

# Senate Calendar

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

**SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:00 P.M.**

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 241.**

An act relating to binding arbitration for State employees.

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

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

**Sec. 1. GRIEVANCE ARBITRATION; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT**

(a) Creation. There is created a Grievance Arbitration Study Committee to study the issue of grievance arbitration for employees of the State.

(b) Membership. The Grievance Arbitration Study Committee shall be composed of the following four members:

(1) the Commissioner of Human Resources or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Bar Association or designee;

(3) one member appointed by the Vermont Troopers Association; and

(4) one member appointed by the Vermont State Employees' Association.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall:

(1) study the issue of grievance arbitration for State employees; and

(2) assess the relative merits of various grievance protocols, including arbitration and use of the Vermont Labor Relations Board, addressing the ability of these protocols to provide resolution of grievances in a manner that is economical, timely, just, and provides for appropriate privacy protections for the parties.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Human Resources or designee shall be the Chair of the Committee.

(2) The Committee shall convene on or before September 1, 2014 at the call of the Chair, and the Chair shall call any subsequent meetings.

(3)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

(B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting location.

(C) Action shall be taken only if there is both a quorum and a majority vote of the members physically present and voting.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on the date it submits its report under subsection (e) of this section.

(g) Reimbursement. Members of the Committee shall not be entitled to per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator Starr 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 amendment thereto:

In Sec. 1, by striking out subsection (d) in its entirety and by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct.

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

**S. 252.**

An act relating to financing for Green Mountain Care.

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

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. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It has been three years since the passage of 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 48 (Act 48). Several health care reform initiatives have been implemented or are preparing to launch, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has been in effect for four years, and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange is operational. In order to successfully implement the reforms envisioned by that act, it is appropriate to update the assumptions and cost estimates that formed the basis for Act 48, evaluate the success of existing health care reform efforts, and obtain information relating to key outstanding policy decisions. It is the intent of the General Assembly to obtain a greater understanding of the impact of health care reform efforts currently under way and to take steps toward implementation of the universal and unified health system envisioned by Act 48.

Sec. 2. PRINCIPLES FOR HEALTH CARE FINANCING

The General Assembly adopts the following principles to guide the financing of health care in Vermont:

(1) All Vermont residents have the right to high-quality health care.

(2) Vermont residents shall finance Green Mountain Care through taxes that are levied equitably, taking into account an individual's ability to pay and the value of the health benefits provided.

(3) As provided in 33 V.S.A. § 1827, Green Mountain Care shall be the secondary payer for Vermont residents who continue to receive health care through plans provided by an employer, by another state, by a foreign government, or as a retirement benefit.

(4) Vermont's system for financing health care shall raise revenue sufficient to provide medically necessary health care services to all enrolled Vermont residents, including maternity and newborn care, pediatric care, vision and dental care for children, surgery and hospital care, emergency care, outpatient care, treatment for mental health conditions, and prescription drugs.

\* \* \* Vermont Health Benefit Exchange \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 1803 is amended to read:

§ 1803. VERMONT HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE

\* \* \*

(b)(1)(A) The Vermont Health Benefit Exchange shall provide qualified individuals and qualified employers with qualified health benefit plans, including the multistate plans required by the Affordable Care Act, with effective dates beginning on or before January 1, 2014. The Vermont Health Benefit Exchange may contract with qualified entities or enter into intergovernmental agreements to facilitate the functions provided by the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \*

(4) To the extent permitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange shall permit qualified employers to purchase qualified health benefit plans through the Exchange website, through navigators, by telephone, or directly from a health insurer under contract with the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \*

Sec. 4. 33 V.S.A. § 1811(b) is amended to read:

~~(b)(1) No person may provide a health benefit plan to an individual or small employer unless the plan is offered through the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange and complies with the provisions of this subchapter.~~

(2) To the extent permitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a small employer or an employee of a small employer may purchase a health benefit plan through the Exchange website, through navigators, by telephone, or directly from a health insurer under contract with the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

(3) No person may provide a health benefit plan to an individual or small employer unless the plan complies with the provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. 5. PURCHASE OF SMALL GROUP PLANS DIRECTLY FROM CARRIERS

To the extent permitted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and notwithstanding any provision of State law to the contrary, the Department of Vermont Health Access shall permit employers purchasing qualified health benefit plans on the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange to purchase the plans through the Exchange website, through navigators, by

telephone, or directly from a health insurer under contract with the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \* Green Mountain Care \* \* \*

#### Sec. 6. TREATMENT OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

The Health Care Reform Financing Plan submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary of Administration and the Director of Health Care Reform on January 24, 2013 assumed that federal employees, including military, will not be integrated into Green Mountain Care for their primary coverage.

Sec. 7. 33 V.S.A. § 1824(f) is added to read:

(f)(1) Federal employees who participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) or TRICARE shall be deemed, by virtue of their participation in those plans, to be covered by Green Mountain Care. The Green Mountain Care benefit package for federal employees shall be the benefit package of their respective FEHBP or TRICARE plan. The premiums paid by federal employees for the FEHBP or TRICARE shall be deemed to be their share of contributions to the financing for Green Mountain Care.

(2) As used in this subsection, “federal employee” means a person employed by the U.S. government who is eligible for the FEHBP, a person retired from employment with the U.S. government who is eligible for the FEHBP, or an active or retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is eligible for a TRICARE plan.

#### Sec. 7a. SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS FOR TRICARE PARTICIPANTS

In the event that the Agency of Human Services identifies significant gaps between the coverage available to federal employees participating in TRICARE and the coverage available in Green Mountain Care, the Agency shall propose to the General Assembly a supplemental benefit plan for TRICARE participants and a mechanism for TRICARE participants to pay for the cost of the plan.

Sec. 8. 33 V.S.A. § 1825 is amended to read:

#### § 1825. HEALTH BENEFITS

(a)(1) The benefits for Green Mountain Care shall include primary care, preventive care, chronic care, acute episodic care, and hospital services and shall include at least the same covered services as those included in the benefit package in effect for the lowest cost Catamount Health plan offered on January 1, 2011 consist of the benefits available in the benchmark plan for the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE

(a) On or before February 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall identify the elements of Green Mountain Care, such as claims administration and provider relations, for which the Agency plans to solicit bids for administration pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1827(a). By the same date, the Agency shall also prepare a description of the job or jobs to be performed, design the bid qualifications, and develop the criteria by which bids will be evaluated.

(b) On or before July 1, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall solicit bids for administration of the elements of Green Mountain Care identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(c) On or before December 15, 2015, the Agency of Human Services shall award one or more contracts to public or private entities for administration of elements of Green Mountain Care pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1827(a).

Sec. 10. CONCEPTUAL WAIVER APPLICATION

On or before October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall submit to the federal Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight a conceptual waiver application expressing the intent of the State of Vermont to pursue a Waiver for State Innovation pursuant to Sec. 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152, and the State's interest in commencing the application process.

\* \* \* Employer Assessment \* \* \*

Sec. 11. 21 V.S.A. § 2001 is amended to read:

§ 2001. PURPOSE

For the purpose of more equitably distributing the costs of health care to uninsured residents of this ~~state~~ State, an employers' health care fund contribution is established to provide a fair and reasonable method for sharing health care costs with employers who do not offer their employees health care coverage and employers who offer insurance but whose employees enroll in Medicaid.

Sec. 12. 21 V.S.A. § 2002 is amended to read:

§ 2002. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(5) "Uncovered employee" means:



(A) an employee of an employer who does not offer to pay any part of the cost of health care coverage for its employees;

(B) an employee who is not eligible for health care coverage offered by an employer to any other employees; or

(C) an employee who is offered and is eligible for coverage by the employer but elects not to accept the coverage and either:

(i) has no other health care coverage under either Medicare or a private ~~or public~~ health plan; or

(ii) has purchased health insurance coverage as an individual through the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \*

Sec. 13. 21 V.S.A. § 2003(b) is amended to read:

(b) For any quarter in ~~fiscal years 2007 and 2008~~ calendar year 2014, the amount of the Health Care Fund contribution shall be ~~\$91.25~~ \$119.12 for each full-time equivalent employee in excess of ~~eight~~ four. For each ~~fiscal~~ calendar year after ~~fiscal year 2008~~, ~~the number of excluded full time equivalent employees shall be adjusted in accordance with subsection (a) of this section,~~ and calendar year 2014, the amount of the Health Care Fund contribution shall be adjusted by a percentage equal to any percentage change in premiums for the second lowest cost silver-level plan in the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

\* \* \* Reports \* \* \*

Sec. 14. CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT; BLUEPRINT; REPORT

On or before October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human Services, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance, and the Health Care Oversight Committee regarding the efficacy of the chronic care management initiatives currently in effect in Vermont, including recommendations about whether and to what extent to increase payments to health care providers and community health teams for their participation in the Blueprint for Health and whether to expand the Blueprint to include additional chronic conditions such as obesity, mental conditions, and oral health.

Sec. 15. HEALTH INSURER SURPLUS; LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS; REPORT

The Department of Financial Regulation, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall identify the legal and financial considerations involved in the event that a private health insurer offering major medical

insurance plans, whether for-profit or nonprofit, ceases doing business in this State, including appropriate disposition of the insurer's surplus funds. On or before July 15, 2014, the Department shall report its findings to the House Committees on Commerce and on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Health Care Oversight Committee.

#### Sec. 16. BENCHMARK-EQUIVALENT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

On or before October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall provide the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance, and the Health Care Oversight Committee with a recommendation regarding whether it should be the policy of the State of Vermont that all Vermont residents should have health care coverage in effect prior to implementation of Green Mountain Care that is substantially equivalent to coverage available under the benchmark plan for the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange. If the Secretary or designee reports that substantially equivalent coverage for all Vermonters should be the policy of the State, the Secretary or designee shall propose ways to achieve this goal.

#### Sec. 17. TRANSITION PLAN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Human Resources, in consultation with the Vermont State Employees' Association, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Vermont-NEA, AFT Vermont, and other interested stakeholders, shall develop a plan for transitioning public employees from their existing health insurance plans to Green Mountain Care or another common risk pool, with the goal that all State employees, municipal employees, public school employees, and other persons employed by the State or an instrumentality of the State shall be enrolled in Green Mountain Care upon implementation, which is currently targeted for 2017, or in a common risk pool. The Secretary and Commissioner shall address the role of collective bargaining on the transition process and shall propose methods to mitigate the impact of the transition on employees' health care coverage and on their total compensation.

#### Sec. 18. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE REFORM INITIATIVES

(a) The Secretary of Administration or designee shall consult with the Joint Fiscal Office in developing and selecting data, assumptions, analytic models, and other work related to the following:

(1) the cost of Green Mountain Care, the universal and unified health care system established in 33 V.S.A. chapter 18, subchapter 2;

(2) the distribution of health care spending by individuals, businesses, and municipalities, including comparing the distribution of spending by individuals by income class with the distribution of other taxes; and

(3) the costs of and savings from current health care reform initiatives.

(b) The Secretary or designee and the Joint Fiscal Committee shall explore ways to collaborate on the estimates required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and may contract jointly, to the extent feasible, in order to utilize the same analytic models, data, or other resources.

(c) On or before December 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration shall present his or her analysis to the General Assembly. On or before January 15, 2015, the Joint Fiscal Office shall evaluate the analysis and indicate areas of agreement and disagreement with the data, assumptions, and results.

#### Sec. 19. PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT

On or before October 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall report to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance, and the Health Care Oversight Committee regarding the feasibility and benefits to the State of Vermont of the State acting as its own pharmacy benefit manager for the State employees' health benefit plan, Vermont's Medicaid program, Green Mountain Care, and any other health care plan financed or administered in whole or in part by the State.

#### Sec. 20. INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN PRACTICES; REPORT

On or before December 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding the policy of the State of Vermont with respect to independent physician practices, including whether the State wishes to encourage existing physician practices to remain independent and whether the State wishes to encourage new independent physician practices to open, and, if it is the policy of the State to encourage these independent physician practices, recommending ways to increase the number of these practices in Vermont. The Secretary or designee shall also consider whether the State should prohibit health insurers from reimbursing physicians in independent practices at lower rates than those at which they reimburse physicians in hospital-owned practices for providing the same services.

#### Sec. 21. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY; REPORT

On or before October 1, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General, in consultation with the Vermont Information Technology Leaders, shall report to

the House Committees on Health Care, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Finance regarding the need for intellectual property protection with respect to Vermont's Health Information Exchange and other health information technology initiatives, including the potential for receiving patent, copyright, or trademark protection for health information technology functions, the estimated costs of obtaining intellectual property protection, and projected revenues to the State from protecting intellectual property assets or licensing protected interests to third parties.

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

#### Sec. 22. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage, except that the amendments in Sec. 12 to 21 V.S.A. § 2002 shall apply beginning in the first quarter of fiscal year 2015.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

#### **Amendment to S. 252 to be offered by Senator Mullin**

Senator Mullin moves to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 17 (Transition Plan for Public Employees), first sentence, after "Vermont-NEA," by inserting Vermont School Boards Association,

Second: By adding a new Sec. 22 to read:

\* \* \* Health Care Workforce Symposium \* \* \*

#### Sec. 22. HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SYMPOSIUM

The Secretary of Administration or designee, in collaboration with the Vermont Medical Society and the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, shall organize and conduct a symposium to address the impacts of moving toward universal health care coverage on Vermont's health care workforce and on its projected workforce needs.

and by renumbering the existing Sec. 22, effective date, to be Sec. 23

#### **Amendment to S. 252 to be offered by Senators Sirotkin and Lyons**

Senators Sirotkin and Lyons move to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 22 to read as follows:

#### Sec. 22. MEDICARE INTEGRATION; REPORT

On or before December 1, 2014, the Secretary of Administration or designee shall report to the House Committees on Health Care and on Ways

and Means and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding the options available to the State of Vermont with respect to the potential integration and coordination of Medicare with Green Mountain Care. The report shall include assessments of possible financing and coverage options for Vermont's Medicare population within Green Mountain Care and the potential continuation of Medicare supplemental insurance and Medicare Advantage plans.

And by renumbering the remaining section of the bill to be numerically correct.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Third Reading**

#### **S. 208.**

An act relating to solid waste management.

#### **S. 218.**

An act relating to temporary employees.

#### **Amendment to S. 218 to be offered by Senators Sirotkin, Benning and Rodgers before third reading**

Senators Sirotkin, Benning and Rodgers move to amend the bill in Sec. 2 subdivision (2) after the following: July 1, 2014 by adding the following: in accordance with 21 V.S.A. § 512

#### **S. 220.**

An act relating to amending the workers' compensation law, establishing a registry of sole contractors, increasing the funds available to the Department of Tourism and Marketing for advertising, and regulating legacy insurance transfers.

#### **S. 225.**

An act relating to early retirement allowance.

#### **S. 239.**

An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances.

#### **H. 441.**

An act relating to changing provisions within the Vermont Common Interest Ownership Act related to owners of time-shares.

#### **H. 609.**

An act relating to terminating propane service.

**Second Reading**

**Favorable**

**H. 563.**

An act relating to captive insurance laws and accreditation standards.

**Reported favorably by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Finance.**

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of January 29, 2014, page 169)

**H. 602.**

An act relating to municipal budget committees.

**Reported favorably by Senator White for the Committee on Government Operations.**

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal of February 27, 2014, page 506)

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Second Reading**

**Favorable with Recommendation of Amendment**

**S. 202.**

An act relating to the energy efficiency charge.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of amendment by Senator MacDonald for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.**

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. 30 V.S.A. § 209 is amended to read:

§ 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE

\* \* \*

(d) Energy efficiency.

\* \* \*

(3) Energy efficiency charge; regulated fuels. In addition to its existing authority, the Board may establish by order or rule a volumetric charge to

customers for the support of energy efficiency programs that meet the requirements of section 218c of this title. The charge shall be known as the energy efficiency charge, shall be shown separately on each customer's bill, and shall be paid to a fund administrator appointed by the Board and deposited into an Electric Efficiency Fund. When such a charge is shown, notice as to how to obtain information about energy efficiency programs approved under this section shall be provided in a manner directed by the Board. This notice shall include, at a minimum, a toll-free telephone number, and to the extent feasible shall be on the customer's bill and near the energy efficiency charge.

(A) Balances in the Electric Efficiency Fund shall be ratepayer funds, shall be used to support the activities authorized in this subdivision, and shall be carried forward and remain in the Fund at the end of each fiscal year. These monies shall not be available to meet the general obligations of the State. Interest earned shall remain in the Fund. The Board will annually provide the General Assembly with a report detailing the revenues collected and the expenditures made for energy efficiency programs under this section.

(B) The charge established by the Board pursuant to this subdivision (3) shall be in an amount determined by the Board by rule or order that is consistent with the principles of least cost integrated planning as defined in section 218c of this title. As circumstances and programs evolve, the amount of the charge shall be reviewed for unrealized energy efficiency potential and shall be adjusted as necessary in order to realize all reasonably available, cost-effective energy efficiency savings. In setting the amount of the charge and its allocation, the Board shall determine an appropriate balance among the following objectives; provided, however, that particular emphasis shall be accorded to the first four of these objectives: reducing the size of future power purchases; reducing the generation of greenhouse gases; limiting the need to upgrade the State's transmission and distribution infrastructure; minimizing the costs of electricity; reducing Vermont's total energy expenditures; providing efficiency and conservation as a part of a comprehensive resource supply strategy; providing the opportunity for all Vermonters to participate in efficiency and conservation programs; and the value of targeting efficiency and conservation efforts to locations, markets, or customers where they may provide the greatest value. The Board, by rule or order, shall establish a process by which a customer who pays an average annual energy efficiency charge under this subdivision (3) of at least \$5,000.00 may apply to the Board to self-administer energy efficiency through the use of an energy savings account which shall contain a percentage of the customer's energy efficiency charge payments as determined by the Board. The remaining portion of the charge shall be used for systemwide energy benefits. The Board in its rules or order shall establish criteria for approval of these applications.

(C) The Board may authorize the use of funds raised through an energy efficiency charge on electric ratepayers to reduce the use of fossil fuels for heating by supporting electric technologies that may increase electric consumption, such as air source heat pumps if, after investigation, it finds that deployment of the technology:

(i) will be beneficial to electric ratepayers;

(ii) will result in cost-effective energy savings to the end-user and to the State as a whole;

(iii) will result in a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on a life-cycle basis and will not have a detrimental impact on the environment through other means such as release of refrigerants or disposal;

(iv) will be part of a comprehensive energy efficiency and conservation program that meets the requirements of subsections (d)–(g) of this section and that makes support for the technology contingent on the energy performance of the building in which the technology is to be installed. The building’s energy performance shall achieve or shall be improved to achieve an energy performance level that is approved by the Board and that is consistent with meeting or exceeding the goals of 10 V.S.A. § 581 (building efficiency);

(v) among the product models of the technology that are suitable for use in Vermont, will employ the product models that are the most efficient available;

(vi) will be promoted in conjunction with demand management strategies offered by the customer’s distribution utility to address any increase in peak electric consumption that may be caused by the deployment;

(vii) will be coordinated between the energy efficiency and distribution utilities, consistent with subdivision (f)(5) of this section; and

(viii) will be supported by an appropriate allocation of funds among the funding sources described in this subsection (d) and subsection (e) of this section. In the case of measures used to increase the energy performance of a building in which the technology is to be installed, the Board shall assume installation of the technology in the building and then determine the allocation according to the proportion of the benefits provided to the regulated fuel and unregulated fuel sectors. In this subdivision (viii), “regulated fuel” and “unregulated fuel” shall have the same meaning as under subsection (e) of this section.

\* \* \*

(e) Thermal energy and process fuel efficiency funding.



\* \* \*

(3) In this subsection:

(A) “Efficiency services” includes the establishment of a statewide information clearinghouse under subsection (g) of this section.

(B) “Regulated fuels” means electricity and natural gas delivered by a regulated utility.

(C) “Unregulated fuels” means fuels used by thermal energy and process fuel customers other than electricity and natural gas delivered by a regulated utility.

\* \* \*

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

### **Favorable with Proposal of Amendment**

#### **H. 676.**

An act relating to regulation of land uses within flood hazard areas.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Snelling for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.**

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

In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 754, in subsection (f), after the phrase “flood hazard area,” by inserting the words or river corridor and after the words “chapter 117” by inserting the words or commence construction of a State-owned and – operated institution or facility located within a flood hazard area or river corridor.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 20, 2014, page 458)

### **CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR NOTICE**

**S.C.R. 52-53** (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to Senate Calendar for March 27, 2014)

**H.C.R. 274-285** (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for March 27, 2014)

## 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.

Patti Pallito of Richmond – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. French for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Shirley A. Jefferson of South Royalton – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. McAllister for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Glenn Boyde of Colchester – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. Pollina for the Committee on Government Operations. (2/19/14)

Lisa Gosselin of Stowe – Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development – By Sen. Doyle for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (3/12/14)

Deborah Granquist of Weston – Member of the Board of Libraries – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Education. (3/18/14)

Brian Vachon of Montpelier – Member of the Community High School of Vermont Board – By Sen. Collins for the Committee on Education. (3/18/14)

Leo Willey of Newport – Member of the State Police Advisory Commission – By Sen. McAllister for the Committee on Government Operations. (3/27/14)

## NOTICE OF JOINT ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, April 10, 2014 - 10:30 A.M.** - Election of one (1) successor legislative Trustee of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Candidates for the position of trustee must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** not later than Thursday, April 3, 2014, by 5:00 P.M. pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for this position.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

### **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

#### **CROSSOVER DEADLINES**

The Joint Rules Committee established the following Crossover deadlines:

(1) All **Senate** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

(2) All **Senate** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2014**, and filed with the Secretary of the Senate so that they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

These deadlines may be waived for any bill or committee only with the consent of the Committee on Rules.

**Note**: The deadlines were determined by the Joint Rules Committee. The Senate will not act on House bills that do not meet these crossover deadlines, without the consent of the Senate Rules Committee.

**Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (Appropriations “Big Bill”, Transportation Spending Bill, Capital Construction Bill, and Miscellaneous Tax Bill).**