

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:30 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013

Third Reading

S. 82.

An act relating to campaign finance law.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 82 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR FLORY
BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Flory moves that the bill be amended in Sec. 3, in 17 V.S.A. § 2924 (candidates; surplus campaign funds; new campaign accounts), by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(b)(1) A candidate may only retain in his or her campaign account surplus funds up to an amount equivalent to twice the amount that a single source may contribute to the candidate.

(2) In order to comply with the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection or to otherwise liquidate surplus funds, such funds may be:

(A) contributed to other candidates, political parties, or political committees subject to the contribution limits set forth in this chapter;

(B) contributed to a charity;

(C) contributed to the Secretary of State Services Fund; or

(D) contributed using a combination of the provisions set forth in subdivisions (A)–(C) of this subdivision (2).

**AMENDMENT TO S. 82 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATORS POLLINA,
AYER, FRENCH, MCALLISTER, AND WHITE BEFORE THIRD
READING**

Senators Pollina, Ayer, French, McAllister, and White move to amend the bill as follows

First: In Sec. 3, in 17 V.S.A. § 2964 (campaign reports; candidates for state office, the General Assembly, and county office; political committees; political parties), by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a)(1) Each candidate for state office, the General Assembly, and a two-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted

contributions of \$500.00 or more during a two-year general election cycle and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each political committee and each political party required to register under section 2923 of this chapter shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows, except that once such a candidate, political committee, or political party is required to file these reports, subsequent reports shall only be required to be filed under this subdivision if the candidate, political committee, or political party has made expenditures or accepted contributions since the last required report:

(A) in the first year of the two-year general election cycle, on March 15 and November 15 of the odd-numbered year; and

(B) in the second year of the two-year general election cycle:

(i) on March 15;

(ii) on July 15, August 1, and August 15;

(iii) on September 1;

(iv) on October 1, October 15 and November 1; and

(v) two weeks after the general election.

(2)(A) Each candidate for a four-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during a four-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows, except that once such a candidate is required to file these reports, subsequent reports shall only be required to be filed under this subdivision if the candidate has made expenditures or accepted contributions since the last required report:

(i) in the first three years of the four-year general election cycle, on March 15 and November 15; and

(ii) in the fourth year of the four-year general election cycle:

(I) on March 15;

(II) on July 15, August 1, and August 15;

(III) on September 1;

(IV) on October 1, October 15 and November 1; and

(V) two weeks after the general election.

(B) As used in this subdivision (2), “four-year general election cycle” means the 48-month period that begins 38 days after a general election.

(3) The failure of a candidate, political committee, or political party to file a report under this subsection shall be deemed an affirmative statement that a report is not required of the candidate, political committee, or political party under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Second: In Sec. 3, in 17 V.S.A. § 2965 (final reports; candidates for state office, the General Assembly, and county office; political committees; political parties), by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) At any time, but not later than December 15th following the general election, each candidate for state office, the General Assembly, and a two-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the two-year general election cycle and each candidate for a four-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the four-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State a “final report” which lists a complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report and disposition of surplus and which shall constitute the termination of his or her campaign activities.

Third: In Sec. 3, by striking out 17 V.S.A. § 2966 (reports by candidates not reaching monetary reporting threshold) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 2966. REPORTS BY CANDIDATES NOT REACHING MONETARY REPORTING THRESHOLD

(a) Each candidate for state office, the General Assembly, and a two-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of less than \$500.00 during a two-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State 10 days following the general election a statement that the candidate has not made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the two-year general election cycle.

(b) Each candidate for a four-year-term county office who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of less than \$500.00 during a four-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State 10 days following the general election a statement that the candidate has not made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more during the four-year general election cycle.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 82 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR
GALBRAITH BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Galbraith moves to amend the bill in Sec. 3, in 17 V.S.A. § 2926 (requirements for separate segregated funds), by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d)(1) A corporation or labor union that registers a separate segregated fund as a political committee under this subchapter shall include in the name of that political committee the name of the corporation or labor union and may also include a clearly recognized abbreviation or acronym by which the corporation or labor union is commonly known.

(2) When filing reports required under this chapter or when making contributions, a separate segregated fund shall use either its registered name or an abbreviation or acronym registered under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

**AMENDMENT TO S. 82 TO BE OFFERED BY SENATOR
GALBRAITH BEFORE THIRD READING**

Senator Galbraith moves to amend the bill in Sec. 3, in 17 V.S.A. § 2950 (limitations on contributions; corporations and labor unions; separate segregated funds), in subsection (b), by adding a new subdivision to be subdivision (4) to read:

(4) It shall be unlawful:

(A) for a separate segregated fund to accept a contribution or make an expenditure by using money or anything of value secured by physical force, job discrimination, financial reprisals, or the threat thereof; by using dues, fees, or other money required as a condition of membership in a labor union or as a condition of employment; or by using money obtained in any commercial transaction; or

(B) for any person soliciting a contribution to a separate segregated fund from a corporation's or labor union's employee or his or her immediate family member to fail to inform him or her at the time of the solicitation of the political purpose of the fund or of his or her right to refuse to contribute to the fund without any reprisal.

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 71.

An act relating to tobacco products.

Second Reading

Favorable

H. 531.

An act relating to Building 617 in Essex.

Reported favorably by Senator Mazza for the Committee on Institutions.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

Reported favorably by Senator Westman for the Committee on Appropriations.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment

S. 155.

An act relating to creating a strategic workforce development needs assessment and strategic plan.

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Doyle for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

This bill may be referred to as the Strategic Workforce Enhancement and Employment Program (SWEET).

Sec. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) The State of Vermont offers a wide range of workforce training and workforce education programs designed to increase and diversify the skills of and opportunities available to the workers of this State.

(b) Over the past several years, significant resources have been devoted to enhancing many of the available workforce development opportunities. However, the current state of the economy and the continuing pressures projected for the budget over the next several years require a critical analysis of every state investment to ensure the maximum return on investment of limited resources.

(c) The General Assembly finds that Vermont's Farm to Plate Initiative can serve as an effective model for the workforce development and education strategic plan. The Initiative has greatly enhanced our collective understanding and the future development of the operation and ongoing needs of Vermont's food system. The Farm to Plate Initiative demonstrates the success of an approach that is:

- (1) strategic, comprehensive, and systems-based;
- (2) forward-looking, with a ten-year planning horizon;
- (3) informed and driven by performance metrics; and
- (4) built on a foundation of broad stakeholder engagement.

(d) In adopting this act, it is the goal of the Vermont General Assembly to use the experiences of workforce development training and education providers along with measurable data to ensure that workforce training and workforce development education programs in Vermont are effective, relevant, and responsive to the ongoing needs of Vermont's citizens, employers, and the State's economy.

(e) To achieve this goal, the General Assembly resolves to create a workforce development needs assessment and strategic plan that is:

(1) primarily constituent-driven, whereby those who use the services administered by the various workforce development education and training programs shall be consulted in order to define and understand their workforce and training needs;

(2) secondarily administrator-driven, whereby those who administer the various workforce development education and training programs are responsible for identifying, developing, and implementing the forward-looking, long-term initiatives required to meet Vermont's workforce development needs; and

(3) modeled after the Farm to Plate Initiative set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 330.

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A § 545 is added to read:

§ 545. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

(a) The Commissioner of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development and the Secretary of Education, and in consultation with the Workforce Development Council and the Secretary of Human Services, shall create a strategic plan for workforce development in Vermont that shall:

(1) identify the components of Vermont's labor market and workforce trends based upon existing data, studies, and analysis;

(2) identify current and future workforce skill requirements; and

(3) identify and determine the effectiveness of existing state workforce development and training resources, including those programs established under this chapter, chapters 22 and 22A of this title, and 16 V.S.A. chapters 37 and 39, and recommend ways to enhance operational efficiencies.

(b) The strategic plan shall identify gaps between the public, nonprofit, and private workforce development programs and Vermont's workforce development needs and propose measures to bridge these gaps.

(c) The Commissioner of Labor shall:

(1) consider the Farm to Plate Initiative, as set forth in section 330 of this title, as a model for the design and implementation of the needs assessment and strategic plan and consult with the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund in these efforts;

(2) use the information gathered from the needs assessment and the strategic plan on an ongoing basis to identify methods and funding necessary to strengthen the link among the Vermont workforce and public, nonprofit, and private workforce development programs;

(3) coordinate with the State Auditor of Accounts to develop measurable benchmarks to assess the performance of the State's workforce development programs; and

(4) on or before January 15 of each year, submit to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and the House and Senate Committees on Education a report on the workforce development strategic plan and the performance of the State's workforce development programs.

(d) The Commissioner of Labor may seek and accept funds from private and public entities and utilize technical assistance, loans, grants, and other means as available for the purposes of this section.

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFERS

Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Labor from the Workforce Education and Training Fund in fiscal year 2014, the amount of \$150,000.00 shall be used to fund the design and implementation of the workforce development needs assessment and strategic plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545.

Sec. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED SERVICE POSITION

(a) Of the funds transferred pursuant to Sec. 3 of this act, the Commissioner of Labor is authorized to expend:

(1) up to \$100,000.00 for salary and benefits for one limited service position to design and implement the workforce development needs assessment and strategic plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545; and

(2) up to \$50,000.00 for expenses incurred for travel, consulting, reporting, meeting, and other activities arising from the design and implementation of the workforce development needs assessment and strategic plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545.

(b) Unless additional funding is authorized by the General Assembly in subsequent years, funding for the limited service position created in this section shall be for one year.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Fox for the Committee on Appropriations.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following amendments thereto:

By striking out Secs. 4 and 5, and redesignating Sec. 6 (effective date) as Sec. 4.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 39.

An act relating to the Public Service Board and the Department of Public Service.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Ashe for the Committee on Finance.

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

* * * Electronic Filings and Case Management * * *

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 11(a) is amended to read:

(a) The forms, pleadings, and rules of practice and procedure before the ~~board~~ Board shall be prescribed by it. The ~~board~~ Board shall promulgate and adopt rules which include, among other things, provisions that:

(1) A utility whose rates are suspended under the provisions of section 226 of this title shall, within 30 days from the date of the suspension order, file with the ~~board~~ Board ~~10 copies of~~ all exhibits it intends to use in the hearing thereon together with the names of witnesses it intends to produce in its direct case and a short statement of the purposes of the testimony of each witness. Except in the discretion of the ~~board~~ Board, a utility shall not be permitted to introduce into evidence in its direct case exhibits which are not filed in accordance with this rule.

* * *

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 11a is added to read:

§ 11a. ELECTRONIC FILING AND ISSUANCE

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Confidential document” means a document containing information for which confidentiality has been asserted and that has been filed with the Board and parties in a proceeding subject to a protective order duly issued by the Board.

(2) “Document” means information inscribed on a tangible medium or stored in an electronic or other medium and retrievable in perceivable form.

(3) “Electronic filing” means the transmission of documents to the Board by electronic means.

(4) “Electronic filing system” means a board-designated system that provides for the electronic filing of documents with the Board and for the electronic issuance of documents by the Board. If the system provides for the filing or issuance of confidential documents, it shall be capable of maintaining the confidentiality of confidential documents and of limiting access to confidential documents to individuals explicitly authorized to access such confidential documents.

(5) “Electronic issuance” means:

(A) the transmission by electronic means of a document that the Board has issued, including an order, proposal for decision, or notice; or

(B) the transmission of a message from the Board by electronic means informing the recipients that the Board has issued a document, including an order, proposal for decision, or notice, and that it is available for viewing and retrieval from an electronic filing system.

(6) “Electronic means” means any Board-authorized method of electronic transmission of a document.

(b) The Board by order, rule, procedure, or practice may:

(1) provide for electronic issuance of any notice, order, proposal for decision, or other process issued by the Board, notwithstanding any other service requirements set forth in this title or in 10 V.S.A. chapter 43;

(2) require electronic filing of documents with the Board;

(3) for any filing or submittal to the Board for which the filing or submitting entity is required to provide notice or a copy to another state agency under this title or under 10 V.S.A. chapter 43, waive such requirement if the state agency will receive notice of and access to the filing or submittal through an electronic filing system; and

(4) for any filing, order, proposal for decision, notice, or other process required to be served or delivered by first-class mail or personal delivery under this title or under 10 V.S.A. chapter 43, waive such requirement to the extent the required recipients will receive the filing, order, proposal of decision, notice, or other process by electronic means or will receive notice of and access to the filing, order, proposal for decision, notice, or other process through an electronic filing system.

(c) Any order, rule, procedure, or practice issued under subsection (b) of this section shall include exceptions to accommodate parties and other participants who are unable to file or receive documents by electronic means.

(d) Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to the requirements for service of citations and notices in writing as set forth in sections 111(b), 111a(i), and 2804 of this title.

Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 20(a) is amended to read:

(a)(1) ~~The board or department~~ Board or Department may authorize or retain legal counsel, ~~official stenographers,~~ expert witnesses, advisors, temporary employees, and other research services:

* * *

(4) The Board or Department may authorize or retain official stenographers in any proceeding within their jurisdiction, including proceedings listed in subsection (b) of this section.

* * * Condemnation Hearing: Service of Citation * * *

Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 111(b) is amended to read:

(b) The citation shall be served upon each person having any legal interest in the property, ~~including each municipality and each planning body where the property is situate like a summons,~~ or on absent persons in such manner as the ~~supreme court~~ Supreme Court may by rule provide for service of process in civil actions. The Board shall also give notice of the hearing to each municipality and each planning body where the property is located. ~~The board~~ Board, in its discretion, may schedule a joint hearing of some or all petitions relating to the same project and concerning properties or rights located in the same town or abutting towns.

* * * Filing Rate Schedules with the Board * * *

Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 225 is amended to read:

§ 225. RATE SCHEDULES

(a) Within a time to be fixed by the board, each company subject to the provisions of this chapter shall file with the ~~department~~ Department and the Board, with separate filings to the ~~directors for regulated utility planning and public advocacy~~ Directors for Regulated Utility Planning and for Public Advocacy, schedules which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates including joint rates for any service performed or any product furnished by it within the ~~state~~ State, and as a part thereof shall file the rules and regulations that in any manner affect the tolls or rates charged or to be charged for any such service or product. Those schedules, or summaries of the schedules approved by the ~~department~~ Department, shall be published by the company in two newspapers with general circulation in the ~~state~~ State within 15 days after such filing. A change shall not thereafter be made in any such

schedules, including schedules of joint rates or in any such rules and regulations, except upon 45 days notice to the ~~board and to the department of public service~~ Board and the Department, and such notice to parties affected by such schedules as the ~~board~~ Board shall direct. The ~~board~~ Board shall consider the ~~department's~~ Department's recommendation and take action pursuant to sections 226 and 227 of this title before the date on which the changed rate is to become effective. All such changes shall be plainly indicated upon existing schedules, or by filing new schedules in lieu thereof 45 days prior to the time the same are to take effect. Subject only to temporary increases, rates may not thereafter be raised without strictly complying with the notice and filing requirements set forth in this section. In no event may a company amend, supplement, or alter an existing filing or substantially revise the proof in support of such filing in order to increase, decrease, or substantiate a pending rate request, unless, upon opportunity for hearing, the company demonstrates that such a change in filing or proof is necessary for the purpose of providing adequate and efficient service. However, upon application of any company subject to the provisions of this chapter, and with the consent of the ~~department of public service~~ Department, the ~~board~~ Board may for good cause shown prescribe a shorter time within which such change may be made; but a change which in effect decreases such tolls or rates may be made upon five days' notice to the ~~board and the department of public service~~ Board and the Department and such notice to parties affected as the ~~board~~ Board shall direct.

(b) Immediately upon receipt of notice of a change in a rate schedule filed by a company, the ~~department~~ Department shall investigate the justness and reasonableness of that change. At least 15 days prior to the date on which the change is to become effective, the ~~department~~ Department shall either report to the ~~board~~ Board the results of its investigations together with its recommendation for acceptance of the change, or it shall notify the ~~board~~ Board and other parties that it opposes the change. If the ~~department of public service~~ Department reports its acceptance of the change in rates, the ~~board~~ Board may accept the change, or it may on its own motion conduct an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of the change, or it may order the ~~department~~ Department to appear before it to justify its recommendation to accept the change. In no event shall a change go into effect without the approval of the ~~board~~ Board, except when a rate change is suspended and temporary or permanent rates are allowed to go into effect pursuant to subsection 226(a) or 227(a) of this title. The ~~board~~ Board shall consider the ~~department's~~ Department's recommendation and take action pursuant to sections 226 and 227 of this title before the date on which the changed rate is to become effective. In the event that the ~~department~~ Department opposes the change, the ~~board~~ Board shall hear evidence on the

matter and make such orders as justice and law require. In any hearing on a change in rates, whether or not opposed by the ~~department~~ Department, the ~~board~~ Board may request the appearance of the ~~attorney general~~ Attorney General or appoint a member of the Vermont ~~bar~~ Bar to represent the public or the ~~state~~ State.

* * * CPG: Recommendations of Municipal and Regional Planning Commissions * * *

Sec. 6. 30 V.S.A. § 248 is amended to read:

§ 248. NEW GAS AND ELECTRIC PURCHASES, INVESTMENTS, AND FACILITIES; CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

* * *

(f) However, the plans for the construction of such a facility within the ~~state~~ State ~~must~~ shall be submitted by the petitioner to the municipal and regional planning commissions no less than 45 days prior to application for a certificate of public good under this section, unless the municipal and regional planning commissions shall waive such requirement. Such municipal or regional planning commission may hold a public hearing on the proposed plans. Such commissions ~~shall~~ may make recommendations, ~~if any,~~ to the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board and to the petitioner ~~at least seven days prior to filing of the petition~~ within 21 days after the date the petition is filed with the ~~public service board~~ Board.

* * *

* * * Participation in Federal Proceedings * * *

Sec. 7. 30 V.S.A. § 2(b) is amended to read:

(b) In cases requiring hearings by the ~~board~~ Board, the ~~department~~ Department, through the ~~director for public advocacy~~ Director for Public Advocacy, shall represent the interests of the people of the ~~state~~ State, unless otherwise specified by law. In any hearing, the ~~board~~ Board may, if it determines that the public interest would be served, request the ~~attorney general~~ Attorney General or a member of the Vermont ~~bar~~ Bar to represent the public or the ~~state~~ State. In addition, the Department may intervene, appear, and participate in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceedings, Federal Communications Commission proceedings, or other federal administrative proceedings on behalf of the Vermont public.

* * * Coordination of Energy Planning * * *

Sec. 8. 30 V.S.A. § 202 is amended to read:

§ 202. ELECTRICAL ENERGY PLANNING

(a) The ~~department of public service~~ Department of Public Service, through the ~~director for regulated utility planning~~ Director for Regulated Utility Planning, shall constitute the responsible utility planning agency of the ~~state~~ State for the purpose of obtaining for all consumers in the ~~state~~ State proper utility service at minimum cost under efficient and economical management consistent with other public policy of the ~~state~~ State. The ~~director~~ Director shall be responsible for the provision of plans for meeting emerging trends related to electrical energy demand, supply, safety, and conservation.

(b) The ~~department~~ Department, through the ~~director~~ Director, shall prepare an electrical energy plan for the ~~state~~ State. The plan shall be for a 20-year period and shall serve as a basis for state electrical energy policy. The electric energy plan shall be based on the principles of “least cost integrated planning” set out in and developed under section 218c of this title. The plan shall include at a minimum:

(1) an overview, looking 20 years ahead, of statewide growth and development as they relate to future requirements for electrical energy, including patterns of urban expansion, statewide and service area economic growth, shifts in transportation modes, modifications in housing types and design, conservation and other trends and factors which, as determined by the ~~director~~ Director, will significantly affect state electrical energy policy and programs;

(2) an assessment of all energy resources available to the ~~state~~ State for electrical generation or to supply electrical power, including, among others, fossil fuels, nuclear, hydro-electric, biomass, wind, fuel cells, and solar energy and strategies for minimizing the economic and environmental costs of energy supply, including the production of pollutants, by means of efficiency and emission improvements, fuel shifting, and other appropriate means;

(3) estimates of the projected level of electrical energy demand;

(4) a detailed exposition, including capital requirements and the estimated cost to consumers, of how such demand shall be met based on the assumptions made in subdivision (1) of this subsection and the policies set out in subsection (c) of this section; and

(5) specific strategies for reducing electric rates to the greatest extent possible in Vermont over the most immediate ~~five-year~~ six-year period, for the next succeeding ~~five-year~~ six-year period, and long-term sustainable strategies

for achieving and maintaining the lowest possible electric rates over the full 20-year planning horizon consistent with the goal of maintaining a financially stable electric utility industry in Vermont.

(c) In developing the plan, the ~~department~~ Department shall take into account the protection of public health and safety; preservation of environmental quality; the potential for reduction of rates paid by all retail electricity customers; the potential for reduction of electrical demand through conservation, including alternative utility rate structures; use of load management technologies; efficiency of electrical usage; utilization of waste heat from generation; and utility assistance to consumers in energy conservation.

(d) In establishing plans, the ~~director~~ Director shall:

(1) Consult with:

(A) the public;

(B) Vermont municipal utilities;

(C) Vermont cooperative utilities;

(D) Vermont investor-owned utilities;

(E) Vermont electric transmission companies;

(F) environmental and residential consumer advocacy groups active in electricity issues;

(G) industrial customer representatives;

(H) commercial customer representatives;

(I) the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board;

(J) an entity designated to meet the public's need for energy efficiency services under subdivision 218c(a)(2) of this title;

(K) other interested state agencies; and

(L) other energy providers.

(2) To the extent necessary, include in the plan surveys to determine needed and desirable plant improvements and extensions and coordination between utility systems, joint construction of facilities by two or more utilities, methods of operations, and any change that will produce better service or reduce costs. To this end, the ~~director~~ Director may require the submission of data by each company subject to supervision, of its anticipated electrical demand, including load fluctuation, supplies, costs, and its plan to meet that demand and such other information as the ~~director~~ Director deems desirable.

(e) The ~~department~~ Department shall conduct public hearings on the final draft and shall consider the evidence presented at such hearings in preparing the final plan. The plan shall be adopted no later than January 1, ~~2004~~ 2016 and readopted in accordance with this section by every sixth January 1 thereafter, and shall be submitted to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly each time the plan is adopted or readopted. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the submission to be made under this subsection.

(f) After adoption by the ~~department~~ Department of a final plan, any company seeking ~~board~~ Board authority to make investments, to finance, to site or construct a generation or transmission facility or to purchase electricity or rights to future electricity, shall notify the ~~department~~ Department of the proposed action and request a determination by the ~~department~~ Department whether the proposed action is consistent with the plan. In its determination whether to permit the proposed action, the ~~board~~ Board shall consider the ~~department's~~ Department's determination of its consistency with the plan along with all other factors required by law or relevant to the ~~board's~~ Board's decision on the proposed action. If the proposed action is inconsistent with the plan, the ~~board~~ Board may nevertheless authorize the proposed action if it finds that there is good cause to do so. The ~~department~~ Department shall be a party to any proceeding on the proposed action, except that this section shall not be construed to require a hearing if not otherwise required by law.

(g) The ~~director~~ Director shall annually review that portion of a plan extending over the next ~~five~~ six years. The ~~department~~ Department, through the ~~director~~ Director, shall ~~annually~~ biennially extend the plan by ~~one~~ two additional ~~year~~ years; and from time to time, ~~but in no~~ and in any event ~~less than~~ every ~~five years~~ sixth year, institute proceedings to review a plan and make revisions, where necessary. The ~~five-year~~ six-year review and any interim revisions shall be made according to the procedures established in this section for initial adoption of the plan. The six-year review and any revisions made in connection with that review shall be performed contemporaneously with readoption of the comprehensive energy plan under section 202b of this title.

(h) The plans adopted under this section ~~shall be submitted to the energy committees of the general assembly and~~ shall become the electrical energy portion of the state energy plan.

(i) It shall be a goal of the electrical energy plan to assure, by 2028, that at least 60 MW of power are generated within the ~~state~~ State by combined heat and power (CHP) facilities powered by renewable fuels ~~or by nonqualifying SPEED resources~~, as defined in section 8002 of this title. In order to meet this

goal, the plan shall include incentives for development and strategies to identify locations in the ~~state~~ State that would be suitable for CHP. The plan shall include strategies to assure the consideration of CHP potential during any process related to the expansion of natural gas services in the ~~state~~ State.

Sec. 9. 30 V.S.A. § 202b is amended to read:

§ 202b. STATE COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN

(a) The ~~department of public service~~ Department of Public Service, in conjunction with other state agencies designated by the ~~governor~~ Governor, shall prepare a comprehensive state energy plan covering at least a 20-year period. The plan shall seek to implement the state energy policy set forth in section 202a of this title. The plan shall include:

(1) A comprehensive analysis and projections regarding the use, cost, supply, and environmental effects of all forms of energy resources used within Vermont.

(2) Recommendations for ~~state~~ State implementation actions, regulation, legislation, and other public and private action to carry out the comprehensive energy plan.

(b) In developing or updating the plan's recommendations, the ~~department of public service~~ Department of Public Service shall seek public comment by holding public hearings in at least five different geographic regions of the ~~state~~ State on at least three different dates, and by providing notice through publication once a week and at least seven days apart for two or more successive weeks in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the regions where the hearings will be held, and by delivering notices to all licensed commercial radio and television stations with transmitting facilities within the ~~state~~ State, plus Vermont Public Radio and Vermont Educational Television.

(c) The ~~department~~ Department shall adopt a state energy plan by ~~no later than~~ January 1, 1994 2016 and shall readopt the plan by every sixth January 1 thereafter. On adoption or re adoption, the plan shall be submitted to the General Assembly. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to such submission.

(1) Upon adoption of the plan, analytical portions of the plan may be updated annually and published biennially.

(2) Every fourth year after the adoption or re adoption of a plan under this section, the Department shall publish the manner in which the Department will engage the public in the process of re adopting the plan under this section.

(3) The publication requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection may be met by inclusion of the subject matter in the Department's biennial report.

~~(4) The plan's implementation recommendations shall be updated by the department~~ Department no less frequently than every ~~five~~ six years. These recommendations shall be updated prior to the expiration of ~~five~~ six years if the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly passes a joint resolution making a request to that effect. If the ~~department~~ Department proposes or the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly requests the revision of implementation recommendations, the ~~department~~ Department shall hold public hearings on the proposed revisions.

~~(d) Any distribution~~ Distribution of the plan to members of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly shall be in accordance with the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20 ~~(a)-(c)~~.

Sec. 10. INTENT; RETROACTIVE APPLICATION

In enacting Secs. 2 (20-year electric plan) and 3 (comprehensive energy plan) of this act, the General Assembly intends to set the readoption of these plans by the Department of Public Service on a regular six-year cycle.

* * * Smart Meter Report * * *

Sec. 11. 30 V.S.A. § 2811(c) is amended to read:

(c) Reports.

(1) On January 1, 2014 and again on January 1, 2016, the ~~commissioner of public service~~ Commissioner of Public Service shall publish a report on:

(A) the savings realized through the use of smart meters, ~~as well as on;~~

(B) the occurrence of any breaches to a company's cyber-security infrastructure;

(C) the number of customers who have chosen not to have a wireless smart meter installed on their premises or who have had one removed; and

(D) the number of complaints received by the Department related to smart meters beginning in calendar year 2012, including a brief description of each complaint, its status, and action taken by the Department in response, if any.

(2) The reports shall be based on electric company data requested by and provided to the ~~commissioner of public service~~ Commissioner of Public Service and shall be in a form and in a manner the ~~commissioner~~

Commissioner deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of this subsection. The reports shall be submitted to the ~~senate committees on finance~~ Senate Committees on Finance and on ~~natural resources and energy~~ Natural Resources and Energy and the ~~house committees on commerce and economic development~~ House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on ~~natural resources and energy~~ Natural Resources and Energy.

* * * Joint Energy and Utility Committee * * *

Sec. 12. 2 V.S.A. chapter 17 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 17. JOINT ENERGY AND UTILITY COMMITTEE

§ 601. CREATION OF COMMITTEE; MEETINGS

(a) There is created a ~~joint energy committee~~ Joint Energy and Utility Committee whose membership shall be appointed each biennial session of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall consist of ~~four representatives, at least one from each major party, appointed by the speaker of the house, and four members of the senate, at least one from each major party, appointed by the committee on committees~~ five Representatives representing at least two major parties and five members of the Senate representing at least two major parties. The Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the members of the Senate by the Committee on Committees. Of the appointed Representatives from the House, two shall be members of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and two shall be members of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. Of the appointed members from the Senate, two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Finance and two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

(b) The ~~committee~~ Committee shall elect a chair, ~~vice-chair~~ vice chair, and clerk and shall adopt rules of procedure. The ~~chair~~ Chair shall rotate biennially between the ~~house~~ House and the ~~senate~~ Senate members. The ~~committee~~ Committee may meet during a session of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly at the call of the ~~chair~~ Chair or a majority of the members of the ~~committee~~ Committee. The ~~committee~~ Committee may meet no more than four times during adjournment ~~subject to approval of the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate~~, except that the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate may approve one or more additional meetings of the Committee during adjournment.

(c) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Committee action shall be taken only if there is a quorum and the proposed action is approved by majority vote of those members physically present and voting.

§ 602. ~~EMPLOYEES; RULES~~ SUPPORT; PER DIEMS; MINUTES

(a) ~~The joint energy committee shall meet following the appointment of its membership to organize and begin the conduct of its business.~~

(~~b~~) ~~The staff of the legislative council~~ Office of Legislative Council shall provide professional and clerical assistance to the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Energy and Utility Committee.

(~~e~~)(b) For attendance at a meeting when the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly is not in session, members of the ~~joint energy committee~~ Committee shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members of standing committees under section 406 of this title.

(~~d~~)(c) ~~The joint energy committee~~ Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof.

§ 603. ~~FUNCTIONS~~ DUTIES

(a) ~~The joint energy committee~~ Joint Energy and Utility Committee shall:

(1) carry on a continuing review of all energy and utility matters in the ~~state~~ State and energy matters in the northeast region of the United States, including energy sources, energy distribution, energy costs, energy planning, energy conservation, and ~~pertinent~~ related subjects;

(2) work with, assist, and advise other committees of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly, the ~~executive~~ Executive Branch, and the public in ~~energy-related~~ energy- and utility-related matters within their respective responsibilities;

(3) provide a continuing review of State energy and utility policies.

(b) In conducting its tasks, the Committee may consult the following:

(1) the Public Service Board;

(2) the Commissioner of Public Service;

(3) ratepayers and advocacy groups;

(4) public service companies subject to regulation by the Public Service Board;

(5) the Vermont State Nuclear Advisory Panel created under chapter 34 of Title 18; and

(6) any other person or entity as determined by the Committee.

(c) On or before December 15 of each year, the Committee shall report its activities, together with its recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly. The Committee may submit more than one report in any given year.

* * *

* * * Department of Public Service Report on Siting of New Electric
Transmission Facilities * * *

Sec. 13. REPORT; NEW ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

(a) Report; proposed legislation. On or before November 15, 2013, the Department of Public Service shall submit a report to the Joint Energy and Utility Committee under 2 V.S.A. chapter 17, the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, and the Senate Committee on Finance that contains each of the following:

(1) An assessment of:

(A) setback requirements on electric transmission facilities adopted by other jurisdictions in and outside the United States;

(B) methods to integrate state energy planning with local and regional land use planning as they apply to new electric transmission facilities; and

(C) the relative merits of “intervenor funding” and possible methods to fund intervenors in the siting review process for new electric transmission facilities.

(2) The Department’s findings resulting from each assessment under this section.

(3) The Department’s recommendations resulting from its findings under this section and proposed legislation, if necessary, to carry out those recommendations.

(b) The Department shall have the assistance of the Agencies of Commerce and Community Development and of Natural Resources in completing its tasks under this section.

* * * Public Service Board Ratemaking * * *

Sec. 14. 30 V.S.A. § 218(h) is added to read:

(h) When the Public Service Board has authorized an increase in rates expressly to prevent the bankruptcy or financial instability of a utility, any excess rates incurred above what ordinarily would have been incurred under a traditional cost-of-service methodology shall be returned to ratepayers in the

form of a credit or refund, in a manner to be determined by the Board, and shall not be recoverable in future rates charged to ratepayers.

Sec. 15. APPLICATION

Sec. 14 of this act shall not apply to or alter any Public Service Board order issued prior to the effective date of this act.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 14, 2013, page 151.)

**AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO H. 39 TO BE OFFERED BY
SENATOR RODGERS**

Senator Rodgers moves that the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Finance be amended in Sec. 6, 30 V.S.A. § 248, by striking out subsection (f) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(f) ~~However, the:~~

(1) The petitioner shall submit a notice of intent to construct such a facility within the State to the municipal and regional planning commissions at least six months prior to an application for a certificate of public good under this section. The Board shall specify by rule the content of such a notice of intent, which shall be designed to provide a reasonable description of the facility to be built, its size and location, and related infrastructure to be constructed. A notice of intent under this subdivision (1) shall not be required for a facility that the Board determines to be eligible for treatment under subsection (j) (facilities of limited size and scope) of this section.

(2) The petitioner shall submit plans for the construction of such a facility within the state ~~must be submitted by the petitioner~~ State to the municipal and regional planning commissions no less than 45 days prior to application for a certificate of public good under this section, unless the municipal and regional planning commissions shall waive such requirement. Such municipal or regional planning commission may hold a public hearing on the proposed plans. Such commissions ~~shall~~ may make recommendations, ~~if any,~~ to the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board and to the petitioner at least seven days prior to filing of the petition within 21 days after the date the petition is filed with the ~~public service board~~ Board.

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 159.

An act relating to various amendments to Vermont's land use control law and related statutes.

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

First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 6001, in subdivision (3)(D)(vii), by striking unless the chair of the district commission, after notice and opportunity for hearing, determines that action has been taken to circumvent the requirements of this chapter, and

Second: By striking Sec. 6 (repeal of 10 V.S.A. § 6001e) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof [Deleted.]

Third: In Sec. 14, 10 V.S.A. § 6089, in the last sentence, by striking 6001(3)(D)(vii) and inserting in lieu thereof 6001e

Fourth: In Sec. 21, 10 V.S.A. § 8020(c) and (d), in subsection (d), in the first sentence, after document, by striking and and inserting in lieu thereof or

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 280.

An act relating to payment of wages.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Collins for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 21 V.S.A. § 341, in subdivision (5), by striking out the word "bonuses" and inserting in lieu thereof "incentive pay"

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

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 342 is amended to read:

§ 342. WEEKLY PAYMENT OF WAGES

(a)(1) Any ~~person~~ employer having one or more employees doing and transacting business within the ~~state~~ State shall pay each week, in lawful

money or checks, the wages earned by each employee to a day not more than six days prior to the date of such payment.

(2) After giving written notice to the employee or employees, any ~~person~~ employer having an employee or employees doing and transacting business within the ~~state~~ State may, notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, pay biweekly or semimonthly in lawful money or checks, each employee the wages earned by the employee to a day not more than six days prior to the date of the payment. If a collective bargaining agreement so provides, the payment may be made to a day not more than 13 days prior to the date of payment.

* * *

Third: In Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. § 342a, in subsection (f), by inserting a sentence at the end of the subsection to read: "The costs of transcription shall be paid by the requesting party."

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 21, 2013, page 482.)

H. 406.

An act relating to listers and assessors.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator French for the Committee on Government Operations.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be Sec. 3a to read:

Sec. 3a. 17 V.S.A. § 2651b is amended to read:

§ 2651b. ELIMINATION OF OFFICE OF AUDITOR; APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

* * *

(c) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of town auditor as provided in this section shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of town auditor.

Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 3b to read:

Sec. 3b. REPEAL

1998 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 9 (municipal charters) is repealed.

Third: In Sec. 4 (amending 17 V.S.A. § 2651c), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(4) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of lister as provided in this subsection shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of lister.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to town listers, assessors, and auditors”.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 20, 2013, page 465.)

H. 510.

An act relating to the State’s transportation program and miscellaneous changes to the State’s transportation laws.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Mazza for the Committee on Transportation.

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

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED; DEFINITIONS

(a) The Agency of Transportation’s proposed fiscal year 2014 transportation program appended to the Agency of Transportation’s proposed fiscal year 2014 budget, as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, state, and local funds are available.

(b) As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) “Agency” means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(3) The table heading “As Proposed” means the transportation program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading “As Amended” means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading “Change” means the difference obtained by subtracting the “As Proposed” figure from the “As Amended” figure; and the term “change” or “changes” in the text refers to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net “Change” in the applicable table heading.

(4) “TIB funds” or “TIB” refers to monies deposited in the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

*** Program Development – Funding Sources ***

Sec. 1a. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – FUNDING

Spending authority in program development is modified in accordance with this section. Among projects selected in the Secretary’s discretion, the Secretary shall:

(1) reduce project spending authority in the total amount of \$3,827,500.00 in transportation funds;

(2) increase project spending authority in the total amount of \$2,087,500.00 in TIB bond proceeds on projects eligible under 32 V.S.A. § 972; and

(3) increase project spending authority in the total amount of \$1,740,000.00 in federal funds.

* * * Town Highway Bridge * * *

Sec. 2. TOWN HIGHWAY BRIDGE

The following modification is made to the town highway bridge program:

(1) Spending authority for the Mount Tabor project to replace bridge 2 on town highway 1 (VT FH 17-1(1)) is added to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	0	1,579,500	1,579,500
Total	0	1,579,500	1,579,500
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	0	0	0
TIB	0	0	0
Federal	0	1,579,500	1,579,500
Local	0	0	0
Total	0	1,579,500	1,579,500

* * * Maintenance * * *

Sec. 3. MAINTENANCE

(a) Total authorized spending in the maintenance program is amended as follows:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
-------------	--------------------	-------------------	---------------

Personal services	39,744,134	39,744,134	0
Operating expenses	50,687,536	48,877,536	-1,810,000
Grants	75,000	75,000	0
Total	90,506,670	88,696,670	-1,810,000

Sources of funds

State	79,961,670	78,151,670	-1,810,000
Federal	10,445,000	10,445,000	0
Interdep't transfer	100,000	100,000	0
Total	90,506,670	88,696,670	-1,810,000

(b) The reduction in authorized maintenance program spending under subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated among maintenance activities as specified by the Secretary.

* * * Paving * * *

Sec. 4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT – PAVING

(a) Spending authority for the statewide–district leveling activity within the program development–paving program is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	6,000,000	5,338,000	-662,000
Total	6,000,000	5,338,000	-662,000

Sources of funds

State	6,000,000	5,338,000	-662,000
TIB	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0
Total	6,000,000	5,338,000	-662,000

(b) Spending authority for the Bethel–Randolph Resurface VT 12 project (STP 2921()) is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	5,200,000	5,200,000	0
Total	5,200,000	5,200,000	0

Sources of funds

State	1,585,563	983,840	-601,723
TIB	-601,723	0	601,723
Federal	4,216,160	4,216,160	0
Total	5,200,000	5,200,000	0

(c) Spending authority for the Bolton–Waterbury Resurface US 2 project (STP 2709(1)) is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	6,530,000	6,530,000	0
Total	6,530,000	6,530,000	0

Sources of funds

State	0	601,723	601,723
TIB	1,235,476	633,753	-601,723
Federal	5,294,524	5,294,524	0
Total	6,530,000	6,530,000	0

(d) Spending authority on the Weathersfield Resurface VT 131 project (STP 2913(1)) within the program development – paving program is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	0	0	0
Construction	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Total	5,000,000	5,000,000	0

Sources of funds

State	946,000	696,000	-250,000
TIB	0	250,000	250,000
Federal	4,054,000	4,054,000	0
Total	5,000,000	5,000,000	0

* * * Rest Areas * * *

Sec. 5. REST AREAS

Spending authority on the Derby–Welcome Center project within the rest area program is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
PE	50,000	50,000	0
Construction	2,500,000	0	-2,500,000
Total	2,550,000	50,000	-2,500,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	0	0	0
TIB	255,000	5,000	-250,000
Federal	2,295,000	45,000	-2,250,000
Total	2,550,000	50,000	-2,500,000

* * * Rail * * *

Sec. 6. RAIL

(a) The Secretary shall reduce by \$600,000.00 the spending of fiscal year 2014 state transportation funds on projects or activities within the rail program selected at his or her discretion.

(b) Authorized spending in the fiscal year 2014 rail program shall be reduced by \$200,000.00 in transportation funds, and \$500,000.00 in TIB funds, which were previously authorized in the fiscal year 2013 transportation program and appropriated in the 2013 appropriations bill.

Sec. 7. CANCELLATION OF RAIL PROJECTS

Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 10g(h) (legislative approval for cancellation of projects), the General Assembly approves cancellation of the following rail projects:

- (1) Salisbury-Middlebury – 05G342 – Rail Improvements;
- (2) White River Junction-Newport – 05G350 – Improve RR Bridges;
- (3) Proctor-New Haven – STRB(37) – 08G090 – Repair and/or Replace 6 Bridges;
- (4) Middlebury – WCRS() – 09G108 – Bridge 236;
- (5) Waterbury – STP 2036(10) – 09G364 – Crossing;

(6) Rutland–Fair Haven – 09G372 – 2 Miles of CWR;

(7) Rutland–Fair Haven – 11G254 – Crossings.

Sec. 8. PITTSFORD BRIDGE 219 PROJECT

For the Pittsford Bridge 219 Project (HPP ABRB(9)), the estimate of total construction costs of \$10,350,000.00 is deleted and replaced with the amount of \$2,100,000.00, and the estimate of the total cost of all activities of \$11,863,814.00 is deleted and replaced with the amount of \$3,613,814.00.

* * * Amtrak Vermont Services; Fares * * *

Sec. 8a. AMTRAK VERMONT SERVICES; FARES

The Agency shall work with Amtrak and other states with which Vermont has agreements under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) to implement as soon as possible fares that maximize revenues for Vermont. The goal of the change in fares is to reduce by at least 20 percent the amount of the year-over-year increase in Vermont's subsidy to Amtrak required under PRIIA in fiscal year 2014.

* * * Aviation * * *

Sec. 9. AVIATION

(a) Spending authority on the Statewide-Airport Facilities Maintenance and Improvements project (AIR 04-3144) within the aviation program is amended to read:

<u>FY14</u>	<u>As Proposed</u>	<u>As Amended</u>	<u>Change</u>
Construction	1,850,758	1,710,758	-140,000
Total	1,850,758	1,710,758	-140,000
<u>Sources of funds</u>			
State	1,810,758	1,670,758	-140,000
TIB	0	0	0
Federal	40,000	40,000	0
Total	1,850,758	1,710,758	-140,000

(b) The Secretary shall reduce the spending of state transportation funds on activities within the Statewide-Airport Facilities Maintenance and Improvements project selected at his or her discretion in the amount specified in subsection (a) of this section.

* * * Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Infrastructure Bonds * * *

Sec. 10. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 972, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue transportation infrastructure bonds up to a total amount of \$11,700,000.00 for the purpose of funding:

- (1) the spending authorized in Sec. 11 of this act;
- (2) a debt service reserve to support the successful issuance of transportation infrastructure bonds; and
- (3) the cost of preparing, issuing, and marketing the bonds as authorized under 32 V.S.A. § 975.

Sec. 11. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS; SPENDING
AUTHORITY

The amount of \$10,387,500.00 from the issuance of transportation infrastructure bonds is authorized for expenditure in fiscal year 2014 on eligible projects as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 972(d) on projects in the State's fiscal year 2014 program development program.

* * * Transportation Alternatives Grant Program * * *

Sec. 12. 19 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

§ 38. TRANSPORTATION ~~ENHANCEMENT~~ ALTERNATIVES GRANT
PROGRAM

(a) ~~The Vermont transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee is created and shall be comprised of:

- (1) the ~~secretary of transportation~~ Secretary of Transportation or his or her designee;
- (2) a ~~representative from the division of historic preservation~~ Division of Historic Preservation appointed by the ~~secretary of the agency of commerce and community development~~ Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;
- (3) one ~~member to be~~ appointed by the ~~secretary of the agency of commerce and community development~~ Secretary of Commerce and Community Development to represent the tourism and marketing industry;
- (4) a ~~representative of the agency of natural resources~~ Agency of Natural Resources appointed by the ~~secretary of the agency of natural resources~~, Secretary of Natural Resources;

(5) ~~three municipal representatives appointed by the governing body of the Vermont league of cities and towns,~~ League of Cities and Towns;

(6) ~~one member representing and appointed by the governing board of the Vermont association of planning and development agencies,~~ Association of Planning and Development Agencies;

(7) ~~two members from the house~~ House designated by the ~~speaker,~~ Speaker; and

(8) ~~two members from the senate~~ Senate designated by the ~~committee on committees~~ Committee on Committees.

(b) ~~Municipal and legislative members of the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee~~ shall serve concurrently for two-year terms and the initial appointments of these members shall be made in a manner which allows for them to serve a full legislative biennium. In the event a municipal or legislative member ceases to serve on the ~~committee~~ Committee prior to the full term, the appointing authority shall fill the position for the remainder of the term. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, encompass a broad geographic representation of Vermont.

~~(b)(c)~~ The ~~Vermont transportation enhancement grant program~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Program is created. ~~The grant program shall be funded as provided in subsection (e) of this section and~~ Grant Program shall be administered by the ~~agency~~ Agency, and shall be funded in the amount provided for in 23 U.S.C. § 213(a), less the funds set aside for the Recreational Trails Program as specified in 23 U.S.C. § 213(f). ~~The grant program Awards shall be made to eligible entities as defined under 23 U.S.C. § 213(c)(4), and awards under the Grant Program shall be limited to enhancement the activities as defined in described at 23 U.S.C. § 401(a)(35) which are sponsored by municipalities, nonprofit organizations, or political subdivisions of the state other than the agency 213(b) other than Recreational Trails Program grants.~~

(d) Eligible ~~applicants~~ entities awarded a ~~grant~~ grant must provide all funds required to match federal funds awarded for ~~an enhancement a transportation alternatives~~ project. All grant awards shall be decided and awarded by the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee.

~~(e)~~ ~~The following federal aid highway program funds received by the state under the federal aid highway reauthorization act, and succeeding reauthorization acts, that succeed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178 as amended) shall be exclusively reserved to cover the costs of enhancement projects awarded grants under the Vermont~~

~~transportation enhancement grant program with respect to federal fiscal years 2004 and thereafter:~~

~~(1) at a minimum, four percent of the state's apportionment of surface transportation funds received by the state under 23 U.S.C. § 104(b)(3) over the life of the applicable federal reauthorization act; and, if greater,~~

~~(2) at a maximum, the state's apportionment of federal aid highway program funds that are exclusively reserved for transportation enhancement activities under 23 U.S.C. § 133(d)(2) received by the state over the life of the applicable federal reauthorization act.~~

~~(d) For each fiscal year starting with fiscal year 2005, the agency shall determine or estimate as required:~~

~~(1) the state's apportionment of surface transportation program funds which the state expects to receive under 23 U.S.C. § 104(b)(3) with respect to the equivalent federal fiscal year; and~~

~~(2) the state's pro rata apportionment of federal aid highway program funds which are exclusively reserved for transportation enhancement activities under 23 U.S.C. 133(d)(2). To determine the pro rata amount, the agency shall estimate the total amount of exclusively reserved funds expected to be received by the state over the life of the applicable federal reauthorization act, subtract the total amount of enhancement grants awarded under this section with respect to prior federal fiscal years of the applicable federal reauthorization act, and divide the resulting sum by the number of years remaining in the life of the applicable federal reauthorization act. The agency shall adjust the amounts determined under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection to account for any differences between estimates made, actual appropriations received, and enhancement grants awarded with respect to applicable prior federal fiscal years.~~

~~(e)(1) For each fiscal year starting with fiscal year 2005, the state's enhancement grant program for the fiscal year shall be at the discretion of the secretary:~~

~~(A) at a minimum, four percent of the adjusted amount ascertained by the agency under subdivision (d)(1) of this section; and~~

~~(B) at a maximum, the adjusted amount ascertained by the agency under subdivision (d)(2) of this section.~~

~~(2) The agency shall plan its budget accordingly and advise the general assembly in its recommended budget:~~

~~(A) if sufficient information is available to determine a sum certain, of the amount of the enhancement grant program; or~~

~~(B)~~ if sufficient information is not available to determine a sum certain, of the range within which the agency estimates the size of the enhancement grant program will be.

~~(f)~~(e) ~~Enhancement~~ Transportation alternatives grant awards shall be announced annually by the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee not earlier than December and not later than the following March of the federal fiscal year of the federal funds being committed by the grant awards.

~~(g)~~(f) Each year, up to \$200,000.00 of the grant program or such lesser sum if all eligible applications amount to less than \$200,000.00 shall be reserved for municipalities for eligible salt and sand shed projects. Grant awards for eligible projects shall not exceed \$50,000.00 per project. Regarding the balance of grant program funds, in evaluating applications for ~~enhancement~~ transportation alternatives grants, the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee shall give preferential weighting to projects involving as a primary feature a bicycle or pedestrian facility. The degree of preferential weighting and the circumstantial factors sufficient to overcome the weighting shall be in the complete discretion of the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee.

~~(h)~~(g) The ~~agency~~ Agency shall develop an outreach and marketing effort designed to provide information to communities with respect to the benefits of participating in the ~~enhancement program~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. The outreach and marketing activities shall include apprising municipalities of the availability of grants for salt and sand sheds. The outreach effort should be directed to areas of the ~~state~~ State historically underserved by this program.

Sec. 12a. 19 V.S.A. § 42 is amended to read:

§ 42. REPORTS PRESERVED

Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the reports or reporting requirements of sections 7(k), 10b(d), 10c(k), 10c(l), 10e(c), 10g, 11f(i), 12a, and 12b(d), ~~and 38(e)(2)~~ of this title shall be preserved absent specific action by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly repealing the reports or reporting requirements.

Sec. 13. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITIES; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

2012 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 24 is amended to read:

Sec. 24. ENHANCEMENT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITIES

In addition to the priorities for salt and sand shed projects and bicycle or pedestrian facility projects specified in 19 V.S.A. § ~~38(g)~~ 38(f), in evaluating applications for ~~enhancement~~ transportation alternatives grants in fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015, the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee shall give preferential weighting to projects involving a municipality implementing eligible environmental mitigation projects under a river corridor plan that has been adopted by the ~~agency of natural resources~~ Agency of Natural Resources as part of a basin plan, under a municipal plan adopted pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4385, or under a mitigation plan adopted by the municipality and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The degree of preferential weighting afforded shall be in the complete discretion of the ~~transportation enhancement grant committee~~ Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee.

* * * Central Garage * * *

Sec. 14. TRANSFER TO CENTRAL GARAGE FUND

Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c), in fiscal year 2014, the amount of \$1,120,000.00 is transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Central Garage Fund created in 19 V.S.A. § 13.

* * * State Highways; Relinquishment to Municipal Control * * *

Sec. 15. 19 V.S.A. § 15 is amended to read:

§ 15. CHANGES IN THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

(a) Highways Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, highways may be added to or deleted from the state highway system by:

(1) ~~legislative action~~ an act of the General Assembly; or

(2) a proposal by the agency ~~Agency~~ which is accepted by the legislative body of the affected municipality and approved by an act of the general assembly ~~General Assembly~~.

(b) Upon entering into an agreement with the affected municipality, the Secretary may relinquish to municipal control segments of state highway rights-of-way that have been replaced by new construction and are no longer needed as part of the state highway system. Upon their relinquishment to municipal control, the segments shall become class 3 town highways, and may be reclassified by the municipality in accordance with chapter 7 of this title.

* * * State Highway System; Town of Clarendon * * *

Sec. 15a. STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM; TOWN OF CLARENDON

Pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 15, the General Assembly approves the addition to the state highway system of a segment of Airport Road (TH #7) in the Town of Clarendon extending from its intersection with Vermont Route 103 to the main entrance of the Rutland–Southern Vermont Regional Airport. The existing 35 miles per hour speed limit on this segment of Airport Road shall remain in force after its transfer to the state highway system, unless and until the Traffic Committee alters the speed limit pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 1003.

* * * Transportation Board; Small Claims Against the Agency * * *

Sec. 16. 19 V.S.A. § 20 is amended to read:

§ 20. SMALL CLAIMS FOR INJURY OR DAMAGE

~~When a claim is~~ The Board shall have exclusive jurisdiction over claims of \$5,000.00 or less made for personal injuries or property damage, or both, sustained as the result of the negligence of any employee of the agency, the board Agency. The Board may hear all parties in interest and may award damages not to exceed \$2,000.00 \$5,000.00. When the Board awards damages are awarded, the board, it shall certify its findings decision to the commissioner of finance and management who Commissioner of Finance and Management. Upon the disposition of any appeal or the expiration or waiver of all appeal rights, the Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue his or her warrant for the amount of the award, with payment in the manner prescribed by 12 V.S.A. § 5604.

* * * Limited Access Facilities; Fair Market Value Rent * * *

Sec. 17. 19 V.S.A. § 26a is amended to read:

§ 26a. DETERMINATION OF RENT TO BE CHARGED FOR LEASING OR LICENSING STATE-OWNED PROPERTY UNDER THE AGENCY'S JURISDICTION

(a) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of this section, or as otherwise provided by law, leases or licenses negotiated by the ~~agency~~ Agency under 5 V.S.A. §§ 204 and 3405 and ~~section sections 26 and 1703(d)~~ of this title ordinarily shall require the payment of fair market value rent, as determined by the prevailing area market prices for comparable space or property. However, the ~~agency~~ Agency may lease or license state-owned property under its jurisdiction for less than fair market value when the ~~agency~~ Agency determines that the proposed occupancy or use serves a public purpose or that there exist other relevant factors, such as a prior course of dealing between the parties, that justify setting rent at less than fair market value.

* * *

* * * Emergency Repairs; Condemnation Authority * * *

Sec. 18. 19 V.S.A. § 518 is amended to read:

§ 518. MINOR ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

(a) For purposes of this section, the term “minor alterations to existing facilities” means any of the following activities involving existing facilities, provided the activity does not require a permit under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (Act 250):

(1) Activities which qualify as “categorical exclusions” under 23 C.F.R. § 771.117(e) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347, ~~and do not require a permit under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (Act 250); or~~

(2) Activities involving emergency repairs to or emergency replacement of an existing bridge or, culvert, highway, or state-owned railroad, even ~~though~~ if the need for repairs or replacement does not arise from damage caused by a natural disaster or catastrophic failure from an external cause; ~~provided, however, that the activities do not require a permit under 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 (Act 250).~~ Any temporary rights under this subdivision shall be limited to 10 years from the date of taking.

(b) In cases involving minor alterations to existing facilities, the ~~agency~~ Agency, following the procedures of section 923 of this title, may exercise the powers of a selectboard. If an appeal is taken under subdivision 923(5) of this title, the person taking the appeal shall follow the procedure specified in section 513 of this title.

* * * Secretary’s Authority with Regard to Junkyards * * *

Sec. 19. 19 V.S.A. § 7(f) is amended to read:

(f) The ~~secretary~~ Secretary may:

* * *

(7) organize, reorganize, transfer, or abolish sections and staff function sections within the agency Agency; except however, the ~~secretary~~ Secretary may not alter the number of highway districts without legislative approval; ~~and~~

~~(8) adopt rules regarding the operation of junkyards.~~

* * * State Highway Closures * * *

Sec. 20. 19 V.S.A. § 43 is amended to read:

§ 43. STATE HIGHWAY CLOSURES

(a) For purposes of this section, the phrase “planned closure of a state highway” means the closure of a state highway for more than 48 hours for a project that is part of the State’s annual transportation program. The phrase does not include emergency projects, or closures of 48 hours or less for maintenance work.

(b) Before the planned closure of a state highway, the ~~agency~~ Agency shall:

(1) contact the legislative body of any municipality affected by the closure to determine whether the legislative body wishes to convene a regional public meeting for the purpose of ~~listening to~~ hearing public concerns. ~~The agency~~ regarding the planned closure; and

(2) conduct a regional public meeting if requested by the legislative body of a municipality affected by the closure.

(c) To address concerns raised at a meeting held pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or otherwise to reduce adverse impacts of the planned closure of a state highway, the Agency shall consult with other state agencies and departments, regional chambers of commerce, regional planning commissions, local legislative bodies, emergency medical service organizations, school officials, and area businesses to develop mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of the planned closure on the local and regional economies.

~~(b)~~(d) In developing mitigation strategies, the ~~agency~~ Agency shall consider the need to provide a level of safety for the traveling public comparable to that available on the segment of state highway affected by the planned closure. If the ~~agency~~ Agency finds town highways unsuitable for a signed detour, the ~~agency~~ Agency will advise local legislative bodies of the reasons for its determination.

* * * Taxation of Diesel and Motor Fuels * * *

Sec. 21. 23 V.S.A. § 3003 is amended to read:

§ 3003. IMPOSITION OF TAX; EXCEPTIONS

(a) A tax of ~~\$0.25~~ \$0.27, a fee of \$0.01 established pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1942, and a \$0.03 motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment; which for purposes of the International Fuel Tax Agreement only shall be deemed to be a surcharge, are imposed on each gallon of fuel:

- (1) sold or delivered by a distributor; or
- (2) used by a user.

* * *

Sec. 22. 23 V.S.A. § 3003 is amended to read:

(a) A tax of ~~\$0.27~~ \$0.29, a fee of \$0.01 established pursuant to the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1942, and a \$0.03 motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment which for purposes of the International Fuel Tax Agreement only shall be deemed to be a surcharge, are imposed on each gallon of fuel:

- (1) sold or delivered by a distributor; or
- (2) used by a user.

* * *

Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 3106 is amended to read:

§ 3106. IMPOSITION, RATE, AND PAYMENT OF TAX

(a)(1) Except for sales of motor fuels between distributors licensed in this ~~state~~ State, which sales shall be exempt from the ~~tax and from the motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment taxes and assessments authorized under this section, in all cases not unless~~ exempt from the tax under the laws of the United States at the time of filing the report required by section 3108 of this title, each distributor shall pay to the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner:

(A) a tax of ~~\$0.19~~ \$0.115 upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor; and

(B) the following assessments, which shall be levied on the tax-adjusted retail price of gasoline as defined herein:

(i) a motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment in the amount of two percent of the tax-adjusted retail price upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor, ~~exclusive of: all federal and state taxes, the petroleum distributor licensing fee established by 10 V.S.A. § 1942, and the motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment authorized by this section. The retail price shall be based upon the average retail prices for regular gasoline determined and published by the department of public service. The retail price applicable for the January March quarter shall be the average of the retail prices published by the department of public service the prior October, November, and December; and the retail price applicable in each succeeding calendar quarter shall be equal to the average of the retail prices published by the department of public service in the preceding quarter; and~~

(ii) a fuel tax assessment, which shall be used exclusively for transportation purposes and not be transferred from the Transportation Fund, that is the greater of:

(I) \$0.134 per gallon; or

(II) four percent of the tax-adjusted retail price or \$0.18 per gallon, whichever is less, upon each gallon of motor fuel sold by the distributor.

(2) For the purposes of subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the retail price applicable for a quarter shall be the average of the monthly retail prices for regular gasoline determined and published by the Department of Public Service for the three months of the preceding quarter. The tax-adjusted retail price applicable for a quarter shall be the retail price exclusive of: all federal and state taxes and assessments, and the petroleum distributor licensing fee established by 10 V.S.A. § 1942, at the rates applicable in the preceding quarter.

(3) The distributor shall also pay to the commissioner a tax and a motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment in the same amounts Commissioner the tax and assessments specified in this subsection upon each gallon of motor fuel used within the state State by him or her.

* * *

Sec. 24. MOTOR FUEL ASSESSMENTS: MAY 1, 2013–SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Notwithstanding the provisions of 23 V.S.A. § 3106(a)(1)(B) and 3106(a)(2), from May 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, the motor fuel transportation infrastructure assessment required under 23 V.S.A. § 3106(a)(1)(B)(i) shall be \$0.0656 per gallon, and the fuel tax assessment required under 23 V.S.A. § 3106(a)(1)(B)(ii) shall be \$0.134 per gallon.

* * * DUI Special Enforcement Fund * * *

Sec. 25. 23 V.S.A. § 1220a(b) is amended to read:

(b) The DUI enforcement special fund shall consist of:

(1) receipts from the surcharges assessed under section 206 and subsections 674(i), 1091(d), 1094(f), 1128(d), 1133(d), 1205(r), and 1210(k) of this title;

(2) beginning in fiscal year 2000 and thereafter, the first \$150,000.00 of revenues collected from fines imposed under subchapter 13 of chapter 13 of this title pertaining to DUI related offenses;

(3) beginning ~~in fiscal year 2000~~ May 1, 2013 and thereafter, ~~two percent~~ \$0.0038 per gallon of the revenues raised by the motor fuel tax on gasoline imposed by chapter 28 of this title; and

(4) any additional funds transferred or appropriated by the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly.

* * * Transfer of Position * * *

Sec. 26. TRANSFER OF POSITION

Effective May 1, 2013, one position (080134) and any funds related thereto are transferred from the Department of Taxes to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

* * * Appropriation of Transportation Funds * * *

Sec. 27. 19 V.S.A. § 11a is amended to read:

§ 11a. TRANSPORTATION FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

No transportation funds shall be appropriated for the support of government other than for the ~~agency of transportation~~ Agency, the ~~transportation board~~ Board, transportation pay act funds, construction of transportation capital facilities ~~used by the agency of transportation~~, transportation debt service, the ~~department of buildings and general services~~ operation of information centers by the Department of Buildings and General Services, and the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety. The amount of transportation funds appropriated to the ~~department of public safety~~ Department of Public Safety shall not exceed:

- (1) \$25,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2014;
- (2) \$22,750,000.00 in fiscal year 2015; and
- (3) \$20,250,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 and in succeeding fiscal years.

* * *

* * * Electric Vehicles; Contribution to Transportation Fund; Study * * *

Sec. 28. STUDY OF CHARGES ON ELECTRICITY USED TO POWER PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(a) The Commissioner of Public Service or designee and the Commissioner of Taxes or designee (collectively, the "Commissioners"), in consultation with the Public Service Board, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee, the Joint Fiscal Office, and any other persons or entities the Commissioners deem appropriate, shall study the feasibility, alternative implementation mechanisms, and timeline for replacing, in whole or in part, motor fuel tax revenues not collected from operators of plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles. The Commissioners shall develop recommendations as to the most reasonable and efficient mechanisms, and a realistic time frame, to charge

operators of plug-in hybrid and all-electric vehicles for their use of transportation infrastructure so as to contribute to the Transportation Fund.

(b) On or before December 15, 2013, the Commissioners shall submit a written report of their findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation. The Commissioners' report shall also identify which recommendations would require legislative action and include proposed legislation to implement any recommendations requiring legislative action.

* * * Propane and Natural Gas-Powered Vehicles; Study * * *

Sec. 29. PROPANE AND NATURAL GAS-POWERED VEHICLES;
STUDY

(a)(1) In Act 153 of 2012, the General Assembly required that effective on July 1, 2013, the sales and use tax on natural gas used to propel a motor vehicle be allocated to the Transportation Fund. The applicable sales and use tax rate is six percent. Act 153 did not address propane used to propel motor vehicles.

(2) In a November 5, 2012 report submitted pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 39, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation found that the six percent sales and use tax rate on natural gas would be insufficient to replace motor fuel or diesel tax revenues not collected from operators of motor vehicles propelled by natural gas. The report did not address motor vehicles propelled by propane.

(b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or designee ("Commissioner"), in consultation with the Commissioner of Taxes or designee, the Joint Fiscal Office, and any other persons or entities the Commissioner deems appropriate, shall study mechanisms to charge operators of motor vehicles propelled by natural gas or by propane for their use of the transportation system, so as to replace, in whole or in part, motor fuel or diesel tax revenues not collected from such operators. The Commissioner shall formulate recommendations on the most reasonable and efficient mechanisms to charge such operators and identify implementation steps required.

(c) On or before December 15, 2013, the Commissioner shall submit a written report of his or her findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation. The Commissioner's report shall also identify which recommendations would require legislative action and include proposed legislation to implement any recommendations requiring legislative action.

* * * State Facilities Served by Town Highways * * *

Sec. 30. STATE FACILITIES SERVED BY TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) The General Assembly finds that access to state parks and other state facilities is critical for the State and its economy. For state parks and state facilities that are primarily accessible by class 3 and 4 town highways, no state funding source other than general town highway aid exists to assist municipalities with the maintenance and rehabilitation of these highways.

(b) A Study Committee is established consisting of:

(1) the Secretary of Transportation or designee, who shall chair the committee;

(2) the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services or designee;

(4) a member designated by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

(c) The Study Committee shall examine the condition of class 3 and 4 town highways that serve as primary access roads to state parks and other state facilities used by the public, alternative mechanisms for the State to assist municipalities with the maintenance or rehabilitation of such town highways, the appropriate municipal share for projects to maintain or rehabilitate such highways and whether a cap on any state assistance is appropriate, and the potential fiscal impact to the State of the alternative mechanisms reviewed by the Committee. The Committee shall formulate recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly as to whether and how the State should assist municipalities in maintaining and rehabilitating the town highways described in this subsection.

(d) On or before December 15, 2013, the Study Committee shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 31. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 8a (Amtrak Vermont services), Sec. 10 (authority to issue transportation infrastructure bonds), and Sec. 15a (addition to state highway system) of this act shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 23–26 of this act shall take effect on May 1, 2013.

(c) Sec. 22 (taxation of diesel at \$0.29 per gallon) of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(d) All other sections of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments.)

Reported favorably by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Finance with the recommendation that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Transportation.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 104.

An act relating to expedited partner therapy.

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

First: In Sec. 1, subsection (c), by striking “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)” and inserting in lieu thereof “Commissioner”

Second: In Sec. 1, subsection (d), by striking “CDC” and inserting in lieu thereof “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”

Third: In Sec. 2, subsection (d), by striking “CDC” and inserting in lieu thereof “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President *pro tempore*, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Service Board shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Patrick Berry of Middlebury – Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife – By Sen. Hartwell for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (3/27/13)

Ron Shems of Moretown – Chair of the Natural Resources Board – By Sen. Hartwell for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. (4/3/13)

Robert Ide of Peacham – Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles – By Sen. Kitchel for the Committee on Transportation. (4/18/13)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 – Room 11 – 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. – Re: H.225 - Statewide Policy on Training Requirements for Electronic Control Devices (Tasers) - House Committee on Government Operations.

Thursday, April 18, 2013 - Room 11 - 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. Re: H. 208 - Earned Sick Days - House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

REPORTS ON FILE

Reports 2013

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §20(c), one (1) hard copy of the following reports is on file in the office of the Secretary of the Senate. Effective January 2010, pursuant to Act No. 192, Adj. Sess. (2008) §5.005(g) some reports will automatically be sent by electronic copy only and can be found on the State of Vermont Legislative webpage.

1. Report by Secretary of Administration pursuant to Act 156, Adj. Sess. (2012), Sec. 8 regarding supervisory union size and structure.