H.526 Senate Finance Committee, 1/29/14

Testimony from Department of Environmental Conservation, Matt Chapman and Susan Warren

The Department estimated fee revenue to support a Shoreland Permit Program based on surveys of selected Vermont towns and discussions with staff of the New Hampshire shoreland regulatory program.

- Based on surveys of Vermont town permit records, it is estimated that about 80-90% of shoreland projects will be small, i.e. 500 sq ft or less in size.
- Based on surveys of Vermont towns and discussions with NH program staff, the Department estimates there will be between 450 and 600 permit applications a year.
- The Department has added a 20% compliance and enforcement inspection rate into staff time needed.
- The Department is requesting a flat fee for registrations of \$75 to cover the administrative costs.

Fee Structure:

De minimis projects (§ 1446) – no cost Registrations (§ 1446) - \$100

Individual permits (§ 1444 & 1445) – \$0.50 per sq ft of impervious area plus \$125 base fee

Fee revenue estimates:

Type of shoreland proposal	Est.# statewide	Proposed fee At \$0.50 sq ft	Total
De minimis activities	-	-	-
Registrations	200	\$100	\$20,000
Indiv Permit, addition ~200 sq ft impervious	150	\$100 sq ft fee + \$125 base fee	\$33,750
Indiv Permit, addition ~500 sq ft impervious	150	\$250 sq ft fee + \$125 base fee	\$56,250
Indiv Permit ~2000 sq ft impervious	50	\$1000 sq ft fee + \$125 base fee	\$56,250
Indiv Permit ~4000 sq ft impervious	50	\$2000 sq ft fee + \$125 base fee	\$106,250
Total			\$272,500

Estimated funding needed for shoreland permit program:

3 Environmental Analysts (\$80,000) each: \$240,000

Equipment and travel: \$30,000

TOTAL: \$270,000

By striking Sec. 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j)(32) is added to read:

- (32)(A) For applications for a project taking place that requires a registration pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1446(a): \$100.00
- (B) Applications for a project that requires an individual permit pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1443, 1444, and 1445: \$125.00 per project and \$0.50 per square foot of impervious surface.