

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 852 entitled “An act relating to State lands” respectfully reports that it has  
4 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

5 First: In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 2606b, by striking out subsection (f) in its  
6 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 (f) ~~There shall be an annual license fee~~ A per tap license charge shall be  
8 ~~imposed based on the number of taps installed in the license area. The per tap~~  
9 ~~fee for a license issued under this section shall be one quarter of the average of~~  
10 ~~the per pound price of Vermont fancy grade syrup and the per pound price of~~  
11 ~~Vermont commercial grade syrup as those prices are set on May 1 of each~~  
12 ~~year. The fee set each May 1 shall apply to licenses issued by the department~~  
13 ~~for the succeeding period beginning June 1 and ending May 31. The~~  
14 Commissioner shall establish this per tap license charge at a reasonable rate  
15 that reflects current market rates. Fees collected under this section shall be  
16 deposited in the ~~forest parks revolving fund~~ Lands and Facilities Trust Fund  
17 established under ~~section 2609 of this title and shall be used by the department~~  
18 ~~to implement the license program established by this section~~ 3 V.S.A. § 2807.

1        Second: By striking out Sec. 3 (Forestland Intergenerational Transfer Study  
2 Committee) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3        Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;

4                WORKING GROUP ON INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF  
5                FORESTLAND

6                (a) On or before August 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and  
7                Recreation shall establish a working group of interested parties to develop  
8                recommendations for a statewide program to improve the capacity of providing  
9                successional planning technical assistance to forestland owners in Vermont.

10               The working group shall:

11                (1) develop recommended priorities for succession planning for  
12                forestland owners;

13                (2) develop strategies for improving conservation investments or  
14                incentives that facilitate the intergenerational transfers of intact forestland;

15                (3) develop other strategies for lessening the impact of estate taxes or  
16                other pressures that could lead to the breaking up and subdivision of intact  
17                forest parcels;

18                (4) develop recommended legislative changes that may be needed to  
19                implement its recommendations and strategies; and

20                (5) identify fiscal issues related to its recommendations.

1        (b) On or before February 1, 2017, the Commissioner shall submit a report  
2        to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Ways and  
3        Means and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and  
4        Finance that shall include the working group’s findings and any  
5        recommendations for legislative action.

6

7

8        (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

9

10

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

11

FOR THE COMMITTEE