

1 H.771

2 Introduced by Representatives Lawrence of Lyndon, Batchelor of Derby,
3 Beyor of Highgate, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of
4 Colchester, Champion of Bennington, Conquest of Newbury,
5 Feltus of Lyndon, Goodwin of Weston, Hebert of Vernon,
6 Higley of Lowell, Johnson of Canaan, Larocque of Barnet,
7 Marcotte of Coventry, Martin of Springfield, Michelsen of
8 Hardwick, Myers of Essex, Partridge of Windham, Potter of
9 Clarendon, Shaw of Pittsford, Shaw of Derby, Smith of New
10 Haven, Stevens of Shoreham, Strong of Albany, Winters of
11 Williamstown, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard

12 Referred to Committee on

13 Date:

14 Subject: Agriculture; capital funding

15 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
16 statutory framework governing the use and oversight of State capital funds
17 dedicated to agricultural fair and field days projects.

18 An act relating to capital funding for agricultural fair and field days

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. chapter 137 is amended to read:

3 CHAPTER 137. BUILDING COMMUNITIES GRANTS

4 * * *

5 § 5608. AGRICULTURAL FAIRS AND FIELD DAYS CAPITAL

6 PROJECTS PROGRAM

7 (a)(1) Creation of Program; criteria. There is created an Agricultural Fairs
8 and Field Days Capital Program to provide competitive grants for capital costs
9 with a minimum useful life of 20 years for projects that relate to Vermont
10 agricultural fairs and field days operating a minimum of three consecutive,
11 eight-hour days per year.

12 (2) A project for which a grant is awarded shall be completed within two
13 years of the execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

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

16 (b) Creation of Committee. There is established an Agricultural Fairs and
17 Field Days Capital Program Advisory Committee to administer and coordinate
18 the Agricultural Fairs and Field Days Capital Program. The Committee shall
19 include:

20 (1) one member appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and
21 Markets;

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

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

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

7 (5) one member of the Vermont Senate appointed by the President Pro
8 Tempore of the Senate; and

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

11 (c) Administration.

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

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

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.