

S.260

An act relating to funding the cleanup of State waters

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

\* \* \* Clean Water Board \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1389 is amended to read:

§ 1389. CLEAN WATER ~~FUND~~ BOARD

(a) Creation.

(1) There is created the Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board which that shall:

(A) be responsible and accountable for planning, coordinating, and financing of the remediation, improvement, and protection of the quality of State waters;

(B) recommend to the Secretary of Administration expenditures;

(i) appropriations from the Clean Water Fund; and

(ii) clean water projects to be funded by capital appropriations.

(2) The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall be attached to the Agency of Administration for administrative purposes.

(b) Organization of the Board. The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall be composed of:

(1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

(2) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

(4) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee;

(5) the Secretary of Transportation or designee; and

(6) four members of the public, who are not legislators, with expertise in one or more of the following subject matters: public management, civil engineering, agriculture, ecology, wetlands, stormwater system management, forestry, transportation, law, banking, finance, and investment, to be appointed by the Governor.

(c) Officers; committees; rules; compensation; term.

(1) The Clean Water Fund Board shall annually elect a chair from its members Secretary of Administration shall serve as the Chair of the Board.

The Clean Water Fund Board may elect additional officers from its members, establish committees or subcommittees, and adopt procedural rules as necessary and appropriate to perform its work.

(2) Members of the Board who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 paid from the budget of the Agency of Administration for attendance of meetings of the Board.

(3) Members who are appointed to the Clean Water Board shall be appointed for terms of four years, except initial appointments shall be made such that two members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for a

term of two years. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled for the remaining period of the term in the same manner as initial appointments.

(d) Powers and duties of the Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board. The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall have the following powers and authority:

(1) The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall recommend to the Secretary of Administration the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund for the purposes of developing the State budget required to be submitted to the General Assembly under 32 V.S.A. § 306. All recommendations from the Board should be intended to achieve the greatest water quality gain for the investment. The recommendations of the Clean Water Board shall be open to inspection and copying under the Public Records Act, and the Clean Water Board shall submit to the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Finance, on Agriculture, and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Appropriations, on Ways and Means, on Agriculture and Forestry, and on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife a copy of any recommendations provided to the Governor.

(2) The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board may pursue and accept grants, gifts, donations, or other funding from any public or private source and may administer such grants, gifts, donations, or funding consistent with the terms of the grant, gift, or donation.

(3) The Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall:

(A) establish a process by which watershed organizations, State agencies, and other interested parties may propose water quality projects or programs for financing from the Clean Water Fund;

(B) develop an annual revenue estimate and proposed budget for the Clean Water Fund;

(C) establish measures for determining progress and effectiveness of expenditures for clean water restoration efforts;

(D) issue the annual Clean Water Investment Report required under section 1389a of this title; ~~and~~

(E) solicit, consult with, and accept public comment from organizations interested in improving water quality in Vermont regarding recommendations under this subsection (d) for the allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund; and

(F) establish a process under which a watershed organization, State agency, or other interested party may propose that a water quality project or program identified in a watershed basin plan receive funding from the Clean Water Fund.

(e) Priorities.

(1) In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize:

(A) funding to programs and projects that address sources of water pollution in waters listed as impaired on the list of waters established by 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d);

(B) funding to projects that address sources of water pollution identified as a significant contributor of water quality pollution, including financial assistance to grant recipients at the initiation of a funded project;

(C) funding to programs or projects that address or repair riparian conditions that increase the risk of flooding or pose a threat to life or property;

(D) assistance required for State and municipal compliance with stormwater requirements for highways and roads;

(E) funding for education and outreach regarding the implementation of water quality requirements, including funding for education, outreach, demonstration, and access to tools for the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, as adopted by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation;

(F) funding for innovative or alternative technologies or practices designed to improve water quality or reduce sources of pollution to surface waters, including funding for innovative nutrient removal technologies and community-based methane digesters that utilize manure, wastewater, and food residuals to produce energy;

(G) funding to purchase agricultural land in order to take that land out of practice when the State water quality requirements cannot be remediated through agricultural Best Management Practices; ~~and~~

(H) funding to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities; and

(I) investment in watershed basin planning, water quality project identification screening, water quality project evaluation, and conceptual plan development of water quality projects.

(2) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Clean Water ~~Fund~~ Board shall, during the first three years of its existence and within the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), prioritize awards or assistance to municipalities for municipal compliance with water quality requirements; and to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.

(3) In developing its recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall, after satisfaction of the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), attempt to provide ~~for equitable apportionment of awards from the Fund to all regions of the State and for control of all sources of point and non-point sources of pollution in the State~~

investment in all watersheds of the State based on the needs identified in watershed basin plans.

(f) Assistance. The Clean Water Fund Board shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Administration, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for those issues or services within the jurisdiction of the respective agency. The cost of the services provided by agency staff shall be paid from the budget of the agency providing the staff services.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1389a is amended to read:

§ 1389a. CLEAN WATER INVESTMENT REPORT

(a) Beginning on January 15, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Administration shall publish the Clean Water Investment Report. The Report shall summarize all investments, including their cost-effectiveness, made by the Clean Water Fund Board and other State agencies for clean water restoration over the prior ~~calendar~~ fiscal year. The Report shall include expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, the General Fund, the Transportation Fund, and any other State expenditures for clean water restoration, regardless of funding source.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Coordinated Water Quality Grants; Performance Grants \* \* \*

Sec. 3. COORDINATED WATER QUALITY GRANTS

The Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Secretary of Transportation shall coordinate prior to awarding water quality grants or funding in order to maximize the water quality benefit or impact of funded projects in a watershed planning basin. When grants are issued, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Secretary of Transportation shall, when allowed by law, authorize funds or identify other funding opportunities that may be used to support capacity to implement projects in the watershed basin.

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d) is amended to read:

(d)(1) Through the process of basin planning, the Secretary shall determine what degree of water quality and classification should be obtained and maintained for those waters not classified by the Board before 1981 following the procedures in sections 1254 and 1258 of this title. Those waters shall be classified in the public interest. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain an overall surface water management plan to assure that the State water quality standards are met in all State waters. The surface water management plan shall include a schedule for updating the basin plans. The Secretary, in consultation with regional planning commissions and the Natural Resources Conservation Council, shall revise all 15 basin plans and update the basin plans on a five-year rotating basis. On or before January 15 of each year, the Secretary shall



report to the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry, and on Natural Resources ~~and Energy, and on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources~~, Fish, and Wildlife and to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Natural Resources and Energy regarding the progress made and difficulties encountered in revising basin plans. The report shall include a summary of basin planning activities in the previous calendar year, a schedule for the production of basin plans in the subsequent calendar year, and a summary of actions to be taken over the subsequent three years. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

(2) In developing a basin plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall:

(A) identify waters that should be reclassified outstanding resource waters or that should have one or more uses reclassified under section 1252 of this title;

(B) identify wetlands that should be reclassified as Class I wetlands;

(C) identify projects or activities within a basin that will result in the protection and enhancement of water quality;

(D) assure that municipal officials, citizens, watershed groups, and other interested groups and individuals are involved in the basin planning process;

(E) assure regional and local input in State water quality policy development and planning processes;

(F) provide education to municipal officials and citizens regarding the basin planning process;

(G) develop, in consultation with the regional planning commission, an analysis and formal recommendation on conformance with the goals and objectives of applicable regional plans;

(H) provide for public notice of a draft basin plan; and

(I) provide for the opportunity of public comment on a draft basin plan.

(3) The Secretary shall, contingent upon the availability of funding, ~~contract with a regional planning commission or~~ negotiate and issue performance grants to the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or its designee and the Natural Resources Conservation Council or its designee to assist in or to produce a basin plan under the schedule set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection in a manner consistent with the authority of regional planning commissions under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the authority of the natural resources conservation districts under chapter 31 of this title.

When ~~contracting~~ negotiating a scope of work with ~~a regional planning commission or~~ the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or its designee and the Natural Resources Conservation Council or its designee to assist in or produce a basin plan, the Secretary may require the ~~regional planning commission~~ Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies or the Natural Resources Conservation Council to:

(A) conduct any of the activities required under subdivision (2) of this subsection (d);

(B) provide technical assistance and data collection activities to inform municipal officials and the State in making water quality investment decisions;

(C) coordinate municipal planning and adoption or implementation of municipal development regulations ~~to~~ better to meet State water quality policies and investment priorities; or

(D) assist the Secretary in implementing a project evaluation process to prioritize water quality improvement projects within the region to assure ~~cost effective~~ cost-effective use of State and federal funds.

\* \* \* Lakes in Crisis \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 2A is added to read:

Subchapter 2A. Lake in Crisis

§ 1310. DESIGNATION OF LAKE IN CRISIS

(a) The Secretary of Natural Resources (Secretary) shall review whether a lake in the State should be designated as a lake in crisis upon the Secretary's own motion or upon petition of 15 or more persons or a selectboard of a municipality in which the lake or a portion of the lake is located.

(b) The Secretary shall designate a lake as a lake in crisis if, after review under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary determines that:

(1) the lake or segments of the lake have been listed as impaired;

(2) the condition of the lake will cause:

(A) a potential harm to the public health; and

(B) a risk of damage to the environment or natural resources; and

(3) a municipality in which the lake or a portion of the lake is located

has reduced the valuation of real property due to the condition of the lake.

§ 1311. STATE RESPONSE TO A LAKE IN CRISIS

(a) Adoption of crisis response plan. When a lake is declared in crisis, the Secretary shall within 90 days after the designation of the lake in crisis issue a comprehensive crisis response plan for the management of the lake in crisis in order to improve water quality in the lake or to mitigate or eliminate the potential harm to public health or the risk of damages to the environment or natural resources. The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Secretary of Transportation in the development of the crisis response plan. The crisis response plan may require implementation of one or both of the following in the watershed of the lake in crisis:

(1) water quality requirements necessary to address specific harms to public health or risks to the environment or natural resources; or

(2) implementation of or compliance with existing water quality requirements under one or more of the following:

(A) water quality requirements under chapter 47 of this title, including requiring a property owner to obtain a permit or implement best

management practices for the discharge of stormwater runoff from any size of impervious surfaces if the Secretary determines that the treatment of the discharge of stormwater runoff is necessary to reduce the adverse impacts to water quality of the discharge or stormwater on the lake in crisis;

(B) agricultural water quality requirements under 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, including best management practices under 6 V.S.A. § 4810 to reduce runoff from the farm; or

(C) water quality requirements adopted under section 1264 of this section for stormwater runoff from municipal or State roads.

(b) Public hearing. The Secretary shall hold at least one public hearing in the watershed of the lake in crisis and shall provide an opportunity for public notice and comment for a proposed lake in crisis response plan.

(c) Term of designation. A lake shall remain designated as in crisis under this section until the Secretary determines that the lake no longer satisfies the criteria for designation under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Agency cooperation and services. All other State agencies shall cooperate with the Secretary in responding to the lake in crisis, and the Secretary shall be entitled to seek technical and scientific input or services from the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of Transportation, or other necessary State agencies.

§ 1312. LAKE IN CRISIS ORDER

The Secretary of Natural Resources, pursuant to chapter 201 of this title, or the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, pursuant to 6 V.S.A. chapter 215, may issue an order to require a person to:

(1) take an action identified in the lake in crisis response plan;

(2) cease or remediate any acts, discharges, site conditions, or processes contributing to the impairment of the lake in crisis;

(3) mitigate a significant contributor of a pollutant to the lake in crisis; or

(4) conduct testing, sampling, monitoring, surveying, or other analytical operations required to determine the nature, extent, duration, or severity of the potential harm to the public health or a risk of damage to the environment or natural resources.

§ 1313. ASSISTANCE

(a) A person subject to a lake in crisis order shall be eligible for technical and financial assistance from the Secretary to be paid from the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund. The Secretary shall adopt by procedure the process for application for assistance under this section.

(b) State financial assistance awarded under this section shall be in the form of a grant. An applicant for a State grant shall pay at least 35 percent of the total eligible project cost or shall pay the specific cost share authorized by statute for the program from which the grant is awarded. The dollar amount of

a State grant shall be equal to the total eligible project cost, less the percent of the total required to be paid by the applicant, and less the amount of any federal assistance awarded.

(c) A grant awarded under this section shall comply with all terms and conditions for the issuance of State grants.

§ 1314. FUNDING OF STATE RESPONSE TO A LAKE IN CRISIS

(a) Initial response. Upon designation of a lake in crisis, the Secretary may, for the purposes of the initial response to the lake in crisis, expend up to \$50,000.00 appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources from the Clean Water Fund for authorized contingency spending.

(b) Long-term funding. Annually, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall present to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a multiyear plan for the funding of all lakes designated in crisis under this subchapter. Based on the multiyear plan, the Secretary of Administration annually shall recommend to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations recommended appropriations to the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund for the subsequent fiscal year.

§ 1315. LAKE IN CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM FUND

(a) There is created a special fund known as the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund to be administered by the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Fund shall consist of:

(1) funds that may be appropriated by the General Assembly; and

(2) other gifts, donations, or funds received from any source, public or private, dedicated for deposit into the Fund.

(b) The Secretary shall use monies deposited in the Fund for the Secretary's implementation of a crisis response plan for a lake in crisis and for financial assistance under section 1313 of this title to persons subject to a lake in crisis order.

(c) Notwithstanding the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 588(3) and (4), interest earned by the Fund and the balance of the Fund at the end of the fiscal year shall be carried forward in the Fund and shall not revert to the General Fund.

Sec. 6. LAKE CARMI; LAKE IN CRISIS

The General Assembly declares Lake Carmi as a lake in crisis under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47, subchapter 2A. The crisis response plan for Lake Carmi shall include implementation of runoff controls.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 8003(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Secretary may take action under this chapter to enforce the following statutes and rules, permits, assurances, or orders implementing the following statutes, and the Board may take such action with respect to subdivision (10) of this subsection:

- (1) 10 V.S.A. chapter 23, relating to air quality;
- (2) 10 V.S.A. chapter 32, relating to flood hazard areas;



(3) 10 V.S.A. chapters 47 and 56, relating to water pollution control, water quality standards, ~~and~~ public water supply, and lakes in crisis;

\* \* \*

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 8503(a) is amended to read:

(a) This chapter shall govern all appeals of an act or decision of the Secretary, excluding enforcement actions under chapters 201 and 211 of this title and rulemaking, under the following authorities and under the rules adopted under those authorities:

(1) The following provisions of this title:

- (A) chapter 23 (air pollution control);
- (B) chapter 50 (aquatic nuisance control);
- (C) chapter 41 (regulation of stream flow);
- (D) chapter 43 (dams);
- (E) chapter 47 (water pollution control; lakes in crisis);

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Report on Future Farming Practices \* \* \*

Sec. 9. AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

REPORT ON FARMING PRACTICES IN VERMONT

(a) The Nutrient Management Commission convened by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets as a requirement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approved implementation plan for the Lake Champlain total maximum daily load plan shall review whether and how to revise farming

practices in Vermont in a manner that mitigates existing environmental impacts while maintaining economic viability. In conducting its review, the Commission shall consider whether and how to:

(1) revise farming practice to improve or build healthy soils;

(2) reduce agriculturally based pollution in areas of high pollution, stressed waters, or impaired waters;

(3) establish a carrying capacity or maximum number of livestock that the land used for nutrient application on a farm can support without contribution of nutrients to a water;

(4) provide financial and technical support to facilitate the transition by farms to less-polluting practices through one or more of the following:

(A) cover cropping;

(B) reduced tillage or no tillage;

(C) accelerated implementation of best management practices (BMPs);

(D) evaluation of the effectiveness of using riparian buffers in excess of 25 feet;

(E) increased use of direct manure injection;

(F) crop rotations to build soil health, including limits on the planting of continuous corn;

(G) elimination or reduction of the use of herbicides in the termination of cover crops; and

(H) diversification of dairy farming.

(b) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall submit to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Agriculture and to the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Agriculture and Forestry any recommendation of the Nutrient Management Commission regarding any of the farming practices or subject areas listed under subdivisions (a)(1)–(4) of this section.

\* \* \* Petroleum Cleanup Fund \* \* \*

Sec. 10. 10 V.S.A. § 1941(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Secretary may authorize disbursements from the Fund for the purpose of the cleanup and restoration of contaminated soil and groundwater caused by releases of petroleum from underground storage tanks and aboveground storage tanks, including air emissions for remedial actions, and for compensation of third parties for injury and damage caused by a release. This Fund shall be used for no other governmental purposes, nor shall any portion of the Fund ever be available to borrow from by any branch of government; it being the intent of the General Assembly that this Fund and its increments shall remain intact and inviolate for the purposes set out in this chapter. Disbursements under this section may be made only for uninsured costs incurred after January 1, 1987 and for which a claim is made prior to

July 1, ~~2019~~ 2029 and judged to be in conformance with prevailing industry rates. This includes:

\* \* \*

Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 1942 is amended to read:

§ 1942. PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTOR LICENSING FEE

(a) There is hereby established a licensing fee of one cent per gallon of motor fuel sold by a distributor or dealer or used by a user in this State, ~~which~~ that will be assessed against every distributor, dealer, or user as defined in 23 V.S.A. chapters 27 and 28, and ~~which~~ that will be deposited into the Petroleum Cleanup Fund established pursuant to subsection 1941(a) of this title. The Secretary, in consultation with the Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee established pursuant to subsection 1941(e) of this title, shall annually report to the General Assembly on the balance of the Motor Fuel Account and shall make recommendations, if any, for changes to the program. The Secretary shall also determine the unencumbered balance of the Motor Fuel Account as of May 15 of each year, and if the balance is equal to or greater than \$7,000,000.00, then the licensing fee shall not be assessed in the upcoming fiscal year. The Secretary shall promptly notify all sellers assessing this fee of the status of the fee for the upcoming fiscal year. This fee ~~will~~ shall be paid in the same manner, at the same time, and subject to the same restrictions or limitations as the tax on motor fuels. The fee ~~will~~ shall be collected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and deposited into the

Petroleum Cleanup Fund. This fee requirement shall terminate on April 1, ~~2024~~ 2031.

(b) There is assessed a licensing fee of one cent per gallon for the bulk retail sale of heating oil, kerosene, or other dyed diesel fuel sold in this State. This fee shall be subject to the collection, administration, and enforcement provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 233, and the fees collected under this subsection by the Commissioner of Taxes shall be deposited into the Petroleum Cleanup Fund established pursuant to subsection 1941(a) of this title. The Secretary, in consultation with the Petroleum Cleanup Fund Advisory Committee established pursuant to subsection 1941(e) of this title, shall annually report to the General Assembly on the balance of the Heating Fuel Account and shall make recommendations, if any, for changes to the program. The Secretary shall also determine the unencumbered balance of the Heating Fuel Account as of May 15 of each year, and if the balance is equal to or greater than \$3,000,000.00, then the licensing fee shall not be assessed in the upcoming fiscal year. The Secretary shall promptly notify all sellers assessing this fee of the status of the fee for the upcoming fiscal year. This fee provision shall terminate on April 1, ~~2024~~ 2031.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 1943(c) is amended to read:

(c) This tank assessment shall terminate on July 1, ~~2019~~ 2029.

Sec. 13. COMBINATION TANK SYSTEMS; CONTINUATION OF  
SERVICE

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Combination tank system" shall have the same meaning as set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 1922.

(2) "Motor fuel" means fuel subject to the licensing fee under 10 V.S.A. § 1942(a).

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements in 10 V.S.A. § 1927(e)(2) that a combination tank system shall be closed by January 1, 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources may authorize a combination tank service to supply motor fuel after January 1, 2018 upon a determination that the combination tank system:

(1) is the sole supply of motor fuel in the municipality in which the combination tank system is located;

(2) is needed to supply motor fuel to public safety or fire control services in the municipality; and

(3) the owner of the combination system has entered into a contract and obtained financing to replace the tank as required under 10 V.S.A. § 1927.

(c) The Secretary may authorize the continued supply of motor fuel from a combination tank system under this section until October 1, 2018.

(d) This section shall be repealed on October 1, 2018.

\* \* \* Municipal Roads General Permit Fees \* \* \*

Sec. 14. 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j)(2)(B)(iv)(VI) is amended to read:

(VI) ~~Application~~ For application to operate under a general permit for stormwater runoff associated with municipal roads: ~~\$2,000.00~~, the following fees per authorization annually:

(aa) in a municipality with a population of more than 5,000 persons: \$1,800.00;

(bb) in a municipality with a population of 2,500 to 5,000 persons and 95 miles or more of maintained road: \$1,800.00;

(cc) in a municipality with a population of 2,500 to 5,000 persons and 25 to less than 95 miles of maintained road: \$1,350.00;

(dd) in a municipality with a population of 2,500 to 5,000 persons and less than 25 miles of maintained road: \$500.00;

(ee) in a municipality with a population of fewer than 2,500 but more than 500 persons and 25 miles or more of maintained road: \$1,350.00;

(ff) in a municipality with a population of fewer than 2,500 but more than 500 persons and less than 25 miles of maintained road: \$500.00;

(gg) in a municipality with a population of fewer than 500 persons: \$500.00;

(hh) in a municipality that is covered under a municipal separate storm sewer system permit: \$0.00; and

(ii) in an unincorporated or disincorporated municipality:

\$0.00.

\* \* \* Mercury-Added Motor Vehicle Components \* \* \*

Sec. 15. 10 V.S.A. § 7108 is added to read:

§ 7108. MERCURY-ADDED MOTOR VEHICLE COMPONENTS

(a) Applicability. This section applies to:

(1) a motor vehicle recycler or scrap metal recycling facility in the State; and

(2) a manufacturer of motor vehicles sold in this State.

(b) Mercury-added switch removal requirements. A motor vehicle recycler that accepts end-of-life motor vehicles shall remove mercury-added vehicle switches prior to crushing, shredding, or other scrap metal processing and prior to conveying for crushing, shredding, or other scrap metal processing.

(1) Motor vehicle recyclers shall maintain a log sheet of switches removed from end-of-life motor vehicles and shall provide such log to the Agency annually or upon request of the Agency.

(2) Switches, including switches encased in light or brake assemblies, shall be collected, stored, transported, and handled in accordance with all applicable State and federal laws.

(c) Manufacturer mercury-added switch recovery program. A manufacturer of vehicles sold in this State, individually or as part of a group,



shall implement a mercury-added vehicle switch recovery program that includes the following:

(1) educational material to assist motor vehicle recyclers in identifying mercury-added vehicle switches and safely removing, properly handling, and storing switches;

(2) storage containers provided at no cost to all motor vehicle recyclers identified by the Agency, suitable for the safe storage of switches, including switches encased in light or brake assemblies;

(3) collection, packaging, shipping, and recycling of mercury-added switches, including switches encased in light or brake assemblies, provided to all motor vehicle recyclers at no cost and that comply with all applicable State and federal laws; and

(4) a report on or before December 1 annually to the Agency that includes the total number of mercury-added switches recovered in the program, the names of the motor vehicle recyclers and the number of switches removed from each, and the total amount of mercury collected during the previous 12-month period.

(d) Agency responsibility.

(1) The Agency shall provide workshops and other training to motor vehicle recyclers to inform them of the requirements of this section.

(2) The Agency may develop, by procedure, exemptions of certain mercury-added vehicle switches and other components from the requirements

of this section, including mercury-added switches that are inaccessible due to motor vehicle damage and anti-lock brake switches in certain motor vehicle types that are difficult or labor-intensive to remove.

Sec. 16. APPLICATION OF ENACTMENT

On December 31, 2017, the former 10 V.S.A. § 7108, requiring establishing mercury-added vehicle component requirements, as established by 2006 Acts and Resolves No. 117, was repealed. Sec. 15 of this act reenacts 10 V.S.A. § 7108 in substantially the same form as the section was enacted by 2006 Acts and Resolves No. 117. Notwithstanding the requirements of 1 V.S.A. § 214, the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 7108 as enacted by Sec. 15 of this act shall apply retroactively to December 31, 2017 and shall be implemented prospectively from that date.

Sec. 17. REPEAL OF MERCURY-ADDED MOTOR VEHICLE  
COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS

10 V.S.A. § 7108 (mercury-added vehicle component requirements) shall be repealed on December 31, 2021.

\* \* \* Forgiveness of Municipal Water Supply and

Pollution Control Planning Advances \* \* \*

Sec. 18. FORGIVENESS OF REPAYMENT OF PLANNING ADVANCES

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall not require a municipality to repay engineering planning advances awarded under 24 V.S.A. chapter 120, subchapter 2 if the Secretary determines that:

(1) the engineering planning advance was awarded prior to September 1, 2011; and

(2) due to the effects of Tropical Storm Irene, documentation is no longer available to establish the engineering planning scope and associated construction project for which the engineering planning advance was awarded.

\* \* \* Environmental Enforcement Report \* \* \*

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 8017 is amended to read:

§ 8017. ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary and the Attorney General shall report annually to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the House Committee on ~~Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources~~ Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife, and the Senate ~~and House Committees~~ Committee on Natural Resources and Energy. The report shall be filed ~~no later than January 15~~ on or before February 15, on the enforcement actions taken under this chapter, and on the status of citizen complaints about environmental problems in the State. The report shall describe, at a minimum, the number of violations, the actions taken, the disposition of cases, the amount of penalties collected, and the cost of administering the enforcement program. The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the report to be made under this section.

\* \* \* Wastewater System and Potable Water Supplies Lending \* \* \*

Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. § 4752 is amended to read:

§ 4752. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(13) “Potable water supply facilities” ~~means municipal water sources, water treatment plants, structures, pipe lines, storage facilities, pumps, and attendant facilities necessary to develop a source of water and to treat and convey it in proper quantity and quality for public use within a municipality~~ shall have the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 1972.

\* \* \*

(17) “Designer” means a person authorized to design wastewater systems and potable water supplies as identified in 10 V.S.A. § 1975.

Sec. 21. 24 V.S.A. § 4753 is amended to read:

§ 4753. REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS; AUTHORITY TO SPEND; REPORT

(a) There is hereby established a series of special funds to be known as:

\* \* \*

(10) The Vermont Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund, which shall be used to provide loans to individuals, in accordance with section 4763b of this title, for the design and construction of repairs to or replacement of wastewater systems and potable water supplies when the wastewater system or potable water supply is a failed system or supply as

defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1972, or when a designer demonstrates that the wastewater system or potable water supply has a high probability of failing.

The amount of up to \$275,000.00 from the fees collected pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j)(4) shall be deposited ~~on an annual basis~~ into this Fund at the beginning of each fiscal year to ensure a minimum balance of available funds of \$275,000.00 exists for each fiscal year.

\* \* \*

Sec. 22. 24 V.S.A. § 4763b is amended to read:

§ 4763b. LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR FAILED WASTEWATER

SYSTEMS AND FAILED POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when the wastewater system or potable water supply serving only ~~one single-family residence on its own lot~~ single-family and multifamily residences either meets the definition of a failed supply or system in 10 V.S.A. § 1972 or is demonstrated by a designer to have a high probability of failing, the Secretary of Natural Resources may lend monies to ~~the owner of the residence~~ an owner of one or more of the residences from the Vermont Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund established in section 4753 of this title. In such cases, the following conditions shall apply:

(1) ~~loans~~ a loan may only be made to ~~households with an~~ owner with a household income equal to or less than 200 percent of the State average median household income;

(2) ~~loans a loan~~ may only be made to ~~households where the recipient of the loan resides in the residence~~ an owner who resides in one of the residences served by the failed supply or system on a year-round basis;

(3) ~~loans a loan~~ may only be made ~~if the owner of the residence~~ to an owner who has been denied financing for the repair, replacement, or construction due to involuntary disconnection by at least one other financing entity;

(4) when the failed supply or system also serves residences owned by persons other than the loan applicant, a loan may only be made for an equitable share of the cost to repair or replace the failed supply or system that is determined through agreement of all of the owners of residences served by the failed system or supply;

(5) no construction loan shall be made to an individual under this subsection, nor shall any part of any revolving loan made under this subsection be expended, until all of the following take place:

(A) the Secretary of Natural Resources determines that if a wastewater system and potable water supply permit is necessary for the design and construction of the project to be financed by the loan, the permit has been issued to the owner of the failed system or supply; and

(B) the individual applying for the loan certifies to the Secretary of Natural Resources that the proposed project has secured all State and federal

permits, licenses, and approvals necessary to construct and operate the project to be financed by the loan;

~~(5)~~(6) all funds from the repayment of loans made under this section shall be deposited into the Vermont Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving Loan Fund.

(b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall establish standards, policies, and procedures as necessary for the implementation of this section. The Secretary may establish criteria to extend the payment period of a loan or to waive all or a portion of the loan amount.

\* \* \* Stormwater Permitting \* \* \*

Sec. 23. 27 V.S.A. § 613(b) is amended to read:

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2004, and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no encumbrance on record title to real property or effect on marketability of title shall be created by the failure of the holder of real property from which regulated stormwater runoff discharges to an impaired watershed to obtain, renew, or comply with the terms and conditions of a pretransition stormwater discharge permit for a conveyance or refinancing, provided that such holder:

(1) provides a notice of deferral of permit to the Secretary of Natural Resources with a property description, the identity of the impaired watershed, the permit number of any expired pretransition stormwater discharge permit

covering the property, and such other information as the Secretary may require; and

(2) records in the land records a notice indicating, in an appropriate form to be determined by the Secretary of Natural Resources, that at the time of establishment of a general permit in the impaired watershed where the real property is located, but not later than ~~June 30, 2018~~ 180 days after the date of adoption by the Agency of Natural Resources of the stormwater rule pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264, the mortgagor (in the case of a refinancing) or the grantee (in the case of a conveyance) shall be subject to all applicable requirements of the water quality remediation plan, TMDL, or watershed improvement permit established under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47.

Sec. 24. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 3, as amended by 2016 Acts and

Resolves No. 73, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 3. REPEAL

27 V.S.A. § 613 (stormwater discharges during transition period; encumbrance on title) shall be repealed ~~on June 30, 2018~~ 180 days after the date the Agency of Natural Resources adopts the stormwater rule pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1264.



\* \* \* Mixed Paper; Disposal \* \* \*

Sec. 25. ANR SUSPENSION OF LANDFILL DISPOSAL BAN ON MIXED  
PAPER

Upon finding that insufficient markets exist for the recycling of paper and adequate uses are not reasonably available to serve as an alternative to disposal of paper, the Secretary of Natural Resources may suspend the application of the landfill disposal ban under 10 V.S.A. § 6621a to a solid waste management facility for one or more of the following materials: white and colored paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags.

Sec. 26. REPEAL; SUSPENSION OF LANDFILL DISPOSAL BAN

Sec. 25 (ANR suspension of landfill disposal ban; mixed paper) shall be repealed on July 1, 2019.

\* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 27. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on passage, except that Secs. 14 (municipal road stormwater fees) and 19 (environmental enforcement report) shall take effect on July 1, 2018.