 83. 6 V.S.A. § 981 is amended to read:

§ 981. ADOPTION OF COMPACT

* * *

ARTICLE IV

The Insurance Fund, Internal Operations and Management

* * *

(g) The insurance fund may accept for any of its purposes and functions under this compact any and all donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, conditional or otherwise, from any state, the United States, or any other governmental agency, or from any person, firm, association, or corporation, and may receive, utilize, and dispose of the same. ~~Any donation, gift, or grant accepted by the governing board pursuant to this subsection or services borrowed pursuant to subsection (h) of this article shall be reported in the annual report of the insurance fund. Such report shall include the nature, amount, and conditions, if any, of the donation, gift, grant, or services borrowed and the identity of the donor or lender.~~

(h) The governing board shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of the business of the insurance fund and shall have the power to amend and to rescind these bylaws. The insurance fund shall publish its bylaws in a convenient form and shall file a copy thereof and a copy of any amendment thereto with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the party states.

(i) ~~The insurance fund annually shall make to the governor and legislature of each party state a report covering its activities for the preceding year. The insurance fund may make such additional reports to the governor and legislature of party states as it may deem desirable.~~

* * *

Sec. 84. 9A V.S.A. § 9-527 is amended to read:

§ 9-527. ~~DUTY TO REPORT~~

~~The secretary of state shall report biannually to the legislature on the operation of the filing office. The report must contain a statement of the extent to which:~~

~~(1) the filing office rules are not in harmony with the rules of filing offices in other jurisdictions that enact substantially this part and the reasons for these variations; and~~

~~(2) the filing office rules are not in harmony with the most recent version of the model rules promulgated by the International Association of Corporate Administrators, or any successor organization, and the reasons for these variations. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 85. [Deleted.]

Sec. 86. 10 V.S.A. § 707 is amended to read:

~~§ 707. EXPENDITURES; STATEMENT BY COUNCIL~~

~~The council, on or before September 1 in each even numbered year shall file with the commissioner of budget and management, upon forms prepared and furnished by the commissioner of budget and management, statements showing in detail the amount appropriated and expended for the current biennial fiscal periods and the amount estimated for such activity to be necessary for the ensuing biennial fiscal periods. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 87. 10 V.S.A. § 1264(f)(3) is amended to read:

(3) By January 15, 2010, the Secretary shall issue a watershed improvement permit, issue a general or individual permit implementing a TMDL approved by the EPA, or issue a general or individual permit implementing a water quality remediation plan for each of the stormwater-impaired waters on the Vermont Year 2004 Section 303(d) List of Waters required by 33 U.S.C. 1313(d). In developing a TMDL or a water quality remediation plan for a stormwater-impaired water, the Secretary shall consult “A Scientifically Based Assessment and Adaptive Management Approach to Stormwater Management” and “Areas of Agreement about the Scientific Underpinnings of the Water Resources Board’s Original Seven Questions” set out in appendices A and B, respectively, of the final report of the Water Resources Board’s “Investigation Into Developing Cleanup Plans For Stormwater Impaired Waters, Docket No. Inv-03-01,” issued March 9, 2004. ~~Beginning January 30, 2005 and until a watershed improvement permit, a general or individual permit implementing a TMDL, or a general or individual permit implementing a water quality remediation plan is set for each of the stormwater impaired waters on the Vermont Year 2004 Section 303(d) List of Waters required by 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d), the Secretary shall report annually to the General Assembly on Agency progress in establishing the watershed improvement permits, TMDLs, and water quality remediation plans for the stormwater impaired waters of the State; on the accuracy of assessment and environmental efficacy of any stormwater impact fee paid to the State Stormwater Impaired Waters Restoration Fund; and on the efforts by the Secretary to educate and inform owners of real estate in watersheds of stormwater impaired waters regarding the requirements of the state stormwater~~

law.

Sec. 88. 10 V.S.A. § 1283(e) is amended to read:

~~(e) The secretary shall report annually to the general assembly on the condition of the fund. The report shall include a listing of any incident leading to disbursements, the amount disbursed, and the method and amount of reimbursement. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 89. 10 V.S.A. § 1455(1)(2) is amended to read:

~~(2) On an annual basis, the secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall notify the secretary of the location of all authorized mosquito control applications to the waters of the state that took place during the reporting year and the type and quantity of larvicide and pupacide used at each location. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 90. [Deleted.]

Sec. 91. [Deleted.]

Sec. 92. 18 V.S.A. § 1755(b) is amended to read:

~~(b) Annually, the commissioner~~ Commissioner shall determine the percentage of children six years of age or younger who are being screened in accordance with the guidelines ~~and shall, unless a final report is available, provide interim information on screening to the legislature annually on April 15.~~ If fewer than 85 percent of one-year-olds and fewer than 75 percent of two-year-olds as specified in the guidelines are receiving screening, the ~~secretary~~ Secretary shall adopt rules to require that all health care providers who provide primary medical care to young children shall ensure that their patients are screened and tested according to the guidelines, beginning January 1, 2011.

Sec. 93. 20 V.S.A. § 1946 is amended to read:

§ 1946. ~~REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER~~

~~The commissioner of public safety shall report annually no later than January 15 to the senate and house committees on judiciary regarding the administration of the DNA data bank, any backlogs in processing samples, and staffing and funding issues related to any backlog. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 94. 24 V.S.A. § 4760(b) is amended to read:

~~(b) Annually, the secretary and the bond bank shall notify the chairpersons of the house committee on appropriations and the senate committee on appropriations of the amount of each of the separate funds created under section 4753 of this title anticipated to be available for the next fiscal year.~~

[Repealed.]

Sec. 95. 24 V.S.A. § 4774(b) is amended to read:

~~(b) Annually by January 15, the secretary and VEDA shall submit a report to members of the joint fiscal committee setting out the balance of the fund created by subdivision 4753(a)(3) of this title, loan awards made to date, funds anticipated to be made available in the coming year and any other matters of interest. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 96. 29 V.S.A. § 903(e)(3) is amended to read:

~~(3) The Secretary of Administration will report to the General Assembly, on February 1 each year, equipment purchased through this Fund, plans for equipment purchased through the Fund for the following fiscal year, the status of the Fund, and a consolidated amortization schedule. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 97. 32 V.S.A. § 308b is amended to read:

§ 308b. HUMAN SERVICES CASELOAD RESERVE

(a) There is created within the General Fund a Human Services Caseload Management Reserve. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be subject to an appropriation by the General Assembly or approval by the Emergency Board. Expenditures from the Reserve shall be limited to Agency of Human Services caseload-related needs primarily in the Departments for Children and Families; of Health; of Mental Health; of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; and of Vermont Health Access.

(b) The Secretary of Administration may transfer to the Human Services Caseload Reserve any General Fund carry-forward directly attributable to Aid to Needy Families with Children (ANFC) caseload reductions and the effective management of related federal receipts. ~~A report on the transfer of any such carry forward to the Reserve shall be made to the Joint Fiscal Committee at its first meeting following September 1 of each year.~~

(c) [Repealed.]

Sec. 98. 33 V.S.A. § 1901(e) is amended to read:

~~(e)(1) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of Vermont Health Access shall monitor and evaluate and report quarterly beginning July 1, 2006 on the disenrollment in each of the Medicaid or Medicaid waiver programs subject to premiums, including:~~

~~(A) The number of beneficiaries receiving termination notices for failure to pay premiums;~~

~~(B) The number of beneficiaries terminated from coverage as a result~~

~~of failure to pay premiums as of the second business day of the month following the termination notice. The number of beneficiaries terminated from coverage for nonpayment of premiums shall be reported by program and income level within each program; and~~

~~(C) The number of beneficiaries terminated from coverage as a result of failure to pay premiums whose coverage is not restored three months after the termination notice.~~

~~(2) The Department for Children and Families and the Department of Vermont Health Access shall submit reports at the end of each quarter required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on health and welfare, the house Committee on Human Services, the Health Care Oversight Committee, and the Medicaid Advisory Board. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 98a. 33 V.S.A. § 1998(c)(6) is amended to read:

~~(6) The Commissioners and the Secretary shall report quarterly to the Health Care Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee on their progress in securing Vermont's participation in such joint purchasing agreements. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 99. 33 V.S.A. § 2003(i) is amended to read:

~~(i) Annually, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall report the enrollment and financial status of the pharmacy discount plans to the Health Care Oversight Committee by September 1, and to the General Assembly by January 1. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 100. 33 V.S.A. § 3308 is amended to read:

§ 3308. ANNUAL REPORT

~~Annually, prior to January 15, the council shall submit a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year to the governor and to the general assembly. The report shall contain an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and services financed or to be financed by the children's trust fund, and shall include an assessment of the impact of such programs and services on children and families. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 101. 33 V.S.A. § 3703 is amended to read:

§ 3703. REPORT

~~Annually on or before January 15 of each year, the secretary of the agency of human services shall report to the general assembly on the status of parent-child center programs. The report shall include information concerning the following areas:~~

- ~~(1) actual disbursements;~~
- ~~(2) number of facilities and programs provided;~~
- ~~(3) number of families served;~~
- ~~(4) the impact of the monies relative to the continued success of each program;~~
- ~~(5) identification of other funding sources. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 102. 33 V.S.A. § 4904(d) is amended to read:

~~(d) The Commissioner shall establish a method for measuring, evaluating, and reporting the outcomes of transitional services provided under this section to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare annually on January 15. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 103. 33 V.S.A. § 6508 is amended to read:

§ 6508. **REPORT REQUIRED**

~~On or before January 15 of each year up to and including 1992, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall evaluate the effect of this chapter and report its findings to the chairpersons of the Senate and House Committees on Health and Welfare. At a minimum, the report shall address the following: inquiries or complaints received by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living concerning physician balance billing practices, changes in actual billing of Medicare beneficiaries for physician services, issues relating to access to physician services for beneficiaries, and any other information necessary to enable the committees to assess the effect of this chapter on physicians and beneficiaries. In compiling its report, the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall consult with the Secretary of State, the carrier for Medicare physician services for Vermont, and the professional societies of professions affected by this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 103a. 2003 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 217d(b) is amended to read:

~~(b) On or before January 15, 2004 and by January 15 each year thereafter, the commissioner of fish and wildlife shall report to the general assembly on: the development of management plans for wildlife management areas; the status of implementation of wildlife habitat enhancement and maintenance projects on fish and wildlife lands; the schedule for maintenance and habitat treatments on wildlife management areas; and the status of protected areas and ecologically sensitive areas on wildlife management areas. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 104. 2005 Acts and Resolves No. 56, Sec. 1(g), as amended by 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 65, Sec. 112a is amended to read:

(g)(1) Any savings realized due to the implementation of the long-term care Medicaid 1115 waiver shall be retained by the department and reinvested into providing home- and community-based services under the waiver. If at any time the agency reapplies for a Medicaid waiver to provide these services, it shall include a provision in the waiver that any savings shall be reinvested.

~~(2) In its annual budget presentation, the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living shall include the amount of savings generated from individuals receiving home and community based care services instead of services in a nursing home through the Choices for Care waiver and a plan with details on the recommended use of the appropriation. The plan shall include the base appropriation; the method for determining savings; how the savings will be reinvested in home and community-based services, including the allocation between increases in caseloads and increases in provider reimbursements; and a breakdown of how many individuals are receiving services by type of service. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. 104a. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 31(f)(3) is amended to read:

~~(3) Outside the legislative session, the department of mental health shall provide quarterly updates to the joint fiscal committee and the mental health oversight committee on the progress toward completing the facility and developing the residential recovery program. [Repealed.]~~

and by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

(For text see House Journal March 20, 2014)

S. 239

An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment thereto as follows:

First: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1772, in subdivision (7)(A), after “children in the State of Vermont,” and before “including” by inserting or any consumer product whose substantial use or handling by children under 12 years of age is reasonably foreseeable,

and by striking out subdivisions (7)(B)(ii) and (iii) in their entirety

and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct.

Second: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1772, in subdivision (8)(G), by striking out “or” where it appears

and by adding new subdivisions (8)(H) and (8)(I) to read as follows:

(H) consumer electronic products, including personal computers, audio and video equipment, calculators, wireless telephones, game consoles, and hand-held devices incorporating a video screen used to access interactive software intended for leisure and entertainment and their associated peripherals;

(I) interactive software, intended for leisure and entertainment, such as computer games, and their storage media, such as compact discs; or

and by relettering the remaining subdivision in subdivision (8) to be alphabetically correct.

Third: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1772, by striking out subdivision (11) in its entirety and by renumbering the remaining subdivisions to be numerically correct.

Fourth: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1774, in subdivision (b)(1)(F), by striking out “two representatives” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof one representative

and in subdivision (d)(1), after “shall recommend” and before “chemicals of high concern” by inserting at least two

and by adding subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) Right of appeal. Individual members of the Working Group and the Working Group as a whole shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Health an act or omission by the Commissioner in the implementation or administration of the requirements of this chapter.

Fifth: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1775, in subsection (a), after “on July, 1,” and before “, and biennially thereafter” by striking out “2015” and inserting in lieu thereof 2016

and in subdivision (a)(1), by striking out “intentionally added to” where it appears and inserting in lieu thereof present in

and by striking out subsection (g) in its entirety and by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct.

Sixth: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1776, in subdivision (d)(1), after “The Commissioner” and before “may adopt a rule” by striking out “, upon the recommendation of the Chemicals of High Concern to Children Working Group,”

and in subdivision (d)(2), after “credible information regarding” and before the colon, by inserting one or more of the following

and in subdivision (d)(2)(C), after the semicolon, by inserting or

and in subdivision (f)(1), by striking out the second sentence in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

The rule shall provide:

(A) all relevant criteria for evaluation of the chemical;

(B) criteria by which a chemical, due to its presence in the environment or risk of harm, shall be prioritized for addition or removal from the list of chemicals of high concern to children or for regulation under subsection (d) of this section;

(C) time frames for labeling or phasing out sale or distribution; and

(D) other information or process determined as necessary by the Commissioner for implementation of this chapter.

Seventh: In Sec. 2, in 18 V.S.A. § 1778, by adding a sentence at the end of the section to read as follows:

The Commissioner may publish information submitted or acquired under this chapter that is designated a trade secret, confidential business information, or otherwise confidential by law in a summary or aggregate form, provided that any published information shall not directly or indirectly identify an individual manufacturer or a business advantage of an individual manufacturer.

Eighth: By striking out Secs. 4 (liquid nicotine packaging) and 5 (Effective Dates) in their entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(For House Proposal of Amendment see House Journal April 30, 2014 Page 1583)

Ordered to Lie

S. 91

An act relating to privatization of public schools.

Pending Question: Shall the House propose to the Senate to amend the bill as offered by Rep. Turner of Milton?