

1 S.276

2 Representative Partridge of Windham moves that the House propose to the
3 Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: By striking out Secs. 3 through 4b and their reader assistance
5 heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 3 and 4 and
6 reader assistance heading as follows:

7 * * * Evaluation; Act 250; Recreational Trails * * *

8 Sec. 3. ACT 250 JURISDICTION; RECREATIONAL TRAILS;

9 EVALUATION

10 (a) In addition to the currently assigned tasks under 2017 Acts and
11 Resolves No. 47 (Act 47), the Commission on Act 250: the Next 50 Years (the
12 Commission) established under that act shall evaluate the strengths and
13 challenges associated with regulation of recreational trails under 10 V.S.A.
14 chapter 151 (Act 250) and alternative structures for the planning, review, and
15 construction of future trail networks and the extension of existing trail
16 networks. The Commission shall include recommendations on this issue in its
17 report to the General Assembly due on or before December 15, 2018 under
18 Act 47.

19 (b) To provide information and recommendations to the Commission on
20 the issue identified in subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of
21 Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee and the Chair of the Natural

1 Resources Board or designee shall form a recreational trails working group that
2 shall include officers and employees of the Agency of Natural Resources
3 designated by the Secretary of Natural Resources. The working group shall
4 offer an opportunity for submission of information and recommendations from
5 affected parties, including recreational trail and environmental organizations.
6 The working group shall submit a report to the Commission on or before
7 October 1, 2018.

8 (1) With respect to recreational trails, the working group’s report shall
9 examine multiple potential planning and regulatory structures, including
10 possible revisions to Act 250; the creation of a trail oversight program within
11 the Agency of Natural Resources that includes best development practices and
12 an agency permitting process, including consideration of a general permit; and
13 other options that the working group may identify.

14 (2) In considering alternative structures, the working group shall
15 evaluate how best to foster the development of an interconnected recreational
16 trail network in Vermont while safeguarding the State’s natural resources,
17 including water quality, wildlife habitat and populations, and sensitive natural
18 communities and areas, and minimizing potential impacts on neighboring
19 properties and host municipalities.

20 (3) The Commission shall consider the report of the working group
21 during its deliberation and report preparation phase set forth in Act 47,

1 Sec. 2(d)(3), and shall attach a copy of the working group’s report to its own
2 report to the General Assembly.

3 Sec. 4. [Deleted.]

4 Second: By striking out Sec. 11 (BGS public building report) and its reader
5 assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 11
6 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 11. [Deleted.]

8 Third: In Sec. 30 (effective dates) in subsection (a), by striking out “Secs.
9 3–4b” and inserting in lieu thereof “Secs. 3”