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S.34

Introduced by Senators Sirotkin, Ashe, Mullin, and Pearson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade

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

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

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

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

§ 2293. DEVELOPMENT CABINET

(a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly deems it prudent to establish a permanent and formal mechanism to ~~assure~~ ensure collaboration and consultation among State agencies and departments, in order to support and encourage Vermont's economic development, while at the same time 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~~ The Development Cabinet is created, to consist of the
5 Secretaries of ~~the Agencies of~~ Administration, of Agriculture, Food and
6 Markets, of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of
7 Natural Resources, 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 (b) 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 relevant State policies, including the adoption of renewable
8 energy, public access to conserved lands, and water quality improvements;

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

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

17 (c) Implementation. All State agencies that have programs or take actions
18 affecting land use, including those identified under ~~3 V.S.A.~~ chapter 67 of this
19 title, shall, through or in conjunction with the members of the Development
20 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~~ pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 and the
11 subdivision regulations adopted under 18 V.S.A. § 1218, in order to encourage
12 the 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) Interagency work group.

19 (1) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Oversight Panel on
20 Economic Development created in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 146, Sec. G6,
21 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 10 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) Long-term economic development plan. (1) On or before January 15,
10 2014, and every two years thereafter, the Development Cabinet or its work
11 group shall complete a long-term economic development plan as required
12 under subsection (d) of this section and 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.

1 (f) Limitations. This Cabinet is strictly an ~~information-gathering~~
2 information-gathering and coordinating cabinet and confers no additional
3 enforcement powers.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.