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MEANS

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MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Botzow, Chair, House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

From: Rep. Janet Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Rep. Carolyn Branagan, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

Date: January 23, 2015

Subject: Review of Administration's Proposed FY 2016 Fee Bill

The House Ways and Means Committee has begun work on the Administration's proposed FY 2016 Fee Bill and would like the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to review and comment on Sections 26 and 30.

Section 26 relates to the worker's compensation rate of contribution, which will remain unchanged. Section 30 creates a special fund for the Vermont Center for Geographic Information. This fund will support the Center's operations and services.

Please respond with any recommendations by the end of the day on Tuesday February 3rd. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

* * * Labor * * *

* * * Workers' Compensation Fund * * *

Sec. 26. WORKERS' COMPENSATION RATE OF CONTRIBUTION

For fiscal year 2016, after consideration of the formula in 21 V.S.A. § 711(b) and historical rate trends, the General Assembly has established that the rate of contribution for the direct calendar year premium for workers' compensation insurance shall be set at the rate of 1.45 percent established in 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 191, Sec. 7, notwithstanding 21 V.S.A. § 711(a). The contribution rate for self-insured workers' compensation losses and workers' compensation losses of corporations approved under 21 V.S.A. chapter 9 shall remain at one percent.

Sec. 30. 10 V.S.A. § 128 is added to read:

§ 128. VERMONT CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

SPECIAL FUND

(a) A Special Fund is created for the operation of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information in the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. The Fund shall consist of revenues derived from the charges by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the provision of Geographic Information products and services, interest earned by the Fund, and sums which from time to time may be made available for the support of the Center and its operations. The Fund shall be established and managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and shall be available to the Agency to support activities of the Center.

(b) The receipt and expenditure of monies from the Special Fund shall be under the supervision of the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development.

(c) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development is authorized to impose charges reasonably related to the costs of the products and services of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, including the cost of personnel, equipment, supplies, and intellectual property.