

1 S.166

2 Introduced by Senator Sirotkin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Commerce and trade

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the  
7 Governor's Development Cabinet to review State incentive programs and  
8 propose program changes, conditions for incentives, or other strategies to  
9 cross-promote other relevant State policies.

10 An act relating to cross-promoting development incentives and State policy  
11 goals

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

13 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 2293 is amended to read:

14 § 2293. DEVELOPMENT CABINET

15 (a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly deems it prudent to  
16 establish a permanent and formal mechanism to ~~assure~~ ensure collaboration  
17 and consultation among State agencies and departments, in order to support  
18 and encourage Vermont's economic development, while at the same time  
19 conserving and promoting Vermont's traditional settlement patterns, its

1 working and rural landscape, its strong communities, and its healthy  
2 environment, all in a manner set forth in this section.

3 (b) Development Cabinet.

4 (1)(A) A Development Cabinet is created, to consist of the Secretaries  
5 of the Agencies of Administration, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of  
6 Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of Natural Resources,  
7 and of Transportation.

8 (B) The Governor or the Governor's designee shall chair the  
9 Development Cabinet.

10 (2) The Development Cabinet shall advise the Governor on how best to  
11 implement the purposes of this section, and shall recommend changes as  
12 appropriate to improve implementation of those purposes.

13 (3)(A) The Development Cabinet may establish interagency work  
14 groups to support its mission, drawing membership from any agency or  
15 department of State government.

16 (B) Any interagency work groups established under this subsection  
17 shall evaluate, test the feasibility of, and suggest alternatives to economic  
18 development proposals, including proposals for public-private partnerships,  
19 submitted to them for consideration.

1           (C) The Development Cabinet shall refer to appropriate interagency  
2           workgroups any economic development proposal that has a significant impact  
3           on the inventory or use of State land or buildings.

4           (4) The Development Cabinet shall:

5           (A) review State loan, grant, and other incentive programs to explore  
6           whether and how the expenditure of State funds through incentive programs  
7           can cross-promote other relevant State policies, including the adoption of  
8           renewable energy, public access to conserved lands, and water quality  
9           improvements;

10          (B) recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly areas for  
11          improvement, program changes, conditions on incentives, and other strategies  
12          to ensure cross-promotion of relevant State policies through incentive  
13          programs; and

14          (C) on or before December 15 of each even-numbered year, submit a  
15          report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of its  
16          recommendations and the effectiveness of efforts to cross-promote incentive  
17          programs and State policies.

18          (c) All State agencies that have programs or take actions affecting land use,  
19          including those identified under ~~3 V.S.A.~~ chapter 67 of this title, shall, through  
20          or in conjunction with the members of the Development Cabinet:

21          (1) Support conservation of working lands and open spaces.

1           (2) Strengthen agricultural and forest product economies, and encourage  
2 the diversification of these industries.

3           (3) Develop and implement plans to educate the public by encouraging  
4 discussion at the local level about the impacts of poorly designed growth, and  
5 support local efforts to enhance and encourage development and economic  
6 growth in the State’s existing towns and villages.

7           (4) Administer tax credits, loans, and grants for water, sewer, housing,  
8 schools, transportation, and other community or industrial infrastructure, in a  
9 manner consistent with the purposes of this section.

10          (5) To the extent possible, endeavor to make the expenditure of State  
11 appropriations consistent with the purposes of this section.

12          (6) Encourage development in, and work to revitalize, land and  
13 buildings in existing village and urban centers, including “brownfields,”  
14 housing stock, and vacant or underutilized development zones. Each agency is  
15 to set meaningful and quantifiable benchmarks.

16          (7) Encourage communities to approve settlement patterns based on  
17 maintaining the State’s compact villages, open spaces, working landscapes,  
18 and rural countryside.

19          (8) Encourage relatively intensive residential development close to  
20 resources such as schools, shops, and community centers and make  
21 infrastructure investments to support this pattern.

1           (9) Support recreational opportunities that build on Vermont's  
2 outstanding natural resources, and encourage public access for activities such  
3 as boating, hiking, fishing, skiing, hunting, and snowmobiling. ~~Support;~~ and  
4 support and work collaboratively to make possible sound development and  
5 well-planned growth in existing recreational infrastructure.

6           (10) Provide means and opportunity for downtown housing for mixed  
7 social and income groups in each community.

8           (11) [Repealed.]

9           (12) Encourage timely and efficient processing of permit applications  
10 affecting land use, including 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 and the subdivision  
11 regulations adopted under 18 V.S.A. § 1218, in order to encourage the  
12 development of affordable housing and small business expansion, while  
13 protecting Vermont's natural resources.

14           (13) Participate in creating a long-term economic development plan,  
15 including making available the members of any agency or department of State  
16 government as necessary and appropriate to support the mission of an  
17 interagency work group established under subsection (b) of this section.

18           (d)(1) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Oversight Panel on  
19 Economic Development created in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 146, Sec. G6,  
20 the Development Cabinet shall create an interagency work group as provided

1 in subsection (b) of this section with the Secretary of Commerce and  
2 Community Development serving as its chair.

3 (2) The mission of the work group shall be to develop a long-term  
4 economic development plan for the State, which shall identify goals and  
5 recommend actions to be taken over ten years, and which shall be consistent  
6 with the four principles of economic development identified in 10 V.S.A. § 3  
7 and the relevant population-level outcomes for economic development set forth  
8 in ~~3 V.S.A. §~~ section 2311 of this title.

9 (e)(1) On or before January 15, 2014, and every two years thereafter, the  
10 Development Cabinet or its work group shall complete a long-term economic  
11 development plan as required under subsection (d) of this section and  
12 recommend it to the Governor.

13 (2) Commencing with the plan due on or before January 15, 2016, the  
14 Development Cabinet or its work group may elect only to prepare and  
15 recommend to the Governor an update of the long-term economic development  
16 plan.

17 (3) Administrative support for the economic development planning  
18 efforts of the Development Cabinet or its work group shall be provided by the  
19 Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

20 (f) Limitations. This Cabinet is strictly an information gathering and  
21 coordinating cabinet and confers no additional enforcement powers.

- 1      Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2      This act shall take effect on passage.