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H.844

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives McCullough of Williston, Clarkson of  
Woodstock, Deen of Westminster, and Sullivan of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; land use; forest conservation;  
fragmentation

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: The bill proposes multiple provisions to protect or conserve forestland in the State. The bill would require municipal and regional plans to address the conservation of forestland and forest resources and would require municipal and regional plans to provide for conserved forest tracts and forest connectivity. The bill would require municipalities to adopt bylaws establishing forest tracts or requiring forest connectivity. The bill expressly would authorize municipalities to consider fragmentation of forestland and other natural resources issues as part of a conditional use review.

In addition, the bill would amend the requirements of Act 250, 10 V.S.A. chapter 151, to expand review of the potential impact of development on forest tracts, forest connectivity, and forest soils. The jurisdictional threshold for commercial or industrial projects in towns with zoning and subdivision bylaws

1 would be reduced from 10 acres to two acres. The Act 250 criteria for forest  
2 soils would be amended to require maintenance of forest tracts or forest  
3 connectivity that is of high priority to maintaining a working forest. The bill  
4 would also require mitigation for any impacts to a high priority forest tract.

5 An act relating to conservation of forestland

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

7 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)