

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 276 entitled “An act relating to rural economic development” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose
5 to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By adding Secs. 8a and 8b to read as follows:

7 Sec. 8a. 3 V.S.A. § 2822(j) is amended to read:

8 (j) In accordance with subsection (i) of this section, the following fees are
9 established for permits, licenses, certifications, approvals, registrations, orders,
10 and other actions taken by the Agency of Natural Resources.

11 * * *

12 (26) For individual conditional use determinations, for individual
13 wetland permits, for general conditional use determinations issued under
14 10 V.S.A. § 1272, or for wetland authorizations issued under a general permit,
15 an administrative processing fee assessed under subdivision (2) of this
16 subsection (j) and an application fee of:

17 (A) \$0.75 per square foot of proposed impact to Class I or II
18 wetlands.

19 (B) \$0.25 per square foot of proposed impact to Class I or II wetland
20 buffers.

1 (C) Maximum fee, for the conversion of Class II wetlands or wetland
2 buffers to cropland use ~~or for installation of a pipeline in a wetland for the~~
3 ~~transport of manure for the purpose of farming, as that term is defined in~~
4 ~~10 V.S.A. § 6001(22), when the pipeline will serve or implement a water~~
5 ~~quality or conservation practice, \$200.00 per application. As used in this~~
6 subdivision, “cropland” means land that is used for the production of
7 agricultural crops, including row crops, fibrous plants, pasture, fruit-bearing
8 bushes, trees, or vines, and the production of Christmas trees.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 8b. ANR REPPORT ON WETLANDS PERMIT FEES

11 On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall
12 submit to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Ways and Means, and
13 on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and the Senate Committees on
14 Appropriations, on Finance, and on Natural Resources and Energy a revised
15 fee schedule for the permitting of activity or disturbance in a wetland or
16 wetland buffer in the State. In developing the revised fee schedule, the
17 Secretary shall consider whether and how to provide lower fees for activity or
18 disturbance in a wetland or wetland buffer when the activity or disturbance
19 provides a water quality benefit or implements a conservation practice.

20 Second: By striking out Sec. 30 (effective dates) in its entirety and
21 inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 30 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 30. EFFECTIVE DATES

2 (a) This section and Secs. 3–4b (Act 250; trails), 5a (technical service
3 providers), 6 (Act 250 primary processing of forest products), 7 (Act 250;
4 review of forest products processing), 8 (wetland permit fee), 8b (ANR report
5 on wetland permit fees), 17–20 (produce inspection), and 21 (livestock
6 transport) shall take effect on passage.

7 (b) Sec. 8a (repeal of wetland permit fee for manure pipelines) shall take
8 effect on July 1, 2019.

9 (c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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11

12 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE