

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman David Deen, House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife
From: Rebecca Ellis, DEC Senior Counsel for Governmental Affairs
Re: H.92 An act relating to the registration of dams – cost of implementation
Date: March 16, 2017

The Vermont Dam Safety Program, within the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), [provided testimony](#) on H.92, “ An act relating to the registration of dams,” on February 14, 2017. The Department would like to provide additional testimony, as follows, regarding the cost to DEC of implementing this bill should it be enacted.

DEC anticipates that the Dam Safety Program would need two additional staff, one with dam safety expertise and the other primarily to perform related administrative tasks, to implement this bill. Assuming an average cost of \$95,000 per employee, these staff costs would total \$190,000 per year. Staff duties would include: rule development, initial registration of dams, ongoing effort to identify unregistered dams, public outreach and education, and safety oversight of roughly 100 hydroelectric dams.

Other staff at the Agency of Natural Resources, particularly Rivers Engineers in the Watershed Management Division, and ANR’s legal counsel, would need to contribute to this effort. Some of the additional workload could potentially be absorbed into current staff workloads, but collectively, this could still require an additional ½ to 1 FTE of DEC staff time, adding at a minimum another \$47,500, for an aggregate cost to DEC of ~ \$237,500 per year.