

Senate Calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014

SENATE CONVENES AT: 1:30 P.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014

Third Reading

H. 874.

An act relating to consent for admission to hospice care and for DNR/COLST orders.

**Amendment to Senate proposal of amendment to H. 874 to be offered by
Senators Lyons and Flory before Third Reading**

Senators Lyons and Flory move to amend the Senate proposal of amendment by adding three new sections to be numbered Secs. 3, 4 and 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 3. 14 V.S.A. § 3075(g) is amended to read:

(g)(1) The guardian shall obtain prior written approval by the ~~probate division~~ Probate Division of the ~~superior court~~ Superior Court following notice and hearing:

(A) if the person under guardianship objects to the guardian's decision, on constitutional grounds or otherwise;

(B) if the ~~court~~ Court orders prior approval for a specific surgery, procedure, or treatment, either in its initial order pursuant to subdivision 3069(c)(2) of this title or anytime after appointment of a guardian;

(C) except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, and unless the guardian is acting pursuant to an advance directive, before withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment other than antibiotics; or

(D) unless the guardian is acting pursuant to an advance directive, before consenting to a do-not-resuscitate order or clinician order for life-sustaining treatment, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9701(6), unless a clinician as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 9701(5) certifies that the person under guardianship is likely to experience cardiopulmonary arrest before ~~court~~ Court approval can be obtained. In such circumstances, the guardian shall immediately notify the ~~court~~ Court of the need for a decision, shall obtain the clinician's certification prior to consenting to the do-not-resuscitate order or clinician order for life-sustaining treatment, and shall file the clinician's certification with the ~~court~~ Court after consent has been given.

(2) The requirements of subdivision (1)(C) of this subsection shall not apply if obtaining a ~~court~~ Court order would be impracticable due to the need for a decision before ~~court~~ Court approval can be obtained. In such circumstances, the guardian shall immediately notify the ~~court~~ Court by telephone of the need for a decision, and shall notify the ~~court~~ Court of any decision made.

Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9701 is amended to read:

§ 9701. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(11) “Guardian” means a person appointed by the Probate Division of the Superior Court who has the authority to make medical decisions pursuant to 14 V.S.A. § 3069~~(b)~~(c).

* * *

Sec. 5. 18 V.S.A. § 9708 is amended to read:

§ 9708. ~~AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES REGARDING DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE ORDERS AND CLINICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING~~ LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT

(a) As used in this section, “DNR/COLST” shall mean a do-not-resuscitate order (“DNR”) and a clinician order for ~~life-sustaining~~ life-sustaining treatment (“COLST”) as defined in section 9701 of this title.

(b) A DNR order and a COLST shall be issued on the Department of Health’s “Vermont DNR/COLST form” as designated by rule by the Department of Health.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, health care facilities and residential care facilities may document DNR/COLST orders in the patient’s medical record in a facility-specific manner when the patient is in their care.

(d) A DNR order must:

(1) be signed by the patient’s clinician;

(2) certify that the clinician has consulted, or made an effort to consult, with the patient, and the patient’s agent or guardian, if there is an appointed agent or guardian;

(3) include either:

(A) the name of the patient; agent; guardian, in accordance with 14 V.S.A. § 3075(g); or other individual giving informed consent for the DNR and the individual's relationship to the patient; or

(B) certification that the patient's clinician and one other named clinician have determined that resuscitation would not prevent the imminent death of the patient, should the patient experience cardiopulmonary arrest; and

(4) if the patient is in a health care facility or a residential care facility, certify that the requirements of the facility's DNR protocol required by section 9709 of this title have been met.

(e) A COLST must:

(1) be signed by the patient's clinician; and

(2) include the name of the patient; agent; guardian, in accordance with 14 V.S.A. § 3075(g); or other individual giving informed consent for the COLST and the individual's relationship to the patient.

* * *

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

Resolution for Action

H.C.R. 328.

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the St. Albans Raid.

PENDING QUESTION: Shall the resolution be adopted in concurrence?

Text of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, in mid-October 1864, Confederate soldiers in civilian clothes quietly arrived in St. Albans, taking rooms in hotels, and

Whereas, their leader, Bennett Young, had planned a raid on the Vermont town with the permission of the highest authorities in the Confederate Government at Richmond, and

Whereas, on October 19, the raiders emerged armed on Main Street and proceeded to rob the town's three banks, and

Whereas, the Confederates absconded with \$208,000.00 and headed north on stolen horses for the international border, and

Whereas, the raiders rode out of town in a hail of gunfire, with one of their number severely wounded and a spectator killed, and

Whereas, a posse was unable to prevent the raiders from reaching the international border, and

Whereas, the St. Albans Raid was the northernmost land action of the Civil War, and

Whereas, the 150th anniversary of the raid will be commemorated in St. Albans in September 2014, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 150th anniversary of the St. Albans Raid, ever mindful that while this Confederate victory was taking place on Vermont soil, also on October 19, 1864, Union forces scored a far more important victory at Cedar Creek in Virginia, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly notes proudly that Vermonters were key to the Cedar Creek triumph which was a major victory in the great war to abolish slavery and preserve the Union, despite the spirited and now legendary St. Albans Raid, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the St. Albans Historical Society.

Proposal of amendment to H.C.R. 328 to be offered by Senator Galbraith

Senator Galbraith moves to amend the first resolved clause by striking out “this confederate victory was” and inserting in lieu thereof these bank robberies were and by striking out “a far more important” and inserting in lieu thereof an historic

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 875.

An act relating to the elimination of a defendant’s right to a trial by jury in traffic appeals and fines for driving with license suspended.

H. 886.

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

H. 887.

An act relating to approval of the adoption and the codification of the charter of the Town of East Montpelier.

H. 890.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Burlington regarding the redistricting of City election areas.

Second Reading

Favorable

S.R. 8.

Senate resolution reaffirming the friendly bilateral relationships between Taiwan and both the United States and Vermont and the important role of Taiwan in the international community.

Reported favorably by Senator Collins for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 581.

An act relating to guardianship of minors.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Nitka for the Committee on Judiciary.

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. 14 V.S.A. chapter 111, subchapter 2, article 1 is amended to read:

Article 1. Guardians of Minors

§ 2621. POLICY; PURPOSES

This article shall be construed in accordance with the following purposes and policies:

(1) It is presumed that the interests of minor children are best promoted in the child's own home. However, when parents are temporarily unable to care for their children, guardianship provides a process through which parents can arrange for family members or other parties to care for the children.

(2) Family members can make better decisions about minor children when they understand the consequences of those decisions and are informed about the law and the available supports.

(3) Decisions about raising a child made by a person other than the child's parent should be based on the informed consent of the parties unless there has been a finding of parental unsuitability.

(4) When the informed consent of the parents cannot be obtained, parents have a fundamental liberty interest in raising their children unless a

proposed guardian can show parental unsuitability by clear and convincing evidence.

(5) Research demonstrates that timely reunification between parents and their children is more likely when children have safe and substantial contact with their parents.

(6) It is in the interests of all parties, including the children, that parents and proposed guardians have a shared understanding about the length of time that they expect the guardianship to last, the circumstances under which the parents will resume care for their children, and the nature of the supports and services that are available to assist them.

§ 2622. DEFINITIONS

As used in this article:

(1) “Child” means an individual who is under 18 years of age and who is the subject of a petition for guardianship filed pursuant to section 2623 of this title.

(2) “Child in need of guardianship” means:

(A) A child who the parties consent is in need of adult care because of any one of the following:

(i) The child’s custodial parent has a serious or terminal illness.

(ii) A custodial parent’s physical or mental health prevents the parent from providing proper care and supervision for the child.

(iii) The child’s home is no longer habitable as the result of a natural disaster.

(iv) A custodial parent of the child is incarcerated.

(v) A custodial parent of the child is on active military duty.

(vi) The parties have articulated and agreed to another reason that guardianship is in the best interests of the child.

(B) A child who is:

(i) abandoned or abused by the child’s parent;

(ii) without proper parental care, subsistence, education, medical, or other care necessary for the child’s well-being; or

(iii) without or beyond the control of the child’s parent.

(3) “Custodial parent” means a parent who, at the time of the commencement of the guardianship proceeding, has the right and

responsibility to provide the routine daily care and control of the child. The rights of the custodial parent may be held solely or shared and may be subject to the court-ordered right of the other parent to have contact with the child. If physical parental rights and responsibilities are shared pursuant to court order, both parents shall be considered “custodial parents” for purposes of this subdivision.

(4) “Nonconsensual guardianship” means a guardianship with respect to which:

(A) a parent is opposed to establishing the guardianship; or

(B) a parent seeks to terminate a guardianship that the parent previously agreed to establish.

(5) “Noncustodial parent” means a parent who is not a custodial parent at the time of the commencement of the guardianship proceeding.

(6) “Parent” means a child’s biological or adoptive parent, including custodial parents; noncustodial parents; parents with legal or physical responsibilities, or both; and parents whose rights have never been adjudicated.

(7) “Parent-child contact” means the right of a parent to have visitation with the child by court order.

§ 2623. PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR; SERVICE

(a) A parent or a person interested in the welfare of a minor may file a petition with the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the appointment of a guardian for a child. The petition shall state:

(1) the names and addresses of the parents, the child, and the proposed guardian;

(2) the proposed guardian’s relationship to the child;

(3) the names of all members of the proposed guardian’s household and each person’s relationship to the proposed guardian and the child;

(4) that the child is alleged to be a child in need of guardianship;

(5) specific reasons with supporting facts why guardianship is sought;

(6) whether the parties agree that the child is in need of guardianship and that the proposed guardian should be appointed as guardian;

(7) the child’s current school and grade level;

(8) if the proposed guardian intends to change the child’s current school, the name and location of the proposed new school and the estimated date when the child would enroll;

(9) the places where the child has lived during the last five years, and the names and present addresses of the persons with whom the child has lived during that period;

(10) any prior or current court proceedings, child support matters, or parent-child contact orders involving the child; and

(11) any previous involvement with the child by the Department for Children and Families.

(b)(1) A petition for guardianship of a child under this section shall be served on all parties and interested persons as provided by Rule 4 of the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

(2)(A) The Probate Division may waive the notice requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) with respect to a parent if the Court finds that:

(i) the identity of the parent is unknown; or

(ii) the location of the parent is unknown and cannot be determined with reasonable effort.

(B) After a guardianship for a child is created, the Probate Division shall reopen the proceeding at the request of a parent of the child who did not receive notice of the proceeding as required by this subsection.

§ 2624. JURISDICTION; TRANSFER TO FAMILY DIVISION

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Probate Division shall have exclusive jurisdiction over proceedings under this article involving guardianship of minors.

(b)(1)(A) A custodial minor guardianship proceeding brought in the Probate Division under this article shall be transferred to the Family Division if there is an open proceeding in the Family Division involving custody of the same child who is the subject of the guardianship proceeding in the Probate Division.

(B) A minor guardianship proceeding brought in the Probate Division under this article may be transferred to the Family Division on motion of a party or on the court's own motion if any of the parties to the probate proceeding was a party to a closed divorce proceeding in the Family Division involving custody of the same child who is the subject of the guardianship proceeding in the Probate Division.

(2)(A) When a minor guardianship proceeding is transferred from the Probate Division to the Family Division pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b), the Probate judge and a Superior judge assigned to the Family

Division shall confer regarding jurisdiction over the proceeding. Except as provided in subdivision (B) of this subdivision (2), all communications concerning jurisdiction between the Probate judge and the Superior judge under this subsection shall be on the record. Whenever possible, a party shall be provided notice of the communication and an opportunity to be present when it occurs. A party who is unable to be present for the communication shall be provided access to the record.

(B) It shall not be necessary to inform the parties about or make a record of a communication between the Probate judge and the Superior judge under this subsection (b) if the communication involves scheduling, calendars, court records, or other similar administrative matters.

(C) After the Superior judge and Probate judge confer under subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (b), the Superior judge may:

(i) consolidate the minor guardianship case with the pending matter in the Family Division and determine whether a guardianship should be established under this article; or

(ii) transfer the guardianship petition back to the Probate Division for further proceedings after the pending matter in the Family Division has been adjudicated.

(D) If a guardianship is established by the Family Division pursuant to subdivision (2)(C)(i) of this subsection, the guardianship case shall be transferred back to the Probate Division for ongoing monitoring pursuant to section 2631 of this title.

§ 2625. HEARING; COUNSEL; GUARDIAN AD LITEM

(a) The Probate Division shall schedule a hearing upon the filing of the petition and shall provide notice of the hearing to all parties and interested persons who were provided notice under subdivision 2623(c)(1) of this title.

(b) The child shall attend the hearing if he or she is 14 years of age or older unless the child's presence is excused by the Court for good cause. The child may attend the hearing if he or she is less than 14 years of age.

(c) The Court shall appoint counsel for the child if the child will be called as a witness. In all other cases, the Court may appoint counsel for the child.

(d)(1) The child may be called as a witness only if the Court finds after hearing that:

(A) the child's testimony is necessary to assist the Court in determining the issue before it;

(B) the probative value of the child's testimony outweighs the potential detriment to the child; and

(C) the evidence sought is not reasonably available by any other means.

(2) The examination of a child called as a witness may be conducted by the Court in chambers in the presence of such other persons as the Court may specify and shall be recorded.

(e) The Court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child on motion of a party or on the Court's own motion.

(f)(1) The Court may grant an emergency guardianship petition filed ex parte by the proposed guardian if the Court finds that:

(A) both parents are deceased or medically incapacitated; and

(B) the best interests of the child require that a guardian be appointed without delay and before a hearing is held.

(2) If the Court grants an emergency guardianship petition pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), it shall schedule a hearing on the petition as soon as practicable and in no event more than 72 hours after the petition is filed.

§ 2626. CONSENSUAL GUARDIANSHIP

(a) If the petition requests a consensual guardianship, the petition shall include a consent signed by the custodial parent or parents verifying that the parent or parents understand the nature of the guardianship and knowingly and voluntarily consent to the guardianship. The consent required by this subsection shall be on a form approved by the Court Administrator.

(b) On or before the date of the hearing, the parties shall file an agreement between the proposed guardian and the parents. The agreement shall address:

(1) the responsibilities of the guardian;

(2) the responsibilities of the parents;

(3) the expected duration of the guardianship, if known; and

(4) parent-child contact and parental involvement in decision making.

(c) Vermont Rule of Probate Procedure 43 (relaxed rules of evidence in probate proceedings) shall apply to hearings under this section.

(d) The Court shall grant the petition if it finds after the hearing by clear and convincing evidence that:

(1) the child is a child in need of guardianship as defined in subdivision 2622(2)(A) of this title;

(2) the child's parents had notice of the proceeding and knowingly and voluntarily consented to the guardianship;

(3) the agreement is voluntary;

(4) the proposed guardian is suitable; and

(5) the guardianship is in the best interests of the child.

(e) If the Court grants the petition, it shall approve the agreement at the hearing and issue an order establishing a guardianship under section 2628 of this title. The order shall be consistent with the terms of the parties' agreement unless the Court finds that the agreement was not reached voluntarily or is not in the best interests of the child.

§ 2627. NONCONSENSUAL GUARDIANSHIP

(a) If the petition requests a nonconsensual guardianship, the burden shall be on the proposed guardian to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the child is a child in need of guardianship as defined in subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title.

(b) The Vermont Rules of Evidence shall apply to a hearing under this section.

(c) The Court shall grant the petition if it finds after the hearing by clear and convincing evidence that the proposed guardian is suitable and that the child is a child in need of guardianship as defined in subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title.

(d) If the Court grants the petition, it shall issue an order establishing a guardianship under section 2628 of this title.

§ 2628. GUARDIANSHIP ORDER

(a) If the Court grants a petition for guardianship of a child under subsection 2626(d) or 2627(d) of this title, the Court shall enter an order establishing a guardianship and naming the proposed guardian as the child's guardian.

(b) A guardianship order issued under this section shall include provisions addressing the following matters:

(1) the powers and duties of the guardian consistent with section 2629 of this title;

(2) the expected duration of the guardianship, if known;

(3) a family plan on a form approved by the Court Administrator that:

(A) in a consensual case is consistent with the parties' agreement; or

(B) in a nonconsensual case includes, at a minimum, provisions that address parent-child contact consistent with section 2630 of this title; and

(4) the process for reviewing the order consistent with section 2631 of this title.

§ 2629. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIAN

(a) The Court shall specify the powers and duties of the guardian in the guardianship order.

(b) The duties of a custodial guardian shall include the duty to:

(1) take custody of the child and establish his or her place of residence, provided that a guardian shall not change the residence of the child to a location outside the State of Vermont without prior authorization by the Court following notice to the parties and an opportunity for hearing;

(2) make decisions related to the child's education;

(3) make decisions related to the child's physical and mental health, including consent to medical treatment and medication;

(4) make decisions concerning the child's contact with others, provided that the guardian shall comply with all provisions of the guardianship order regarding parent-child contact and contact with siblings;

(5) receive funds paid for the support of the child, including child support and government benefits; and

(6) file an annual status report to the Probate Division, with a copy to each parent at his or her last known address, including the following information:

(A) the current address of the child and each parent;

(B) the child's health care and health needs, including any medical and mental health services the child received;

(C) the child's educational needs and progress, including the name of the child's school, day care, or other early education program, the child's grade level, and the child's educational achievements;

(D) contact between the child and his or her parents, including the frequency and duration of the contact and whether it was supervised;

(E) how the parents have been involved in decision making for the child;

(F) how the guardian has carried out his or her responsibilities and duties, including efforts made to include the child's parents in the child's life;

(G) the child's strengths, challenges, and any other areas of concern; and

(H) recommendations with supporting reasons as to whether the guardianship order should be continued, modified, or terminated.

§ 2630. PARENT-CHILD CONTACT

(a) The Court shall order parent-child contact unless it finds that denial of parent-child contact is necessary to protect the physical safety or emotional well-being of the child. Except for good cause shown, the order shall be consistent with any existing parent-child contact order.

(b) The Court may determine the reasonable frequency and duration of parent-child contact and may set conditions for parent-child contact that are in the child's best interests.

(c) The Court may modify the parent-child contact order upon motion of a party or upon the Court's own motion, or if the parties stipulate to the modification.

§ 2631. REPORTS; REVIEW HEARING

(a) The guardian shall file an annual status report to the Probate Division pursuant to subdivisions 2629(b)(4) and 2629(c)(5) of this title, and shall provide copies of the report to each parent at his or her last known address. The Court may order that a status report be filed more frequently than once per year.

(b) The Probate Division may set a hearing to review a report required by subsection (a) of this section or to determine progress with the family plan required by subdivision 2628(b)(3) of this title. The Court shall provide notice of the hearing to all parties and interested persons.

§ 2632. TERMINATION

(a) A parent may file a motion to terminate a guardianship at any time. The motion shall be filed with the Probate Division that issued the guardianship order and served on all parties and interested persons.

(b)(1) If the motion to terminate is made with respect to a consensual guardianship established under section 2626 of this title, the Court shall grant the motion and terminate the guardianship unless the guardian files a motion

to continue the guardianship within 30 days after the motion to terminate is served.

(2) If the guardian files a motion to continue the guardianship, the matter shall be set for hearing and treated as a nonconsensual guardianship proceeding under section 2627 of this title. The parent shall not be required to show a change in circumstances, and the Court shall not grant the motion to continue the guardianship unless the guardian establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the minor is a child in need of guardianship under subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title.

(3) If the Court grants the motion to continue, it shall issue an order establishing a guardianship under section 2628 of this title.

(c)(1) If the motion to terminate the guardianship is made with respect to a nonconsensual guardianship established under section 2627 or subdivision 2632(b)(3) of this title, the Court shall dismiss the motion unless the parent establishes that a change in circumstances has occurred since the previous guardianship order was issued.

(2) If the Court finds that a change in circumstances has occurred since the previous guardianship order was issued, the Court shall grant the motion to terminate the guardianship unless the guardian establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the minor is a child in need of guardianship under subdivision 2622(2)(B) of this title.

§ 2633. APPEALS

Notwithstanding 12 V.S.A. § 2551 or 2553, the Vermont Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over orders of the Probate Division issued under this article.

§ 2634. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES POLICY

The Department for Children and Families shall adopt a policy defining its role with respect to families who establish a guardianship under this article. The policy shall be consistent with the following principles:

(1) The Family Services Division shall maintain a policy ensuring that when a child must be removed from his or her home to ensure the child's safety, the Division will pursue a CHINS procedure promptly if there are sufficient grounds under 33 V.S.A. § 5102.

(2) When the Family Services Division is conducting an investigation or assessment related to child safety and the child may be a child in need of care and supervision as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 5102(3), the Division shall not make any recommendation regarding whether a family should pursue a minor

guardianship. The staff may provide referrals to community-based resources for information regarding minor guardianships.

(3) In response to a request from the Probate judge, the Family Services Division social worker shall attend a minor guardianship hearing and provide information relevant to the proceeding.

(4) If a minor guardianship is established during the time that the Family Services Division has an open case involving the minor, the social worker shall inform the guardian and the parents about services and supports available to them in the community and shall close the case within a reasonable time unless a specific safety risk is identified.

Sec. 2. 14 V.S.A. chapter 111, subchapter 2, article 1A is added to read:

Article 1A. Financial Guardians of Minors

§ 2659. FINANCIAL GUARDIANSHIP; MINORS

(a) The Probate Division may appoint a financial guardian for a minor pursuant to this section if the minor is the owner of real or personal property. A financial guardian appointed pursuant to this section shall have the care and management of the estate of the minor but shall not have custody of the minor.

(b)(1) A parent or a person interested in the welfare of a minor may file a petition with the Probate Division of the Superior Court for the appointment of a guardian for a child. The petition shall state:

(A) the names and addresses of the parents, the child, and the proposed guardian;

(B) the proposed guardian's relationship to the child; and

(C) any real and personal property owned by the minor.

(2) A petition for financial guardianship of a minor under this section shall be served on all parties and interested persons as provided by Rule 4 of the Vermont Rules of Probate Procedure.

(c) The Probate Division shall schedule a hearing upon the filing of the petition and shall provide notice of the hearing to all parties.

(d) If the Court grants the petition for financial guardianship of the minor, the Court shall enter an order establishing a financial guardianship, naming the proposed guardian as the child's financial guardian, and specifying the powers and duties of the guardian.

(e) The duties of a financial guardian shall include the duty to:

(1) pursue, receive, and manage any property right of the minor's, including inheritances, insurance benefits, litigation proceeds, or any other real or personal property, provided the benefits or property shall not be expended without prior court approval;

(2) deposit any cash resources of the minor in accounts established for the guardianship, provided the cash resources of the minor shall not be comingled with the guardian's assets;

(3) responsibly invest and re-invest the cash resources of the minor;

(4) obtain court approval for expenditures of funds to meet extraordinary needs of the minor which cannot be met with other family resources;

(5) establish special needs trusts with court approval; and

(6) file an annual financial accounting with the Probate Division stating the funds received, managed, and spent on behalf of the minor.

Sec. 3. 14 V.S.A. chapter 111, subchapter 2, article 1A is redesignated as article 1B to read:

Article 1B. Permanent Guardianship for Minors

Sec. 4. 4 V.S.A. § 22 is amended to read:

§ 22. DESIGNATION AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND RETIRED JUDICIAL OFFICERS

(a)(1) ~~The chief justice~~ Chief Justice may appoint and assign a retired ~~justice~~ Justice or judge with his or her consent or a ~~superior~~ Superior or Probate judge to a special assignment on the ~~supreme court~~ Supreme Court. ~~The chief justice~~ Chief Justice may appoint, and the ~~administrative judge~~ Administrative Judge shall assign, an active or retired ~~justice~~ Justice or a retired judge, with his or her consent, to any special assignment in the ~~superior court~~ Superior Court or the ~~judicial bureau~~ Judicial Bureau.

(2) ~~The administrative judge shall~~ Administrative Judge may appoint and assign a judge to any special assignment in the superior court Superior Court. As used in this subdivision, a judge shall include a Superior judge, a Probate judge, a Family Division magistrate, or a judicial hearing officer.

(b) ~~The administrative judge~~ Administrative Judge may appoint and assign a member of the Vermont ~~bar~~ Bar residing within the ~~state~~ State of Vermont to serve temporarily as:

(1) an acting judge in ~~superior court~~ Superior Court;

(2) an acting magistrate; ~~or~~

(3) an acting Probate judge; or

(4) an acting hearing officer to hear cases in the judicial bureau Judicial Bureau.

* * *

Sec. 5. REPEAL

14 V.S.A. §§ 2645 (appointment of guardian), 2651 (when minor refuses to choose), and 2653 (extent of guardian's control) are repealed.

Sec. 6. 13 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. LIMITATION OF PROSECUTIONS FOR CERTAIN CRIMES

* * *

(c) Prosecutions for any of the following offenses alleged to have been committed against a child under 18 years of age shall be commenced within 40 years after the commission of the offense, and not after:

(1) sexual assault;

(2) lewd and lascivious conduct;

(3) sexual exploitation of a minor as defined in subsection 3258(c) of this title; ~~and~~

(4) lewd or lascivious conduct with a child; and

(5) manslaughter.

* * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September, 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 20, 2014, pages 445-458)

Proposal of amendment to H. 581 to be offered by Senator Nitka

Senator Nitka moves that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by adding a new section to be numbered Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. 4 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

§ 455. TRANSFER OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Any guardianship action filed in the ~~probate division of the superior court~~ Probate Division of the Superior Court pursuant to 14 V.S.A.

chapter 111, subchapter 2, article 1 ~~of Title 14~~ and any adoption action filed in the ~~probate division~~ Probate Division pursuant to Title 15A may be transferred to the ~~family division of the superior court as provided in this section~~ Family Division of the Superior Court.

(b) ~~The family division~~ In an adoption action filed in the Probate Division pursuant to Title 15A, the Family Division shall order the transfer of the proceeding on motion of a party or on its own motion if it finds that the identity of the parties, issues, and evidence are so similar in nature to the parties, issues, and evidence in a proceeding pending in the ~~family division~~ Family Division that transfer of the probate action to the ~~family division~~ Family Division would expedite resolution of the issues or would best serve the interests of justice.

And by renumbering the remaining sections to be numerically correct.

H. 758.

An act relating to notice of potential layoffs.

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

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. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) The 21st century workplace is fundamentally different from the 20th century workplace. Along with a changing workplace comes a different workforce. Policies and resources must be updated to reflect the changing workplace and workforce.

(2) Businesses retain sensitive information for proprietary and competitive reasons.

(3) When the State requires this information, the sensitivity of this information must be respected and protected.

(4) The Department, as well as other agencies, are able to access federal and State resources to mitigate adverse employment impacts affecting employers, employees, communities, and the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

(5) The Department and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, as well as other agencies, must be able to respond to and assist with economic and workforce training and retention initiatives in a timely fashion.

(6) Municipalities, school districts, and local for-profit and nonprofit businesses are all affected by plant closings and mass layoffs. In order to mitigate adverse impacts, communities and stakeholders need timely information pertaining to plant closings and mass layoffs. Private and public sectors need to work together to reduce the volatility and disruptions that come with layoffs.

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3A is added to read:

Subchapter 3A. Notice of Potential Layoffs Act

§ 411. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Affected employees” means employees who may be expected to experience an employment loss as a consequence of a proposed or actual business closing or mass layoff by their employer.

(2)(A) “Business closing” means:

(i) the permanent shutdown of a facility;

(ii) the permanent cessation of operations at one or more worksites in the State that result in the layoff of 50 or more employees over a 90-day period; or

(iii) the cessation of work or operations not scheduled to resume within 90 days, that affects 50 or more employees.

(B) Business closing does not mean a temporary shutdown of a seasonal employer that does not extend beyond 20 weeks.

(3) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Labor.

(4) “Department” means the Department of Labor.

(5) “Employer” means any business enterprise that employs:

(A) 50 or more full-time employees;

(B) 50 or more part-time employees who work at least 1,040 hours per employee per year; or

(C) a combination of 50 or more:

(i) full-time employees; and

(ii) part-time employees who work at least 1,040 hours per employee per year.

(6) “Employment loss” means the termination of employment that is the direct result of a business closing or mass layoff. An employee will not be considered to have suffered an employment loss if the employee is offered a transfer to a different site of employment within 35 miles; or if prior to the layoff notice to the employee, the employee voluntarily separates or retires or was separated by the employer for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct.

(7) “Mass layoff” means a permanent employment loss of at least 50 employees at one or more worksites in Vermont during any 90-day period. In determining whether a mass layoff has occurred or will occur, employment losses for two or more groups of employees, each of which is below this threshold but which in the aggregate exceed this threshold and which occur within any 90-day period shall be considered to be a mass layoff unless the employer demonstrates that the employment losses are the result of separate and distinct actions and causes.

(8) “Representative” means an exclusive bargaining agent as legally recognized under State or federal labor laws.

§ 412. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Department and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall prepare information and materials for the purpose of informing and educating Vermont employers with regard to programs and resources that are available to assist with economic and workforce retention initiatives in order to avoid business closings and mass layoffs. The Department and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall also inform Vermont employers of the employers’ obligations that will be required for proper notice under the provisions of this act.

§ 413. NOTICE AND WAGE PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS

(a) An employer who will engage in a closing or mass layoff shall provide notice to the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development and the Commissioner in accordance with this section to enable the State to present information on potential support for the employer and separated employees.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, an employer who will engage in a closing or mass layoff shall provide notice to the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development and the Commissioner 45 days prior to the effective date of the closing or layoffs that reach the thresholds defined in section 411 of this subchapter, and shall provide 30-days’ notice to the local

chief elected official or administrative officer of the municipality, affected employees, and bargaining agent, if any.

(c) The employer shall send to the Commissioner and the Secretary the approximate number and job titles of affected employees, the anticipated date of the employment loss, and the affected worksites within the time allotted for notice to the Commissioner and Secretary under subsection 413(b) or 414(b) of this subchapter. Concurrent with the notification to the affected employees, in accordance with subsection 413(b) of this subchapter, the employer shall send to the Commissioner in writing the actual number of layoffs, job titles, date of layoff, and other information as the Commissioner deems necessary for the purposes of unemployment insurance benefit processing and for accessing federal and State resources to mitigate adverse employment impacts affecting employers, employees, and communities within the time allotted for notice to the Commissioner under subsection 413(b) or 414(b) of this subchapter.

(d) In the case of a sale of part or all of an employer's business where mass layoffs will occur, the seller and the purchaser are still required to comply with the notice requirements under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) Nothing in this subchapter shall abridge, abrogate, or restrict the right of the State to require an employer that is receiving State economic development funds or incentives from being required to provide additional or earlier notice as a condition for the receipt of such funds or incentives.

(f) An employer is required to pay all unpaid wage and compensation owed to any laid-off worker, as required under this title.

(g) This section shall not apply to a nursing home in situations where Rules 2.8 and 3.14 of the Vermont Licensing and Operating Rules for Nursing Homes apply or where the CMS Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities apply, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. §§ 483.12 and 483.75.

§ 414. EXCEPTIONS

(a) In the case of a business closing or mass layoff, an employer is not required to comply with the notice requirement in subsection 413 of this subchapter and may delay notification to the Department if:

(1) the business closing or mass layoff results from a strike or a lockout;

(2) the employer is actively attempting to secure capital or investments in order to avoid closing or mass layoffs; and the capital or investments sought, if obtained, would have enabled the employer to avoid or postpone the business closing or mass layoff, and the employer reasonably and in good faith believed that giving the notice would have precluded the employer from securing the needed capital or investment;

(3) the business closing or mass layoff is caused by dramatic business circumstances that were not reasonably foreseeable at the time the 45-day notice would have been required;

(4) the business closing or mass layoff is due to a disaster beyond the control of the employer; or

(5) the business closing or the mass layoff is the result of the completion of a particular project or undertaking, and the affected employees were hired with the understanding that their employment was limited to the duration of the facility or project or undertaking.

(b) An employer that is unable to provide the notice otherwise required by this subchapter as a result of circumstances described in subsection (a) of this section shall provide as much notice as is practicable and at that time shall provide a brief statement to the Commissioner regarding the basis for failure to meet the notification period. In such situations, the mailing of the notice by certified mail or any other method approved by the Commissioner shall be considered acceptable in the fulfillment of the employer's obligation to give notice to each affected employee under this subchapter. At the time of notice to the Commissioner, the employer shall provide the required information under subdivisions 413(c) of this subchapter.

§ 415. VIOLATIONS

(a) An employer who violates subsection 413(b) or 414(b) of this subchapter is liable to each employee who lost his or her employment for:

(1) one day of severance pay for each day after the first day in the 45 day notice period required in subsection 413(b) of this subchapter, up to a maximum of ten days severance pay; and

(2) the continuation, not to exceed one month after an employment loss, of existing medical or dental coverage under an employment benefit plan, if any, necessary to cover any delay in an employee's eligibility for obtaining alternative coverage resulting directly from the employer's violation of notice requirements.

(b) The amount of an employer's liability under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by the following:

(1) any voluntary and unconditional payments made by the employer to the employee that were not required to satisfy any legal obligation;

(2) any payments by the employer to a third party or trustee, such as premiums for health benefits or payments to a defined contribution pension plan, on behalf of and attributable to the employee for the period of the violation; and

(3) any liability paid by the employer under any applicable federal law governing notification of mass layoffs, business closings, or relocations.

(c) If an employer proves to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the act or omission that violated this subchapter was in good faith, the Commissioner may reduce the amount of liability provided for in this section. In determining the amount of such a reduction, the Commissioner shall consider any efforts by the employer to mitigate the violation.

(d) If, after an administrative hearing, the Commissioner determines that an employer has violated any of the requirements of this subchapter, the Commissioner shall issue an order including any penalties assessed by the Commissioner under sections 415 and 417 of this subchapter. The employer may appeal a decision of the Commissioner to the Superior Court within 30 days of the date of the Commissioner's order.

§ 416. POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONER

(a) The Commissioner may adopt rules as necessary, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to carry out this subchapter. The rules shall include provisions that allow the parties access to administrative hearings for any actions of the Department under this subchapter.

(b) In any investigation or proceeding under this subchapter, the Commissioner has, in addition to all other powers granted by law, the authority to subpoena and examine information of an employer necessary to determine whether a violation of this subchapter has occurred, including to determine the validity of any defense.

(c) Information obtained through administration of this subchapter by the Commissioner and the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall be confidential, except that the number of layoffs, the types of jobs affected, and work locations affected shall cease to be confidential after local government and the affected employees have been notified. The Department may provide the information collected pursuant to subsection 413(c) of this subchapter to the U.S. Department of Labor and any other governmental entities for the purposes of securing benefits for the affected employees.

(d) Neither the Commissioner nor any court shall have the authority to enjoin a business closing, relocation, or mass layoff under this subchapter.

§ 417. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

An employer who fails to give notice as required by subsection 413(b) or 414(b) of this subchapter shall be subject to an administrative penalty of \$500.00 for each day that the employer was deficient in the notice to the

Department. The Commissioner may waive the administrative penalty if the employer:

(1) demonstrates good cause under subsection 414(b) of this subchapter;

(2) pays to all affected employees the amounts for which the employer is liable under section 415 of this title within 30 days from the date the employer enacts the business closing or mass layoff; and

(3) pays to all affected employees any unpaid wage and compensation owed to any laid-off worker, as required under this title.

§ 418. OTHER RIGHTS

The rights and remedies provided to employees by this subchapter do not infringe upon or alter any other contractual or statutory rights and remedies of the employees. Nothing in this section is intended to alter or diminish or replace any federal or State regulatory mandates for a shutdown or closure of a regulated business or entity.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section, Sec. 1, and in Sec. 2, 21 V.S.A. §§ 412 (education and outreach) and 416(a) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 2, except for 21 V.S.A. §§ 412 and 416(a), shall take effect on January 15, 2015.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 19, 2014, page 712)

H. 809.

An act relating to designation of new town centers and growth centers.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Baruth 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. 3, 24 V.S.A. § 2793c, by striking out subdivisions (c)(5)(A) and (B) and inserting in lieu thereof two new subdivisions to be (c)(5)(A) and (B) to read:

(5) Each application for designation as a growth center shall include:

(A) a description from the regional planning commission in which each applicant municipality is located of the role of the proposed growth center

in the region, and the relationship between the proposed growth center and neighboring communities;

(B) written confirmation from the applicable regional planning commission that the proposed growth center conforms with the regional plan for the region in which each applicant municipality is located;

Second: In Sec. 3, 24 V.S.A. § 2793c, in subdivision (d)(6), by striking out “80 percent” and inserting in lieu thereof two-thirds

Third: In Sec. 6, 24 V.S.A. § 4382, by striking out subdivision (a)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (a)(2) to read:

(2) A land use plan;

(A) consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, indicating those areas proposed for forests, recreation, agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public, and semi-public uses and open spaces reserved for flood plain, wetland protection, or other conservation purposes; and

(B) setting forth the present and prospective location, amount, intensity, and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of necessary community facilities and service; and

(C) identifying those areas, if any, proposed for designation under chapter 76A of this title, together with, for each area proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan’s goals and the goals of section 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought;

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 12, 2014, page 383.)

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:

First: In Sec. 3, 24 V.S.A. § 2793c, in subdivision (c)(5)(D)(iii), by striking out “25” and inserting in lieu thereof 20.

Second: In Sec. 3, 24 V.S.A. § 2793c, in subdivision (d)(1)(A), by striking out “subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1)” and inserting in lieu thereof subsection (c) of this section.

Third: By inserting a new Sec. 10 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 4451 is amended to read:

§ 4451. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES

(a) Any person who violates any bylaw after it has been adopted under this chapter or who violates a comparable ordinance or regulation adopted under prior enabling laws shall be fined not more than \$200.00 for each offense. No action may be brought under this section unless the alleged offender has had at least seven days’ warning notice by certified mail. An action may be brought without the seven-day notice and opportunity to cure if the alleged offender repeats the violation of the bylaw or ordinance after the seven-day notice period and within the next succeeding 12 months.

(1) The seven-day warning notice shall state that a violation exists, that the alleged offender has an opportunity to cure the violation within the seven days, and that the alleged offender will not be entitled to an additional warning notice for a violation occurring after the seven days.

(2) A notice of violation issued under this chapter also shall state:

(A) the bylaw or municipal land use permit condition alleged to have been violated;

(B) the facts giving rise to the alleged violation;

(C) to whom appeal may be taken and the period of time for taking an appeal; and

(D) that failure to file an appeal within that period will render the notice of violation the final decision on the violation addressed in the notice.

(3) In default of payment of the fine, the person, the members of any partnership, or the principal officers of the corporation shall each pay double the amount of the fine. Each day that a violation is continued shall constitute a separate offense. All fines collected for the violation of bylaws shall be paid over to the municipality whose bylaw has been violated.

(b) Any person who, being the owner or agent of the owner of any lot, tract, or parcel of land, lays out, constructs, opens, or dedicates any street, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, or other improvements for public use, travel, or other purposes or for the common use of occupants of buildings abutting thereon, or sells, transfers, or agrees or enters into an agreement to sell any land in a subdivision or land development whether by reference to or by

other use of a plat of that subdivision or land development or otherwise, or erects any structure on that land, unless a final plat has been prepared in full compliance with this chapter and the bylaws adopted under this chapter and has been recorded as provided in this chapter, shall be fined not more than \$200.00, and each lot or parcel so transferred or sold or agreed or included in a contract to be sold shall be deemed a separate violation. All fines collected for these violations shall be paid over to the municipality whose bylaw has been violated. The description by metes and bounds in the instrument of transfer or other document used in the process of selling or transferring shall not exempt the seller or transferor from these penalties or from the remedies provided in this chapter.

And by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 297.

An act relating to duties and functions of the Department of Public Service.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Bray 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:

* * * Legislative Purpose; Intent * * *

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE; FINDINGS

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 7511 is amended to read:

§ 7511. DISTRIBUTION GENERALLY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 7516 is added to read:

§ 7516. CONNECTIVITY FUND

(a) There is created a Connectivity Fund for the purpose of providing access to Internet service that is capable of speeds of at least 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to every E-911 business and residential location in Vermont, beginning with locations not served as of December 31, 2013 according to the minimum technical service characteristic objectives applicable at that time. Any new services funded in whole or in part by monies in this

Fund shall be capable of being continuously upgraded to reflect the best available, most economically feasible service capabilities.

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

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

(2) the price to consumers of services;

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 7521 is amended to read:

§ 7521. CHARGE IMPOSED; WHOLESAL EXEMPTION

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

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

(c) In the case of mobile telecommunications service, the universal service charge is imposed when the customer's place of primary use is in Vermont.

The terms “customer,” “place of primary use,” and “mobile telecommunications service” have the meanings given in 4 U.S.C. § 124. All provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 9782 shall apply to the imposition of the universal service charge under this section.

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

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

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

Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 7523 is amended to read:

§ 7523. ~~RATE ADJUSTED ANNUALLY OF CHARGE~~

~~(a) Annually, after considering the probable expenditures for programs funded pursuant to this chapter, the probable service revenues of the industry and seeking recommendations from the department, the public service board shall establish a rate of charge to apply during the 12 months beginning on the following September 1. However, the rate so established shall not at any time exceed two percent of retail telecommunications service. The board’s decision shall be entered and announced each year before July 15. However, if the general assembly does not enact an authorization amount for E-911 before July 15, the board may defer decision until 30 days after the E-911 authorization is established, and the existing charge rate shall remain in effect until the board establishes a new rate. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the annual rate of charge shall be two percent of retail telecommunications service.~~

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

Sec. 6. 30 V.S.A. § 7524 is amended to read:

§ 7524. PAYMENT TO FISCAL AGENT

(a) Telecommunications service providers shall pay to the fiscal agent all universal service charge receipts collected from customers. A report in a form

approved by ~~the public service board~~ Public Service Board shall be included with each payment.

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 7. 30 V.S.A. § 202c is amended to read:

§ 202C. STATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS; POLICY AND PLANNING

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

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

(1) Strengthen the State's role in telecommunications planning.

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

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

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

(5) Provide the benefits of future advances in telecommunications technologies to Vermont residents and businesses.

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

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

(8) Support deployment of broadband infrastructure that:

(A) Uses the best commercially available technology.

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

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

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

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

§ 202D. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLAN

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

(b) The ~~department of public service~~ Department shall prepare a ~~telecommunications plan~~ Telecommunications Plan for the ~~state~~ State. The ~~department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and

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

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

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

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

(4) an assessment, conducted in cooperation with the ~~department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and Information and the Division for Connectivity, of the current ~~state~~ State telecommunications system and evaluation of alternative proposals for upgrading the system to provide the best available and affordable technology for use by government; and

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

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

(d) In establishing plans, public hearings shall be held and the ~~department of public service~~ Department shall consult with members of the public, representatives of telecommunications utilities, other providers, and other interested ~~state~~ State agencies, particularly the ~~agency of commerce and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Division for Connectivity, and the ~~department of innovation and information~~ Department of Innovation and Information, whose views shall be considered in preparation of the ~~plan~~ Plan. To the extent necessary, the ~~department of public service~~ Department shall include in the ~~plan~~ Plan surveys

to determine existing, needed, and desirable plant improvements and extensions, access and coordination between telecommunications providers, methods of operations, and any change that will produce better service or reduce costs. To this end, the ~~department of public service~~ Department may require the submission of data by each company subject to supervision by the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board.

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

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

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

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 2225 is added to read:

§ 2225. DIVISION FOR CONNECTIVITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) provide resources to local, regional, public, and private entities in the form of grants, technical assistance, coordination, and other incentives;

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

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

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

(5) from information reasonably available after public notice to and written requests made of mobile telecommunications and broadband service providers, develop and maintain an inventory of locations at which mobile telecommunications and broadband services are not available within the State.

develop and maintain an inventory of infrastructure that is available or reasonably likely to be available to support the provision of services to unserved areas, and develop and maintain an inventory of infrastructure necessary for the provision of these services to the unserved areas;

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

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

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

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

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

(11) receive all technical and administrative assistance as deemed necessary by the Director for Connectivity.

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

(2) The Director may enter into a nondisclosure agreement with respect to any voluntary disclosures under this subsection and the information disclosed pursuant thereto shall remain confidential. Alternatively, entities that voluntarily provide information requested under this subsection may select a third party to be the recipient of such information. The third party may aggregate information provided by the entities, but shall not disclose the information it has received to any person, including the Director. The third party shall only disclose the aggregated information to the Director. The

Director may publicly disclose aggregated information based upon the information provided under this subsection. The confidentiality requirements of this subsection shall not affect whether information provided to any agency of the State or a political subdivision of the State pursuant to other laws is or is not subject to disclosure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 10. REPEAL

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

Sec. 11. CREATION OF POSITIONS; TRANSFER OF VACANT POSITIONS; REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

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

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

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

Sec. 12. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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

(b) Assets and liabilities. The assets and liabilities of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA) shall become the assets and liabilities of the Agency of Administration.

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

* * * Conduit Standards; Public Highways * * *

Sec. 13. 3 V.S.A. § 2226 is added to read:

§ 2226. PUBLIC HIGHWAYS; CONDUIT STANDARDS

(a) Intent. The intent of this section is to provide for the construction of infrastructure sufficient to allow telecommunications service providers seeking to deploy communication lines in the future to do so by pulling the lines through the conduit and appurtenances installed pursuant to this section. This section is intended to require those constructing public highways, including

State, municipal, and private developers, to provide and install such conduit and appurtenances as may be necessary to accommodate future telecommunications needs within public highways and rights-of-way without further excavation or disturbance.

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

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

Sec. 14. 30 V.S.A. § 248a is amended to read:

§ 248a. CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 1264(j) is amended to read:

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

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

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

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 8506 is amended to read:

§ 8506. RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANT; TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; APPEALS

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

* * *

Sec. 17. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 53, Sec. 14d is amended to read:

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

Effective July 1, ~~2014~~ 2016:

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

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

* * *

Sec. 18. 3 V.S.A. § 2809 is amended to read:

§ 2809. REIMBURSEMENT OF AGENCY COSTS

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

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

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

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

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

public health or the environment presented by an emergency or exigent circumstance.

* * *

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

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

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

* * * Administration Report; E-911; Vermont Communications Board; VCGI; FirstNet * * *

Sec. 19. ADMINISTRATION REPORT; TRANSFERS AND CONSOLIDATION

(a) On January 1, 2015, the Secretary of Administration shall submit a report to the General Assembly proposing a plan for transferring the responsibilities and powers of the Enhanced 911 Board, including necessary positions, to the Division for Connectivity, the Department of Public Service, or the Department of Public Safety, as he or she deems appropriate. The plan shall include budgetary recommendations and shall strive to achieve annual operational savings of at least \$300,000.00, as well as enhanced coordination and efficiency, and reductions in operational redundancies. The report shall include draft legislation implementing the Secretary's plan. In addition, the report shall include a draft recommendation for transferring telecommunications-related positions, responsibilities, and resources of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information to the Department of Public Service.

(b) As part of the report required in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall also make findings and recommendations regarding the status of the Vermont Communications Board, Department of Public Safety, and the Vermont Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (Vermont FirstNet). If not prohibited by federal law, the Secretary shall propose draft legislation creating an advisory board within the Division for Connectivity or the Department of Public Safety comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor to assume functions of the current Enhanced 911 Board, the Vermont Communications Board, the Vermont Public Safety Broadband Network Commission (FirstNet), and relevant telecommunications-related aspects of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information Board of Directors,

as the Secretary deems appropriate. Upon establishment of the new advisory board and not later than July 1, 2015, the E-911 Board and the Vermont Communications Board shall cease to exist.

* * * DPS Deployment Report * * *

Sec. 20. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE; DEPLOYMENT REPORT

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

* * * VTA; Dormant Status * * *

Sec. 21. 30 V.S.A. § 8060a is added to read:

§ 8060a. PERIOD OF DORMANCY

Beginning on July 1, 2015, the Division for Connectivity established under 3 V.S.A. § 2225 shall become the successor in interest to and the continuation of the Vermont Telecommunications Authority. The Authority shall cease all operations and shall not resume its duties as specified under this chapter or under any other Vermont law unless directed to do so by enactment of the General Assembly.

* * * Telecommunications; CPGs; Annual Renewals;
Retransmission Fees * * *

Sec. 22. 30 V.S.A. § 231 is amended to read:

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

(a) A person, partnership, unincorporated association, or previously incorporated association, which desires to own or operate a business over which the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board has jurisdiction under the provisions of this chapter shall first petition the ~~board~~ Board to determine whether the operation of such business will promote the general good of the ~~state,~~ State and conforms with the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable, and shall at that time file a copy of any such petition with the ~~department~~ Department. The ~~department~~ Department, within 12 days, shall review the petition and file a recommendation regarding the petition in the same manner as is set forth in subsection 225(b) of this title. Such recommendation shall set forth reasons why the petition shall be accepted without hearing or shall request that a hearing on the petition be scheduled. If the ~~department~~ Department requests a hearing on the petition, or, if the ~~board~~ Board deems a hearing necessary, it shall appoint a time and place in the

county where the proposed corporation is to have its principal office for hearing the petition, and shall make an order for the publication of the substance thereof and the time and place of hearing two weeks successively in a newspaper of general circulation in the county to be served by the petitioner, the last publication to be at least seven days before the day appointed for the hearing. The ~~director for public advocacy~~ Director for Public Advocacy shall represent the public at such hearing. If the ~~board~~ Board finds that the operation of such business will promote the general good of the ~~state~~, State and will conform with the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable, it shall give such person, partnership, unincorporated association or previously incorporated association a certificate of public good specifying the business and territory to be served by such petitioners. For good cause, after opportunity for hearing, the ~~board~~ Board may amend or revoke any certificate awarded under the provisions of this section. If any such certificate is revoked, the person, partnership, unincorporated association, or previously incorporated association shall no longer have authority to conduct any business which is subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~board~~ Board whether or not regulation thereunder has been reduced or suspended, under section 226a or 227a of this title.

(b) A company subject to the general supervision of the ~~public service board~~ Public Service Board under section 203 of this title may not abandon or curtail any service subject to the jurisdiction of the ~~board~~ Board or abandon all or any part of its facilities if it would in doing so effect the abandonment, curtailment or impairment of the service, without first obtaining approval of the ~~public service board~~ Board, after notice and opportunity for hearing, and upon finding by the ~~board~~ Board that the abandonment or curtailment is consistent with the public interest and the State Telecommunications Plan, if applicable; provided, however, this section shall not apply to disconnection of service pursuant to valid tariffs or to rules adopted under section 209(b) and (c) of this title.

Sec. 23. 30 V.S.A. § 504 is amended to read:

§ 504. CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC GOOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 24. 30 V.S.A. § 518 is added to read:

§ 518. DISCLOSURE OF RETRANSMISSION FEES

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

* * * Statutory Revision Authority * * *

Sec. 25. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STATUTORY REVISION AUTHORITY; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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

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

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

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

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Secs. 9, 10, and 11 (regarding the Division for Connectivity) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to Vermont telecommunications policy”

(Committee vote: 7-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for April 4, 2013, page 662-668)

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

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as recommended by the Committee on Finance with the following amendments thereto:

First: In Sec. 3, 30 V.S.A. § 7516 (regarding the Connectivity Fund), by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

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

Second: By striking out Sec. 19 and the immediately preceding reader assistance in their entirety and by inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 19 and reader assistance as follows:

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

Sec. 19. ADMINISTRATION REPORT; TRANSFERS AND CONSOLIDATION; VERMONT USF FISCAL AGENT

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

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

(Committee vote: 6-1-0)

Amendment to proposal of amendment of the Committee on Finance to H. 297 to be offered by Senator Galbraith

Senator Galbraith moves to amend the proposal of amendment of the Committee on Finance in Sec. 9, 3 V.S.A. § 2225 subsection (f) after the words “accurate map and” by inserting the word truthful

H. 699.

An act relating to temporary housing.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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. 33 V.S.A. § 2103 is amended to read:

§ 2103. ELIGIBILITY

* * *

(f) An eligible participant for temporary housing shall not be required to furnish more than 30 percent of his or her income toward the cost of temporary housing. The Secretary of Human Services may adopt rules as necessary, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, to implement this subsection.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 19, 2014, page 712)

H. 728.

An act relating to developmental services' system of care.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Pollina for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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. 18 V.S.A. chapter 204A is amended to read:

CHAPTER 204A. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ACT

* * *

§ 8722. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) "Developmental disability" means a severe, chronic disability of a person that is manifested before the person reaches ~~the age of 18~~ years of age and results in:

(A) ~~mental retardation~~ intellectual disability, autism, or pervasive developmental disorder; and

(B) deficits in adaptive behavior at least two standard deviations below the mean for a normative comparison group.

* * *

§ 8723. DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; DUTIES

The ~~department~~ Department shall plan, coordinate, administer, monitor, and evaluate ~~state~~ State and federally funded services for people with developmental disabilities and their families within Vermont. The ~~department of disabilities, aging, and independent living~~ Department shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts of all agencies and services, government and private, on a statewide basis in order to promote and improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Within the limits of available resources, the ~~department~~ Department shall:

(1) ~~Promote~~ promote the principles stated in section 8724 of this title and shall carry out all functions, powers, and duties required by this chapter by collaborating and consulting with people with developmental disabilities, their

families, guardians, community resources, organizations, and people who provide services throughout the ~~state~~. State;

(2) ~~Develop and~~ develop, maintain, and monitor an equitably and efficiently allocated statewide system of community-based services that reflect the choices and needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families.;

(3) ~~Acquire and~~ acquire, administer, and exercise fiscal oversight over funding for ~~these~~ community-based services ~~and identify needed resources and legislation.~~, including the management of State contracts;

(4) identify resources and legislation needed to maintain a statewide system of community-based services;

(5) ~~Establish~~ establish a statewide procedure for applying for services.;

(5)(6) ~~Facilitate~~ facilitate or provide pre-service or in-service training and technical assistance to service providers consistent with the system of care plan.;

(6)(7) ~~Provide quality assessment and quality improvement support for the services provided throughout the state.~~ maintain a statewide system of quality assessment and assurance for services provided to people with developmental disabilities and provide quality improvement support to ensure that the principles of service in section 8724 of this title are achieved;

(7)(8) ~~Encourage~~ encourage the establishment and development of locally administered and locally controlled nonprofit services for people with developmental disabilities based on the specific needs of individuals and their families.;

(8)(9) ~~Promote~~ promote and facilitate participation by people with developmental disabilities and their families in activities and choices that affect their lives and in designing services that reflect their unique needs, strengths, and cultural values.;

(9)(10) ~~Promote~~ promote positive images and public awareness of people with developmental disabilities and their families.;

(10)(11) ~~Certify~~ certify services that are paid for by the ~~department~~. Department; and

(11)(12) ~~Establish~~ establish a procedure for investigation and resolution of complaints regarding the availability, quality, and responsiveness of services provided throughout the ~~state~~ State.

* * *

§ 8725. SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN

(a) ~~No later than July 1, 1997, and every~~ Every three years thereafter, the ~~department~~ Department shall adopt a plan for the nature, extent, allocation, and timing of services consistent with the principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title that will be provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families. ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is not required that the plan be adopted pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.~~ Each plan shall include the following categories, which shall be adopted by rule pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25:

- (1) priorities for continuation of existing programs or development of new programs;
- (2) criteria for receiving services or funding; ~~and~~
- (3) type of services provided; and
- (4) a process for evaluating and assessing the success of programs.

(b)(1) ~~Each plan shall be~~ The Commissioner shall determine plan priorities based upon:

(A) information obtained from people with developmental disabilities, their families, guardians, and people who provide the services ~~and shall include;~~

(B) a comprehensive needs assessment, that includes:

(i) demographic information about people with developmental disabilities;

(ii) information about existing services used by individuals and their families;

(iii) characteristics of unserved and ~~under-served~~ underserved individuals and populations; and

(iv) the reasons for these gaps in service, and the varying community needs and resources.

(2) ~~The commissioner shall determine the priorities of the plan based on funds available to the department~~ Once the plan priorities are determined, the Commissioner may consider funds available to the Department in allocating resources.

(c) No later than 60 days before adopting the proposed plan, the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner shall submit the ~~proposed plan~~ it to the ~~advisory board~~ Advisory Board, established in section 8733 of this title, for advice and recommendations, except that the Commissioner shall submit those categories

within the plan subject to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to the Advisory Board at least 30 days prior to filing the proposed plan in accordance with the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act. The Advisory Board shall provide the Commissioner with written comments on the proposed plan. It may also submit public comments pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(d) The Commissioner may make annual revisions to the plan as deemed necessary in accordance with the process set forth in this section. The Commissioner shall submit any proposed revisions to the Advisory Board established in section 8733 of this title for comment within the time frame established by subsection (c) of this section.

(e) ~~The department~~ Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), on or before January 15 of each year, the Department shall report annually to the ~~governor~~ Governor and the ~~general assembly~~ committees of jurisdiction regarding implementation of the plan ~~and shall make annual revisions as needed,~~ the extent to which the principles of service set forth in section 8724 of this title are achieved, and whether people with a developmental disability have any unmet service needs, including the number of people on waiting lists for developmental services.

* * *

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 20, 2014, page 730)

H. 790.

An act relating to Reach Up eligibility.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Pollina for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

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

§ 1103. ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT LEVELS

(a) Financial assistance shall be given for the benefit of a dependent child to the relative or caretaker with whom the child is living unless otherwise provided. The amount of financial assistance to which an eligible person is entitled shall be determined with due regard to the income, resources, and

maintenance available to that person and, as far as funds are available, shall provide that person a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The Commissioner may fix by regulation maximum amounts of financial assistance, and act to ~~insure~~ ensure that the expenditures for the programs shall not exceed appropriations for them consistent with section 101 of this title. In no case may the Department expend State funds in excess of the appropriations for the programs under this chapter.

* * *

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

(1) No less than the first ~~\$200.00~~ \$300.00 per month of earnings from an unsubsidized job and ~~25~~ 50 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings shall be disregarded in determining the amount of the family's financial assistance grant. The family shall receive the difference between countable income and the Reach Up payment standard in a partial financial assistance grant.

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

feasible and appropriate, the case manager shall be the same case manager the family was assigned in the Reach First program. The applicant for or recipient of financial assistance, under this chapter, shall have the burden of demonstrating the existence of his or her condition.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) The case manager shall meet with each participating family following any statutory or rule changes affecting the amount of the earned income disregard, asset limitations, or other eligibility or benefit criteria in the Reach Up program to inform the family of the changes and advise the family about ways to maximize the opportunities to achieve earned income without a corresponding loss of benefits.

Sec. 3. 33 V.S.A. § 1204 is amended to read:

§ 1204. FOOD ASSISTANCE

(a) An eligible family shall receive monthly food assistance equal to ~~\$100.00~~ \$50.00 to be applied to the family's electronic benefit transfer (EBT) food account ~~for the first six months after the family has become eligible for Reach Ahead. For the seventh through 12th months, the family shall receive a monthly food assistance of \$50.00 while the family is eligible for the 12-month Reach Ahead program.~~

* * *

Sec. 4. REACH AHEAD; GRANDFATHER PROVISION

Notwithstanding 33 V.S.A. § 1204(a), any family within the first six months of its participation in the Reach Ahead program on October 1, 2014 shall continue to receive monthly food assistance equal to \$100.00 until its seventh

month of participation in the program, at which time it shall receive monthly food assistance equal to \$50.00.

Sec. 5. RULEMAKING; OFFSET FOR EARNED INCOME DISREGARD

(a) In order to effect the increased earned income disregard established by this act and to make its impact fiscally neutral, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall amend the rules governing the Reach Up program pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to direct the Department to:

(1) calculate an annual adjustment to Reach Up grants, excluding exempt grants, that accounts for the difference between an earned income disregard of the first \$200.00 earned per month from an unsubsidized job in addition to 25 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings and the first \$300.00 earned per month from an unsubsidized job in addition to 50 percent of the remaining unsubsidized earnings, that:

(A) shall first be adjusted downward based on any projected program cost reduction associated with caseload estimates below the level appropriated for fiscal year 2015; and

(B) may be further adjusted downward based on appropriated resources and projected program costs; and

(2) apply the adjustment described in subdivision (1) of this subsection to all Reach Up grants, excluding exempt grants, after need and benefit determinations are calculated.

(b) As used in this section, “exempt grants” means grants to children in the care of a person other than their parents and grants to participating families when a single parent or both parents receive Supplemental Security Income.

Sec. 6. BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Department for Children and Families shall include as part of its fiscal year 2016 budget presentation to the General Assembly a preliminary estimate of the annual adjustment calculated pursuant to Sec. 5(a)(1) of this act and the projected program cost reduction associated with caseload estimates below the level appropriated for fiscal year 2015.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Except for Secs. 1 and 3, this act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

(b) Except for Sec. 1(c)(1), Secs. 1 and 3 shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(c) Sec. 1(c)(1) shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to Reach Up eligibility and benefit levels”.

(Committee vote: 4-1-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 21, 2014, page 760)

H. 795.

An act relating to victim’s compensation and restitution procedures.

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

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. 13 V.S.A. § 5362 is amended to read:

§ 5362. RESTITUTION UNIT

(a) A Restitution Unit is created within the Center for Crime Victim Services for purposes of ~~assuring~~ ensuring that crime victims receive restitution when it is ordered by the Court.

(b) The Restitution Unit shall administer the Restitution Fund established under section 5363 of this title.

(c) The Restitution Unit shall have the authority to:

(1) Collect restitution from the offender when it is ordered by the ~~court~~ Court under section 7043 of this title.

(2) ~~Bring an action to enforce~~ Enforce a restitution obligation as a civil judgment under section 7043 of this title. The Restitution Unit shall enforce restitution orders issued prior to July 1, 2004 pursuant to the law in effect on the date the order is issued.

(3)(A) Share and access information, including information maintained by the National Criminal Information Center, consistent with Vermont and federal law, from the Court, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Taxes, ~~and~~ the Department of Labor, and law enforcement agencies in order to carry out its collection and enforcement functions. The Restitution Unit, for purposes of establishing and enforcing restitution payment obligations, is designated as a law enforcement agency for the sole purpose of requesting and obtaining access to information needed to identify or locate a person, including access to information maintained by the National Criminal Information Center.

(B) Provide information to the Department of Corrections concerning supervised offenders, including an offender's restitution payment history and balance, address and contact information, employment information, and information concerning the Restitution Unit's collection efforts.

(C) The Restitution Unit is specifically authorized to collect, record, use, and disseminate Social Security numbers as needed for the purpose of collecting restitution and enforcing restitution judgment orders issued by the Court, provided that the Social Security number is maintained on a separate form that is confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

(4) Investigate and verify losses as determined by the Restitution Unit, including losses that may be eligible for advance payment from the Restitution Special Fund, and verify the amount of insurance or other payments paid to or for the benefit of a victim, and reduce the amount collected or to be collected from the offender or disbursed to the victim from the Crime Victims' Restitution Special Fund accordingly. The Restitution Unit, when appropriate, shall submit to the ~~court~~ Court a proposed revised restitution order ~~stipulated to by the victim and the unit,~~ with copies provided to the victim and the offender. No hearing shall be required, ~~and the Court shall amend the judgment order to reflect the amount stipulated to by the victim and the Restitution Unit.~~

(5) Adopt such administrative rules as are reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in this section.

~~(6)(A)~~ Report offenders' payment histories to credit reporting agencies; ~~provided that the Unit shall not report information regarding offenders who are incarcerated.~~ The Unit shall not make a report under this subdivision (6) until after it has notified the offender of the proposed report by first class mail or other like means to give actual notice, and provided the offender a period not to exceed 20 days to contest the accuracy of the information with the Unit. The Unit shall immediately notify each credit bureau organization to which information has been furnished of any increases or decreases in the amount of restitution owed by the offender.

(B) Obtain offenders' credit reports from credit reporting agencies. The Unit shall not obtain a report under this subdivision (6) until after it has notified the offender by first class mail or other means likely to give actual notice of its intent to obtain the report.

(7) Enter into a repayment contract with a juvenile or adult accepted into a diversion program and to bring a civil action to enforce the contract when a diversion program has referred an individual pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 164a.

(8) Contract with one or more sheriff's departments for the purposes of serving process, warrants, demand letters, and mittimuses in restitution cases, and contract with one or more law enforcement agencies or other investigators for the purpose of investigating and locating offenders and enforcing restitution judgment orders.

(9) Collect from an offender subject to a restitution judgment order all fees and direct costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Restitution Unit as a result of enforcing the order and investigating and locating the offender.

Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 5363 is amended to read:

§ 5363. CRIME VICTIM'S RESTITUTION SPECIAL FUND

* * *

(d)(1) The Restitution Unit is authorized to advance up to ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$5,000.00 to a victim or to a deceased victim's heir or legal representative if the victim:

(A) was first ordered by the Court to receive restitution on or after July 1, 2004;

(B) is a natural person or the natural person's legal representative;

(C) has not been reimbursed under subdivision (2) of this subsection; and

(D) is a natural person and has been referred to the Restitution Unit by a diversion program pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 164a.

(2) The Restitution Unit may make advances of up to ~~\$10,000.00~~ \$5,000.00 under this subsection to the following persons or entities:

(A) A victim service agency approved by the Restitution Unit if the agency has advanced monies which would have been payable to a victim under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(B) A victim who is a natural person or the natural person's legal representative in a case where the defendant, before or after an adjudication of guilt, enters into a drug court contract requiring payment of restitution.

(3) An advance under this subsection shall not be made to the government or to any governmental subdivision or agency.

(4) An advance under this subsection shall not be made to a victim who:

(A) fails to provide the Restitution Unit with the documentation necessary to support the victim's claim for restitution; or

(B) violated a criminal law of this State which caused or contributed to the victim's material loss; or

(C) has crime-related losses that are eligible for payment from the Victim Compensation Special Fund.

(5) An advance under this subsection shall not be made for the amount of cash loss included in a restitution judgment order.

(6) An advance under this subsection shall not be made for:

(A) jewelry or precious metals; or

(B) luxury items or collectibles identified in rules adopted by the Unit pursuant to subdivision 5362(c)(5) of this title.

* * *

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 7043 is amended to read:

§ 7043. RESTITUTION

* * *

(e)(1) An order of restitution shall establish the amount of the material loss incurred by the victim, which shall be the restitution judgment order. In the event the offender is unable to pay the restitution judgment order at the time of sentencing, the Court shall establish a restitution payment schedule for the offender based upon the offender's current and reasonably foreseeable ability to pay, subject to modification under subsection ~~(k)~~(l) of this section. Notwithstanding 12 V.S.A. chapter 113 or any other provision of law, interest shall not accrue on a restitution judgment.

(2)(A) Every order of restitution shall:

(i) include the offender's name, address, telephone number, and Social Security number, provided that the Social Security number is redacted pursuant to the Vermont Rules for Public Access to Court Records;

(ii) include the name, address, and telephone number of the offender's employer; and

(iii) require the offender, until his or her restitution obligation is satisfied, to notify the Restitution Unit within 30 days if the offender's address, telephone number, or employment changes, including providing the name, address, and telephone number of each new employer.

(B) [Repealed.]

(3) An order of restitution may require the offender to pay restitution for an offense for which the offender was not convicted if the offender knowingly

and voluntarily executes a plea agreement which provides that the offender pay restitution for that offense. A copy of the plea agreement shall be attached to the restitution order.

(f)(1) If not paid at the time of sentencing, restitution may be ordered as a condition of probation, supervised community sentence, furlough, preapproved furlough, or parole if the convicted person is sentenced to preapproved furlough, probation, or supervised community sentence, or is sentenced to imprisonment and later placed on parole. A person shall not be placed on probation solely for purposes of paying restitution. An offender may not be charged with a violation of probation, furlough, or parole for nonpayment of a restitution obligation incurred after July 1, 2004.

(2) The Department of Corrections shall work collaboratively with the Restitution Unit to assist with the collection of restitution. The Department shall provide the Restitution Unit with information about the location and employment status of the offender.

(g)(1) When restitution is requested but not ordered, the Court shall set forth on the record its reasons for not ordering restitution.

(2)(A) If restitution was not requested at the time of sentencing as the result of an error by the State, or if expenses arose after the entry of a restitution order, ~~the State may file a motion with the sentencing court to reopen the restitution case in order to consider a~~ the victim may request for restitution payable from the Restitution Fund. Restitution ~~ordered paid~~ under this subdivision shall be payable from the Restitution Fund and shall not be payable by the offender. If the restitution is for expenses that arose after the entry of a restitution order, the restitution shall be capped at \$1,000.00.

(B) A ~~motion~~ request under this subdivision shall be filed with the Restitution Unit within one year after the imposition of sentence or the entry of the restitution order.

(h) Restitution ordered under this section shall not preclude a person from pursuing an independent civil action for all claims not covered by the restitution order.

(i)(1) The ~~court~~ Court shall transmit a copy of a restitution order and the plea agreement, if any, to the Restitution Unit, which shall make payment to the victim in accordance with section 5363 of this title.

(2) To the extent that the Victims Compensation Board has made payment to or on behalf of the victim in accordance with chapter 167 of this title, restitution, if imposed, shall be paid to the Restitution Unit, which shall make payment to the Victims Compensation Fund.

(j) The Restitution Unit may bring an action, including a small claims procedure, on a form approved by the Court Administrator, to enforce a restitution judgment order entered by the Criminal Division of the Superior Court. The action shall be brought against an the offender in the Civil Division of the Superior Court of the unit where the offender resides or in the unit where the order was issued. In an action under this subsection, a restitution order issued by the Criminal Division of the Superior Court shall be enforceable in the Civil Division of the Superior Court or in a small claims procedure in the same manner as a civil judgment. Superior and Small Claims Court filing fees shall be waived for an action brought under this subsection, ~~and for an action to renew a restitution judgment.~~

* * *

~~(m)(1) If the offender fails to pay restitution as ordered by the court, the Restitution Unit may file an action to enforce the restitution order in Superior or Small Claims Court.~~ After an enforcement action is filed pursuant to subsection (j) of this section, any further proceedings related to the action shall be heard in the ~~court~~ Court where it was filed. The ~~court~~ Court shall set the matter for hearing and shall provide notice to the Restitution Unit, the victim, and the offender. Upon filing of a motion for financial disclosure, the Court may order the offender to appear at the hearing and disclose assets and liabilities and produce any documents the Court deems relevant.

(2) If the court determines the offender has failed to comply with the restitution order, the court may take any action the Court deems necessary to ensure the offender will make the required restitution payment, including:

~~(1)(A)~~ amending the payment schedule of the restitution order;

~~(2)(B)~~ ordering, in compliance with the procedures required in Rule 4.1 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, the disclosure, attachment, and sale of assets and accounts owned by the offender;

~~(3)(C)~~ ordering trustee process against the offender's wages withheld pursuant to subsection (n) of this section; or

~~(4)(D)~~ ordering the suspension of any recreational licenses owned by the offender.

(3) If the Court finds that the offender has an ability to pay and willfully refuses to do so, the offender may be subject to civil contempt proceedings under 12 V.S.A. chapter 5.

* * *

(p) An obligation to pay restitution is part of a criminal sentence and is:

(1) nondischargeable in the United States Bankruptcy Court to the maximum extent provided under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523 and 1328; ~~and~~

(2) not subject to any statute of limitations; and

(3) not subject to the renewal of judgment requirements of 12 V.S.A. § 506.

* * *

Sec. 4. 13 V.S.A. § 5573 is amended to read:

§ 5573. COMPLAINT

(a) A complaint filed under this subchapter shall be supported by facts and shall allege that:

(1) the complainant has been convicted of a felony crime, been sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and served ~~all or any part~~ at least six months of the sentence in a correctional facility; and

(2) the complainant was exonerated ~~pursuant to subchapter 1 of this chapter~~ through the complainant's conviction being reversed or vacated, the information or indictment being dismissed, the complainant being acquitted after a second or subsequent trial, or the granting of a pardon.

(b) The court may dismiss the complaint, upon its own motion or upon motion of the ~~state~~ State, if it determines that the complaint does not state a claim for which relief may be granted.

Sec. 5. 13 V.S.A. § 5574 is amended to read:

§ 5574. BURDEN OF PROOF; JUDGMENT; DAMAGES

(a) A claimant shall be entitled to judgment in an action under this subchapter if the claimant establishes each of the following by ~~a preponderance of the~~ clear and convincing evidence:

(1) The complainant was convicted of a felony crime, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment, and served ~~all or any part~~ at least six months of the sentence in a correctional facility.

(2) ~~As a result of DNA evidence:~~

(A) The complainant's conviction was reversed or vacated, the complainant's information or indictment was dismissed, or the complainant was acquitted after a second or subsequent trial; ~~or.~~

(B) The complainant was pardoned for the crime for which he or she was sentenced.

(3) ~~DNA evidence establishes that the complainant did not commit the crime for which he or she was sentenced~~ The complainant is actually innocent of the felony or felonies that are the basis for the claim. As used in this chapter, a person is “actually innocent” of a felony or felonies if he or she did not engage in any illegal conduct alleged in the charging documents for which he or she was charged, convicted, and imprisoned.

(4) The complainant did not fabricate evidence or commit or suborn perjury during any proceedings related to the crime with which he or she was charged.

* * *

Sec. 6. VICTIM’S COMPENSATION FUND; BILLING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN FY 2015; SUNSET

(a) Notwithstanding 13 V.S.A. § 5356(c) and 32 V.S.A. § 1407, during fiscal year 2015, the Victim’s Compensation Fund shall reimburse health care facilities and health care providers at 50 percent of the billed charges for compensation. The health care facility or health care provider shall not bill any balance to the crime victim.

(b) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2015.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014 and shall apply to restitution orders issued after that date.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 11, 2014, page 539)

Reported favorably by Senator Sears for the Committee on Appropriations.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

H. 864.

An act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Flory for the Committee on Institutions.

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. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. STATE BUILDINGS

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

(G) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions at least monthly of updates to the planning process for the projects described in this subdivision (b)(15), including any updates on material changes to the planning or funding of the Waterbury State Office Complex.

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

(i) increases the total original project cost estimate by ~~40~~ five percent or more; or

(ii) constitutes a change in plan or design.

(I) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, with the approval of the Secretary of Administration, is authorized to approve additional contingency spending for the Waterbury State Office Complex of less than five percent of the total original project cost estimate.

* * *

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

* * *

(2) Statewide, building reuse and planning:	\$75,000.00
(3) Statewide, contingency:	\$100,000.00
(4) Statewide, major maintenance:	\$8,334,994.00 <u>\$8,369,994.00</u>
(5) Statewide, BGS engineering, <u>project management</u> , and architectural project costs:	\$2,982,132.00 <u>\$3,446,163.00</u>

* * *

(11) Montpelier, capitol district heat plant, 122 State Street supplemental funds: \$2,500,000.00

(12) Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and Agency of Natural Resources, laboratory, development of proposal for site location, programming, and design: \$300,000.00

(13) Permanent secure residential facility, proposal for siting and design (as described in Sec. 40 of this act): \$50,000.00

(14) Vergennes, Weeks School, master plan (as described in Sec. 22 of this act): \$30,000.00

(15) State House, elevator upgrades and repair: \$180,000.00

(16) Barre, 2 Spaulding Street and McFarland State Office Building, retaining wall (as described in subsection (h) of this section): \$75,000.00

(17) State House, security enhancements (as described in subsection (i) of this section): \$250,000.00

(18) State House maintenance, and enhancements, upgrades, and renovations to support the Senate, as approved by the Committee on Committees: \$100,000.00

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

(1) reallocate up to \$300,000.00 of the funds appropriated in subdivision (c)(4) of this section to subdivision (c)(2) of this section;

(2) use up to \$360,000.00 of the funds appropriated in subdivisions (b)(5) and (c)(5) of this section for the purpose of funding four limited service positions in the Department of Buildings and General Services created for

engineering-related work pursuant to the 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 50, Sec. E.100(b)(1) (FY 2014 Appropriations Act); and

(3) use up to \$250,000.00 of the funds appropriated in subdivision (c)(5) of this section for the purpose of supporting the Department of Buildings and General Services in implementing a project management system.

* * *

(f) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(2) of this section may be used for:

(1) a long-term capital plan, as described in Sec. 27 of this act;

(2) a budget and phased design plan for infrastructure improvements at 120 State Street in Montpelier; and

(3) fostering and developing a ten-year capital program plan as required by 32 V.S.A. § 701a.

(g) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(11) of this section shall not exceed the cost of construction in placing the capital district heat plant into service. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that any additional funds remaining after this construction has been completed shall be reallocated to the FY 2016 Capital Construction Act.

(h)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(16) of this section shall be used by the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to reimburse the landowner of the property located at 2 Spaulding Street in Barre once the landowner has completed the following:

(A) demolishes and removes the entire retaining wall that is located on both the landowner's property and on the State's property;

(B) demolishes and removes the house located on the landowner's property; and

(C) excavates and grades the site located on both the landowner's property and on the State's property.

(2) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use any remaining funds to compensate the landowner if the landowner conveys the property located at 2 Spaulding Street in Barre by warranty deed to the State of Vermont. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner shall not compensate the landowner for the conveyance unless the work described in subdivision (1) of this subsection is complete.

(3) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that any reimbursement of funds for work described in subdivision (1) of this subsection or compensation provided to the landowner for the conveyance shall be transferred to the landowner on or before October 1, 2014.

(4) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that any additional funds remaining shall be reallocated to the FY 2016 Capital Construction Act.

(i)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(17) of this section shall be used by the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to:

(A) install a necessary raceway system with supporting wiring for the installation of a security system for the State House;

(B) install an alert system in One Baldwin Street to notify employees when an emergency alarm has been activated in the State House and when the House and the Senate are convening; and

(C) conduct trainings, assessments, and evaluations, as needed.

(2) It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall use the amount appropriated in subdivision (c)(17) to reimburse the General Assembly for retaining consultant services for trainings, assessments, and evaluations, as described in Sec. 26 of this act.

Appropriation – FY 2014		\$52,461,132.00
Appropriation – FY 2015	\$45,742,126.00	<u>\$49,726,157.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 2	\$98,203,258.00	<u>\$102,187,289.00</u>

Sec. 2. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. HUMAN SERVICES

* * *

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

* * *

(3) Correctional facilities, suicide abatement projects at Southern State Correctional Facility and Southeast State Correctional Facility: \$200,000.00

(4) State correctional facilities, security enhancements and cameras, replacement for all facilities: \$250,000.00

(5) Southern State Correctional Facility, installation of a new security gate and security cage over camera, installation of gurney lift, and recreational yard improvements: \$90,000.00

(6) Northern State Correctional Facility, reconstruction of the kitchen and serving line to improve safety and security and to expand kitchen space to allow increased serving capacity: \$160,000.00

(7) Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, installation of new security fencing to support program and provide a more secure setting: \$181,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2014		\$5,200,00.00
Appropriation – FY 2015	\$6,100,000.00	<u>\$6,981,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 4	\$11,300,000.00	<u>\$12,181,000.00</u>

Sec. 3. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. JUDICIARY

* * *

(c) The sum of \$40,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Buildings and General Services on behalf of the Judiciary for the planning and monitoring of the Caledonia courthouse wall stabilization and foundation project currently under design.

(d) The sum of \$88,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Judiciary and directed to the Windsor County courthouse for funding ADA compliance, life safety requirements, electrical device redundancy, and teledata components and wiring.

(e) It is the intent of the General Assembly that any amounts appropriated under this section shall not alter the Judiciary’s capital construction priority list.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>		<u>\$1,000,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>		<u>\$2,628,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 5	\$3,500,000.00	<u>\$3,628,000.00</u>

Sec. 4. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

* * *

(c) The following sum is appropriated in FY 2014 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Battle of Cedar Creek and Winchester Memorials, ~~relocation~~ design and replication, and placement of roadside marker: \$25,000.00 \$35,000.00

* * *

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

* * *

(3) Justin Morrill State site, Strafford, siding repair, stair modifications to allow a second means of egress, and a conditions assessment: \$28,000.00

Appropriation – FY 2014	\$440,000.00	<u>\$450,000.00</u>
Appropriation – FY 2015	\$250,000.00	<u>\$288,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 6	\$690,000.00	<u>\$728,000.00</u>

Sec. 5. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 8 is amended to read:

Sec. 8. EDUCATION

* * *

(b) The sum of ~~\$10,411,446~~ \$10,354,690.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Agency of Education for funding the ~~state~~ State share of completed school construction projects pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 3448. ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds appropriated in this subsection are committed funds not subject to budget adjustment.~~

Appropriation – FY 2014		\$6,704,634.00
Appropriation – FY 2015	\$10,411,446.00	<u>\$10,354,690.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 8	\$17,116,080.00	<u>\$17,059,324.00</u>

Sec. 6. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 11 is amended to read:

Sec. 11. NATURAL RESOURCES

* * *

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

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

(A) Clean Water State/EPA Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) match:		\$700,000.00 <u>\$1,114,000.00</u>
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* * *

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

* * *

(C) EcoSystem restoration and protection:

~~\$2,073,732.00~~ \$2,573,732.00

(D) Waterbury waste treatment facility for phosphorous removal:

\$300,000.00

* * *

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

(B) the Agency of Natural Resources for the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for the purchase of easements and trail improvements on behalf of the Green Mountain Club:

\$122,197.00

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

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

(B) Lake Champlain Walleye Association, Inc. to upgrade and repair the walleye rearing, restoration, and stocking infrastructure:

\$25,000.00

* * *

Appropriation – FY 2014 \$13,772,550.00

Appropriation – FY 2015 ~~\$7,881,732.00~~ \$9,242,929.00

Total Appropriation – Section 11 ~~\$21,654,282.00~~ \$23,015,479.00

Sec. 7. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 12 is amended to read:

Sec. 12. MILITARY

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

(b) The sum of ~~\$500,000.00~~ \$550,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 for the purpose described in subsection (a) of this section.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>		<u>\$750,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>		<u>\$550,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 12	\$1,250,000.00	<u>\$1,300,000.00</u>

Sec. 8. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

Sec. 13. PUBLIC SAFETY

* * *

(f) The sum of \$36,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Public Safety to provide evidence storage units for the Vermont State Police to acquire accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) at existing barracks not yet renovated: \$36,000.00

(g) The sum of \$50,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Buildings and General Services to contract with an independent third party to develop, in consultation with all interested stakeholders, an operational governance and planning model for the operation, financial integrity, and maintenance of the Robert H. Wood Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center in Pittsford. On or before January 15, 2015, the Department of Buildings and General Services shall submit this plan to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions: \$50,000.00

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>		<u>\$3,600,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>	\$3,400,000.00	<u>\$3,486,000.00</u>
Total Appropriation – Section 13	\$7,000,000.00	<u>\$7,086,000.00</u>

Sec. 9. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 17 is amended to read:

Sec. 17. VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

* * *

(e) The sum of \$435,000.00 is appropriated in FY 2015 to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Vermont Veterans' Home to be used to match federal funds for kitchen renovations. The amount appropriated in this subsection shall be used in conjunction with the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 19(b) to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Vermont Veterans' Home to design an upgrade of the kitchen and dietary storage areas to be code compliant and to improve the food preparation and delivery systems.

<u>Appropriation – FY 2014</u>		<u>\$1,216,000.00</u>
<u>Appropriation – FY 2015</u>		<u>\$435,000.00</u>

<u>(10) of the amount appropriated in 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (Fish hatcheries, biosecurity):</u>	<u>\$38.27</u>
<u>(11) of the amount appropriated in 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (Montpelier flood control):</u>	<u>\$42,273.30</u>
<u>(12) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 1 (Statewide, major maintenance):</u>	<u>\$11,656.44</u>
<u>(13) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 1 (Waterbury, State office complex, fire alarm panels and door holders):</u>	<u>\$38,590.72</u>
<u>(14) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 1 (Bennington State Office Building, geothermal energy project):</u>	<u>\$96,277.59</u>
<u>(15) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 8 (Austine School, Holton Hall, renovations):</u>	<u>\$11,962.03</u>
<u>(16) of the amount appropriated in 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 9 (Ecosystem restoration and protection):</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>
<u>(17) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (Lamprey Control Project):</u>	<u>\$0.40</u>
<u>(18) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (Montpelier flood control):</u>	<u>\$175,201.00</u>
<u>(19) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 12 (Water pollution control projects):</u>	<u>\$0.01</u>
<u>(20) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 14 (Waterbury, Public Safety headquarters, repairs):</u>	<u>\$11,757.61</u>
<u>(21) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 26 (Springfield, municipal water system):</u>	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
<u>(22) of the amount appropriated in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 20 (Center for Crime Victim Services):</u>	<u>\$344.31</u>
<u>(23) of the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (Statewide buildings, reuse and planning):</u>	<u>\$32,497.59</u>
<u>(24) of the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (Statewide buildings, statewide contingency):</u>	<u>\$1,473.51</u>
<u>(25) of the amount appropriated in 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 2 (Statewide buildings, major maintenance):</u>	<u>\$53,676.67</u>

a like amount of general obligation bonds authorized in Sec. 20 of this act for Sec. 2 to remain unissued at the end of FY 2014, then such unissued amount of bonds shall remain authorized to be issued in FY 2015 ~~to provide additional funding for the Waterbury State Office Complex and such amount shall be appropriated in FY 2015 to Sec. 2(c)(10) of this act.~~

* * * Policy * * *

* * * Buildings and General Services * * *

Sec. 14. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 104, Sec. 1(a) is amended to read:

(a) Damage to ~~state-owned~~ State-owned assets and infrastructure caused by Tropical Storm Irene on August 28, ~~2012~~ 2011 made necessary some of the reallocations and appropriations contained in this act.

Sec. 15. ART IN STATE BUILDINGS PROGRAM; REVIEW OF GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Vermont Council on the Arts, Inc. shall evaluate the effectiveness of the current guidelines and procedures for the Art in State Buildings Program, including the use of program terms and whether modified or new guidelines or procedures are required.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Vermont Council on the Arts, Inc. shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions with the results of the evaluation described in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 16. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 104, Sec. 2(f) is amended to read:

(f)(1) Option B of the of the Freeman, French, Freeman report published on March 9, 2012 aligns closely with the ~~general assembly's~~ General Assembly's vision for the Waterbury Complex. However, the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly believes that Option B could be modified to achieve a cost savings to Vermonters. On or before June 1, 2012, the ~~department of buildings and general services~~ Department of Buildings and General Services shall present a modified design proposal, including proposals under subdivision (4) of this subsection (f) to the ~~house committee on corrections and institutions~~ House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the ~~senate committee on institutions~~ Senate Committee on Institutions, and the ~~special committee~~ Special Committee described in this subsection.

* * *

(4) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to take certain actions before formal approval of the design. Therefore, notwithstanding 29 V.S.A. § 152(a)(6), 165, or 166 or any other provision of law, in addition to producing a design, permitting, and applying for federal aid, upon passage of this act, the ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may:

(A) lease, sell, lease purchase, subdivide, ~~redevelop for State use,~~ or donate the following buildings within the Waterbury Complex in their current condition: Stanley and Wasson, 121 South Main Street, 123 South Main Street, 5 Park Row, 43 Randall Street, and their improvements.

* * *

Sec. 17. 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 40, Sec. 26(c) is amended to read:

(c) ~~The commissioner of buildings and general services is authorized to sell the Vermont health laboratory at 195 Colchester Avenue in Burlington pursuant to 29 V.S.A. § 166.~~ The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to do any or all of the following with respect to the Vermont health laboratory located at 195 Colchester Avenue in Burlington:

(1) investigate all potential uses of the land and building, including redeveloping the land, provided that it is consistent with existing deed covenants; and

(2) enter into agreements and execute any necessary documentation to release or extinguish any of the existing deed covenants.

Sec. 18. REPEAL; USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF STATE FACILITIES AND LAND; SPRINGFIELD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

2010 Acts and Resolves No. 161, Sec. 26(c)(2)(improvements and upgrades to the municipal water system at the Springfield Correctional Facility) is repealed.

Sec. 19. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

Sec. 25. BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK AND WINCHESTER MEMORIALS

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use the appropriation in Sec. 6(c)(1) of this act for capital expenses associated with the placement of a Vermont historical roadside marker at the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Virginia, and the relocation design and replication of the Battle of Winchester Memorial to at its original location on the Third Winchester Battlefield in Virginia, ~~and.~~ The Department of Buildings and General

Services, or its agent, shall supervise the installation of the roadside marker and the Memorial.

(b) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is further authorized to use the appropriation in Sec. 6(c)(1) of this act for capital expenses associated with the completion of the projects described in subsection (a) of this section for reimbursement to the Civil War Trust, the State of Virginia, and the United States Veterans Administration for any capital expenses associated with the completion of these projects, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, and any other entity engaged by the Department of Buildings and General Services to assist with the roadside marker or the Memorial.

(c) As used in this section, Capital capital expenses associated with the placement of the roadside marker or the ~~relocation~~ replication of the Memorial may include site acquisition, planning, design, transportation of the Memorial, and any other reasonably related costs.

Sec. 20. SALISBURY CHURCH

The General Assembly finds that the former parsonage and land located at 1941 West Shore Road in the Town of Salisbury, and described in the warranty deed dated December 8, 1980 between Alan S. Farwell and the Salisbury Congressional United Church of Christ, has little or no value to the State of Vermont, and would require additional operational funds to maintain or sell. Therefore, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5, the General Assembly:

(1) disclaims any existing or future interest in the former parsonage and land located at 1941 West Shore Road in the Town of Salisbury; and

(2) authorizes the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services to execute a quitclaim deed to transfer any existing or future interest in the former parsonage and land located at 1941 West Shore Road in the Town of Salisbury to the Salisbury Congressional United Church of Christ.

Sec. 21. 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 43, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

Sec. 25. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS; MISCELLANEOUS

* * *

(e) Pursuant to 29 V.S.A. § 166(b), the commissioner of buildings and general services is authorized to subdivide land at the former Weeks school in Vergennes in order to sell the Arsenal and Fairbanks buildings. The commissioner may use proceeds from the sale to enhance the value of the remaining former Weeks school property. [Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 22. WEEKS SCHOOL; VERGENNES; MASTER PLAN

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract with an independent third party to develop a master plan for the former Weeks School property located in the City of Vergennes and the Town of Ferrisburgh. In developing the master plan, the independent third party shall consult with the City of Vergennes, the Town of Ferrisburgh, local and regional organizations, and affected State agencies and landowners. The master plan shall include an evaluation of whether the property may be subdivided and sold, and for what purposes it may be used.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall provide an update on the plan described in subsection (a) of this section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

Sec. 23. 29 V.S.A. § 157 is amended to read:

§ 157. FACILITIES CONDITION ANALYSIS

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall:

* * *

(2) conduct a facilities condition analysis each year of ~~20~~ ten percent of the building area and infrastructure under the Commissioner's jurisdiction so that within ~~five~~ ten years all property is assessed. At the end of the ~~five~~ ten years, the process shall begin again. The analysis conducted pursuant to this subsection shall include the thermal envelope of buildings and a report on the annual energy consumption and energy costs and recommendations for reducing energy consumption.

(b) The Commissioner may use up to two percent of the funds appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services for major maintenance and planning for the purpose described in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 24. FACILITIES CONDITIONS ANALYSIS; USE OF FY 2015 FUNDS

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may use the funds appropriated to the Department of Buildings and General Services for major maintenance and planning and allocated to conducting a facilities conditions analysis under 29 V.S.A. § 157(b) for Sec. 27(a)(2) of this act.

Sec. 25. DEDICATION OF SENATOR SALLY FOX CONFERENCE AREA IN THE WATERBURY STATE OFFICE COMPLEX

(a) Purposes. It is the intent of the General Assembly to honor the work of the late Senator Sally Fox, who served in the Vermont House of

Representatives from 1986 to 2000 and in the Vermont Senate from 2010 to 2014. She spent her entire career working on human services policy issues and was widely recognized as one of Vermont's leading advocates for the clients of the Agency of Human Services.

(b) Dedication. In acknowledgement of Senator Fox's years of public service to the State of Vermont and the countless hours she dedicated to working on human services policy in the former Waterbury State Office Complex, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Secretary of Human Services shall name one of the main conference areas or conference rooms at the new office space of the Agency of Human Services in the Waterbury State Office Complex in the name of Senator Fox.

* * * Security * * *

Sec. 26. CAPITOL COMPLEX SECURITY; WORKING GROUP;
REVIEW

(a) Creation. There is created a working group for the purpose of assessing security in the Capitol Complex. The Working Group may authorize or retain consultant services to conduct a review and prepare a report on security in the Capitol Complex, including reviewing current security arrangements and governance options, and identifying possible security enhancements. Any consultants retained pursuant to this subsection shall work through the Joint Fiscal Office under the direction of the Chair of the Working Group.

(b) Membership.

(1) The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(A) the Lieutenant Governor;

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

(C) a representative of the Capitol Police;

(D) the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions;

(E) the Sergeant at Arms; and

(F) the Court Administrator or designee.

(2) The Lieutenant Governor shall be the Chair of the Working Group and shall convene meetings.

(3) The Working Group shall have the assistance of the staff of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(4) The Joint Fiscal Office, in consultation with the Speaker of the House and the Committee on Committees, shall hire one or more consultants to undertake the security review authorized by this section.

(c) Funding. The working group is authorized to use funds appropriated in Sec. 1(c)(17) of this act to retain consultant services pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any remaining funds shall be reallocated to the FY 2016 Capital Construction Act for the purpose of implementing the recommendations contained in the security report. Any remaining funds shall only be appropriated to implement a recommendation with authorization of the General Assembly.

* * * Capital Planning and Finance * * *

Sec. 27. LONG-TERM CAPITAL PLAN

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use funds appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2(c)(2) to develop a long-term capital plan for space utilization in the Capitol Complex and in State-owned and leased buildings in surrounding areas. The plan shall include:

(1) an evaluation of the full and efficient occupancy of State-owned and leased buildings;

(2) a facilities conditions analysis of up to ten percent of the total building square footage within the Capitol Complex, as may be required; and

(3) an evaluation of the space needs of the State Auditor.

(b) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall present the results of the long-term capital plan described in subsection (a) of this section as part of the ten-year capital plan required by 32 V.S.A. § 701a.

Sec. 28. 32 V.S.A. § 701a(d) is amended to read:

(d) On or before ~~October~~ January 15, each entity to which spending authority has been authorized by a capital construction act enacted in a legislative session that was two or more years prior to the current legislative session shall submit to the ~~Department of Buildings and General Services~~ House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions a report on the ~~status~~ current fund balances of each authorized project with unexpended funds. ~~The report shall follow the form provided by the Department of Buildings and General Services and shall include details regarding how much of the appropriation has been spent, how much of the appropriation is unencumbered, actual progress in meeting the goals of the project, and any impediments to completing the project on time and on budget. The Department may request additional or clarifying information regarding~~

~~each project. On or before January 15, the Department shall present the information collected to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.~~

Sec. 29. CAPITAL PLANNING CAPABILITIES

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and the Commissioner of Finance and Management, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall evaluate options for the State's capital planning capabilities in order to improve transparency and accountability for authorized capital construction projects and opportunities to develop a long-term statewide capital planning application in accordance with 32 V.S.A. § 701a.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall present the results of the evaluation described in subsection (a) of this section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

Sec. 30. FIT-UP COSTS; DEFINITION AND PROCEDURES

On or before July 15, 2014, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall develop and implement procedures for defining and allocating responsibility for fit-up costs in future construction of State-owned buildings and leased space.

* * * Administration * * *

Sec. 31. 3 V.S.A. § 2293(b) is amended to read:

(b) Development Cabinet. A Development Cabinet is created, to consist of the Secretaries of the Agencies of Administration, ~~of Natural Resources, of Commerce and Community Affairs, of Transportation, and~~ of Agriculture, Food and Markets, ~~of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of Natural Resources, and of Transportation.~~ The Governor or the Governor's designee shall chair the Development Cabinet. The Development Cabinet shall advise the Governor on how best to implement the purposes of this section, and shall recommend changes as appropriate to improve implementation of those purposes. The Development Cabinet may establish interagency work groups to support its mission, drawing membership from any agency or department of State government. Any interagency work groups established under this subsection shall evaluate, test the feasibility of, and suggest alternatives to economic development proposals, including proposals for public-private partnerships, submitted to them for consideration. The Development Cabinet shall refer to appropriate interagency workgroups any economic development proposal that has a significant impact on the inventory or use of State land or buildings.

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

Sec. 32. 24 V.S.A. § 5608 is added to read:

§ 5608. AGRICULTURAL FAIRS AND FIELD DAYS CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

(a) Grant guidelines. The following guidelines shall apply to capital grants made for Vermont agricultural fairs and field days projects pursuant to this section:

(1) Grants shall be competitively awarded to capital projects that relate to Vermont agricultural fairs and field days operating a minimum of three consecutive, eight-hour days per year.

(2) A project for which a grant is awarded shall have a minimum useful life of 20 years and shall be completed within three years of the execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

(3) A grant recipient shall contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 15 percent or more of the value of the grant.

(b) There is established an Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee to administer and coordinate grants made pursuant to this section. The Committee shall include:

(1) two members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets;

(2) one member appointed by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(3) two members appointed by the Vermont Fair and Field Days Association;

(4) one member appointed by the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing;

(5) one member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(6) one member of the Vermont House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) Administration.

(1) The Advisory Committee created in subsection (b) of this section shall have the authority to award grants in its sole discretion; provided, however, that the Committee may consider whether to award partial awards to all applicants that meet Program criteria established by the Committee.

(2) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall provide administrative and technical support to the Committee for purposes of administering grants awarded under this section.

* * * Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and
Agency of Natural Resources * * *

Sec. 33. LABORATORY; PROPOSAL

(a) On or before August 15, 2014, the Department of Buildings and General Services, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Agency of Natural Resources shall submit a site location proposal for a shared laboratory to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions. It is the intent of the General Assembly that when evaluating site locations, preference shall be given to State-owned property.

(b) With approval of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore, as appropriate, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions may meet up to one time when the General Assembly is not in session to evaluate the proposal described in subsection (a) of this section and make a recommendation on the site location to the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Committees shall notify the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Secretary of Natural Resources prior to holding a meeting pursuant to this subsection. Committee members shall be entitled to receive a per diem and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406.

(c) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall review the recommendation of the Committees described in subsection (b) of this section at its September 2014 meeting. If the Joint Fiscal Committee so determines, it shall approve the proposal as recommended by the Committees.

(d) On or before December 1, 2014, the Department of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Agency of Natural Resources, shall develop a detailed proposal on the site location recommended by the Committees if approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee. The proposal shall include programming, size, design, and preliminary cost estimates for a shared laboratory. The proposal shall also include an evaluation of the current Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Agency of Natural Resources programs located in the leased space at 322 Industrial Lane in Berlin. The Department of Buildings and General Services is authorized to use funds appropriated in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2, as amended by Sec. 1 of this act, for any costs associated with the proposal.

(e) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions at least monthly of updates on the proposals described in subsections (a) and (d) of this section.

* * * Education * * *

Sec. 34. ENHANCED 911 PROGRAM; IMPLEMENTATION IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) The Enhanced 911 Board, in consultation with the Agency of Education, shall conduct a Statewide assessment in each school district to determine the needs for compliance with the Enhanced 911 Program.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Enhanced 911 Board shall report the results of the assessment described in subsection (a) of this section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions.

* * * Human Services * * *

Sec. 35. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 40 is amended to read:

Sec. 40. SECURE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

Pursuant to the Level 1 Psychiatric Care Evaluation required by the ~~Fiscal Year~~ fiscal year 2014 Appropriations Act, Sec. E.314.2, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Mental Health and Corrections, shall develop a proposal to establish a permanent secure residential facility no later than January 15, 2015.

Sec. 36. VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC CARE HOSPITAL; CERTIFICATE OF NEED; FEDERAL MATCH

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to transfer the sum of \$447,928.05 from the amount authorized in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 2(b)(15)(A) to the Agency of Human Services if State funding is required to match federal funds for eligible project costs required under the Certificate of Need for the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital.

* * * Judiciary * * *

Sec. 37. COUNTY COURTHOUSES; PLAN

(a) Pursuant to the restructuring of the Judiciary in 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 154, the Court Administrator and the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall evaluate the scope of the State's responsibility for maintaining county courthouses, including Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA) compliance and whether an emergency fund is necessary for construction or renovation projects at county courthouses.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Judiciary shall report to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions with the results of the evaluation.

* * * Public Safety * * *

Sec. 38. 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 48 is amended to read:

Sec. 48. PUBLIC SAFETY FIELD STATION PROJECT

The Department of Buildings and General Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, is authorized to use appropriations in Sec. 13 of this act to conduct feasibility studies, and identify and purchase land for future public safety field station sites. If the Department of Buildings and General Services proposes to purchase property when the General Assembly is not in session, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall notify the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions of the proposal. In the event that land is identified for Troop B of the Vermont State Police, then the Department of Public Safety shall hold public meetings in the affected communities for public input on the proposal. The Department of Public Safety shall notify the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions on the results of the meeting when the General Assembly is in session, and the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Institutions when the General Assembly is not in session. The General Assembly encourages the affected communities to contact the Department of Public Safety to review any proposals as they develop.

Sec. 39. VERMONT STATE POLICE; SALE OF WEST BRATTLEBORO AND ROCKINGHAM BARRACKS

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services is authorized to sell the West Brattleboro Troop Headquarters in the Town of West Brattleboro and the Rockingham Troop Headquarters in the Town of Rockingham. The net proceeds of any sale shall be reallocated to the Department of Public Safety for the purposes described in 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. 13(d).

* * * Energy Use on State Properties * * *

Sec. 40. ENERGY EFFICIENCY; STATE LEASES

The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall develop a set of criteria and guidelines to evaluate and, where appropriate, incorporate the use of energy efficiency measures, thermal energy conservation measures, and renewable energy resources in buildings and facilities leased by the State.

Sec. 41. 29 V.S.A. § 168 is amended to read:

§ 168. STATE ~~RESOURCE~~ ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM;
REVOLVING FUNDS

(a) ~~Resource~~ State energy management program. ~~The~~

(1) There is established within the Department ~~shall be responsible of~~ Buildings and General Services an Energy Management Program for administering the interest of the State in all ~~resource conservation~~ energy management measures in State buildings and facilities, including equipment replacement, studies, weatherization, ~~and~~ construction of improvements affecting the use of energy resources, the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation measures, and the use of renewable resources.

(2) The Energy Management Program shall be implemented through two revolving funds used to finance energy management measures in State buildings and facilities. Pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the State Resource Management Revolving Fund shall provide revenue for implementation of resource conservation measures, and the Energy Revolving Fund shall provide funding for energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall establish guidelines for the provision of funding for energy management measures through these revolving funds.

(3) All ~~resource conservation~~ energy management measures taken ~~for the benefit of departments or agencies to which this section applies pursuant to this section~~ shall, ~~beginning on July 1, 2004~~, be made and executed by and in the name of the Commissioner.

(b) State Resource Management Revolving Fund.

(1) There is established a Resource Management Revolving Fund to provide revenue for implementation of resource conservation measures anticipated to generate a life cycle cost benefit to the State. All State agencies responsible for development and operations and maintenance of State infrastructure shall have access to the Resource Management Revolving Fund on a priority basis established by the Commissioner.

(2) The Fund shall consist of:

(A) ~~Monies~~ monies appropriated to the Fund, or which are paid to it under authorization of the Emergency Board;

(B) ~~Monies~~ monies saved by the implementation of resource management conservation measures; and

(C) ~~Fees~~ fees for administrative costs paid by departments and agencies, which shall be fixed by the Commissioner subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration.

(D) ~~[Deleted.]~~ [Repealed.]

(3) Monies from the Fund shall be expended by the Commissioner for resource conservation measures anticipated to generate a life cycle cost benefit to the State and all necessary costs involved with the administration of State agency energy planning as determined by the Commissioner.

(4) The Commissioner shall establish criteria to determine eligibility for funding of resource conservation measures.

(5) Agencies or departments receiving funding shall repay the Fund through their regular operating budgets according to a schedule established by the Commissioner. Repayment shall include charges of fees for administrative costs over the term of the repayment.

(6) The Commissioner of Finance and Management may anticipate receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

(7) The Commissioner of ~~Buildings and General Services~~ shall maintain accurate and complete records of all receipts by and expenditures from the Fund.

(8) All balances remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over to the following year.

(c) Energy Revolving Fund.

(1) There is established an Energy Revolving Fund to finance energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources in State buildings and facilities anticipated to generate a cost-savings to the State. State agencies and departments shall have access to the Energy Revolving Fund on a priority basis established by the Commissioner and the State Treasurer.

(2) The Fund shall consist of:

(A) monies appropriated to the Fund or which are paid to it under authorization of the Emergency Board;

(B) monies saved by the implementation of energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources;

(C) any funds available through a credit facility maintained by the State Treasurer in accordance with subsection (d) of this section; and

(D) fees for administrative costs paid by departments and agencies, which shall be fixed by the Commissioner subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration.

(3) Monies from the Fund shall be expended by the Commissioner for measures anticipated to generate a cost-savings to the State and costs involved with the administration of the State agency energy plan as determined by the Commissioner.

(4) The Commissioner and the State Treasurer shall establish criteria to determine eligibility for funding of energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources, including returns of investment on terms acceptable to the State Treasurer.

(5) Agencies and departments receiving funding shall repay the Fund through their regular operating budget according to a schedule established by the Commissioner. Repayment shall include charges of fees for administrative costs over the term of the repayment.

(6) The Commissioner of Finance and Management may anticipate receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

(7) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall maintain accurate and complete records of all receipts by and expenditures from the Fund.

(8) All balances remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried over to the following year; provided, however, that any amounts received in repayment of the credit facility established under subsection (d) of this section may be reinvested by the State Treasurer.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Treasurer, working in collaboration with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall have the authority to establish a credit facility of up to \$8,000,000.00, on terms acceptable to the State Treasurer. The credit facility shall be used for the purpose of financing energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources anticipated to generate a cost-savings to the State.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) "Energy efficiency improvement" shall mean a set of measures aimed at reducing the energy used by specific end-use devices and systems to provide light, heat, cooling, or other services without affecting the level of service provided. An energy efficiency project may also include energy conservation measures; that is, a reduction in energy consumption that corresponds with a reduction in service demand.

(2) “Renewables” shall have the same meaning as under 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

(3) “Resource conservation measures” shall mean a set of measures, including a study, product, process, or technology, aimed at reducing overall use or consumption of energy resources in State buildings or facilities. “Resource conservation measures” shall include energy efficiency improvements.

(f) Beginning on or before January 15, 2015 and annually thereafter, the Department of Buildings and General Service shall report to the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions on the expenditure of funds from the State Resource Management Revolving Fund for resource conservation measures and the Energy Revolving Fund for energy efficiency improvements and the use of renewable resources. For each fiscal year, the report shall include a summary of each project receiving funding and the State’s expected savings.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 45. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(No House amendments)

JFO NOTICE

INFORMATION NOTICE

The Joint Fiscal Committee recently received the following items:

JFO #2677 – \$2,543,490 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Vermont Department of Public Safety. These funds will provide assistance for emergency work and the repair/replacement of facilities damaged during the December 2013 ice storm in Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille and Orleans Counties.

[JFO received 04/10/14]

JFO #2678 – \$150,000 grant from the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity, Inc. (VLITE) to the Vermont Public Service Department. These funds will support credit enhancements that lower the cost of financing residential thermal energy efficiency upgrades. The credit enhancements may take the form of loan loss reserves, interest rate buy downs, loan guarantees, or a combination of these options.

[JFO received 04/10/14]

JFO #2679 – \$225,000 grant from Fletcher Allen Health Care to the Department of Health (VDH). This grant will fund one limited service public health dental hygienist position.
[JFO received 04/17/14]