

# Vermont Legislative Council

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Kesha Ram

From: Zach Mauldin

Date: April 8, 2014

Subject: Summary of deleted sections of H.586 as amended by FW&WR and Ag committees

### **Sec. 13. Forest Skidder Bridges**

- Appropriates \$120,000.00 to the Department of Forests and Parks for a skidder bridge program.
  - Skidder bridges are portable bridges loggers use to cross watercourses.
- \$100,000 would be for technical assistance to loggers to improve stream crossings.
- \$20,000 would be for the purchase or construction of skidder bridges to loan to loggers.

### **Sec. 14. Town Road and Bridge Match**

- Increases the amount of State share that towns receive in local highway funds if the town has adopted the Agency of Transportation's town road and bridge standards. These standards promote erosion control and other water quality measures.
- Local share would decrease from 10% to 5% for town highway projects for towns that have adopted the road and bridge standards.

### **Secs. 17-19. Rooms, Meals and Beverages Tax**

- Raises the rooms, meals, and beverages taxes by one quarter percent each.
  - Two percent of the rooms, meals and beverages taxes would be deposited in the ecosystem restoration program fund established under Sec. 22 of the bill.

### **Secs. 20-21. Rental Car Tax**

- Increases the tax on rental cars from 9% to 10%.
- Allocates 10% of the rental car tax to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Fund

### **Sec. 22. Ecosystem Restoration Program Fund**

- Creates the ANR administered Ecosystem Restoration Program Fund, under which all monies for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (formerly Clean and Clear) are deposited.

- The money raised by H.586 would be deposited in an administrative account within the fund for purposes of administration, education, outreach, monitoring and implementation of activities or projects under the Ecosystem Restoration Program.
- Awards from the fund would be made according to a priority ranking system.