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H.665

Introduced by Representative Keenan of St. Albans City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Public Records Act; location of archeological sites

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a new exception to the law designating all information regarding the location of archaeological sites as confidential, in order to create an exception for information related to archeological sites located on a parcel permitted or otherwise officially approved, or subject to a pending application for a permit or other official approval, for the construction of improvements.

An act relating to the confidentiality of archeological site location information

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

Sec. 1. 22 V.S.A. § 761 is amended to read:

§ 761. STATE ARCHEOLOGIST; SURVEY; PROTECTION OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

(a) The ~~state historic preservation officer~~ State Historic Preservation Officer shall employ a ~~state archeologist~~ State Archaeologist through the classified service who shall conduct and maintain a survey of sites of

1 archeological and anthropological specimens located within the ~~state~~ State.

2 The ~~state archeologist~~ State Archaeologist shall make the survey available to
3 agencies of the ~~state~~ State government that, in his or her opinion, may conduct
4 activities which may affect these archaeological or anthropological sites.

5 (b) All information regarding the location of archeological sites and
6 underwater historic properties shall be confidential except that the ~~state~~
7 ~~archeologist~~ State Archaeologist shall provide:

8 (1) this information to qualified individuals or organizations, public
9 agencies, and nonprofit organizations for archeological and scientific research
10 or for preservation and planning purposes when the ~~state archeologist~~ State
11 Archaeologist determines that the preservation of these properties is will not be
12 endangered by disclosure; and

13 (2) information related to archeological sites located on a parcel
14 permitted or otherwise officially approved, or subject to a pending application
15 for a permit or other official approval, for the construction of improvements.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.