

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was
3 referred Senate Bill No. 94 entitled “An act relating to promoting remote
4 work” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that
5 the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all
6 after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * ThinkVermont Innovation Initiative * * *

8 Sec. 1. THINKVERMONT INNOVATION INITIATIVE

9 (a) Purpose.

10 (1) The ThinkVermont Innovation Initiative is created to respond to the
11 growth needs of Vermont small businesses with 20 or fewer employees by
12 funding innovative strategies that accelerate small business growth and meet
13 the project criteria specified in this section.

14 (2) The Initiative shall enable the State to invest in projects with grants
15 that can be accessed more quickly and with fewer restrictions than traditional
16 federal initiatives.

17 (b) Process; grant distribution.

18 (1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, in
19 consultation with the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall:

20 (A) adopt a schedule and process for accepting, reviewing, and
21 approving grant proposals on a competitive basis;

1 (B) distribute grants across geographic areas of the State; and

2 (C) distribute grants across diverse industries, sectors, and business
3 types, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

4 (2)(A) A grant shall provide funding in only one fiscal year.

5 (B) A recipient shall be eligible for a grant through the Initiative in
6 not more than two fiscal years.

7 (c) Funding; matching requirements.

8 (1) The Secretary shall reserve not less than 10 percent of the funding
9 through the Initiative for microgrants of not more than \$10,000.00.

10 (2) The Secretary shall require a grant recipient to provide matching
11 funds for a grant as follows:

12 (A) for a microgrant reserved under subdivision (3) of this
13 subsection, a funding match of 25 percent of the value of the grant; and

14 (B) for all other grants, a funding match of 100 percent of the value
15 of the grant.

16 (d) Eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a grant, a project shall:

17 (1) provide workforce training that is not eligible for funding through
18 another State or federal program and that serves an immediate employer need
19 to fill one or more job vacancies;

20 (2) enable a business to attract, retain, or support remote workers in
21 Vermont;

1 (3) establish or enhance a facility that attracts small companies or
2 remote workers, or both, including generator and maker spaces, co-working
3 spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces, with special emphasis on
4 facilities that promote colocation of nonprofit, for-profit, and government
5 entities;

6 (4) enable or support deployment of broadband telecommunications
7 connectivity;

8 (5) leverage economic development funding outside State government,
9 including the federal New Market Tax Credit program and Small Business
10 Innovation Research grants;

11 (6) support growth in Vermont’s aerospace, aviation, or aviation
12 technology sectors; or

13 (7) provide technical assistance to support small business growth.

14 (e) Outcomes; measures. The Secretary shall adopt measures to evaluate a
15 grant to determine its impact, including job growth measured at one-, three-,
16 and five-year intervals.

17 (f) Appropriation. In fiscal year 2019, the amount of \$400,000.00 is
18 appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Commerce and
19 Community Development to implement the ThinkVermont Innovation
20 Initiative pursuant to this section.

1 * * * Promoting Remote Work, Maker, and Innovation Spaces * * *

2 Sec. 2. IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FOR REMOTE
3 WORK IN VERMONT; STUDY; REPORT

4 (a) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, in
5 consultation with the Commissioners of Labor, of Public Service, and of
6 Buildings and General Services and other interested stakeholders, shall identify
7 and examine the infrastructure improvements and other support needed to:

8 (1) enable workers and businesses to establish or enhance a remote
9 presence in Vermont;

10 (2) build capacity throughout the State to increase access to maker
11 spaces, co-working spaces, remote work hubs, and innovation spaces; and

12 (3) support the interconnection of current and future maker spaces, co-
13 working spaces, remote work hubs, innovation spaces, and regional technical
14 centers.

15 (b) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the House
16 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate
17 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a written
18 report detailing his or her findings and recommendations.

19 Sec. 3. INTEGRATED PUBLIC-PRIVATE STATE WORKSITES

20 (a) The Secretary of Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of
21 Commerce and Community Development and the Commissioner of Buildings

1 and General Services, shall examine the potential for the State to establish
2 remote worksites that are available for use by both State employees and remote
3 workers in the private sector.

4 (b) The Secretary shall examine the feasibility of and potential funding
5 models for the worksites, including the opportunity to provide at low- or no-
6 cost co-working space within State buildings that is currently vacant or
7 underutilized.

8 (c) On or before January 15, 2019, the Secretary shall submit a written
9 report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and
10 the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General
11 Affairs detailing his or her findings and any recommendations for legislative
12 action.

13 Sec. 4. BROADBAND AVAILABILITY FOR REMOTE WORKERS

14 On or before January 15, 2019, the Director of Telecommunications and
15 Connectivity, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community
16 Development, shall submit with the annual report required by 30 V.S.A.
17 § 202e findings and recommendations concerning:

18 (1) the current availability of broadband service in municipal downtown
19 centers that do, or could at reasonable cost, support one or more co-working
20 spaces or similar venues for remote workers and small businesses; and

1 (2) strategies for expanding and enhancing broadband availability for
2 such spaces.

3 * * * Municipalities; Village Center Designation; Electronic Filings * * *

4 Sec. 5. 24 V.S.A. § 2793 is amended to read:

5 § 2793. DESIGNATION OF DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

6 * * *

7 (c) A designation issued under this section shall be effective for eight years
8 and may be renewed on application by the municipality. The State Board also
9 shall review a community's designation ~~every five~~ four years after issuance or
10 renewal and may review compliance with the designation requirements at more
11 frequent intervals. ~~On and after July 1, 2014, any~~ Any community applying
12 for renewal shall explain how the designation under this section has furthered
13 the goals of the town plan and shall submit an approved town plan map that
14 depicts the boundary of the designated district. If at any time the State Board
15 determines that the downtown development district no longer meets the
16 standards for designation established in subsection (b) of this section, it may
17 take any of the following actions:

18 * * *

19 Sec. 6. 24 V.S.A. § 2793a is amended to read:

20 § 2793a. DESIGNATION OF VILLAGE CENTERS BY STATE BOARD

21 * * *

1 (d) The State Board shall review a village center designation every ~~five~~
2 eight years and may review compliance with the designation requirements at
3 more frequent intervals. ~~On and after July 1, 2014, any~~ Any community
4 applying for renewal shall explain how the designation under this section has
5 furthered the goals of the town plan and shall submit an approved town plan
6 map that depicts the boundary of the designated district. If at any time the
7 State Board determines that the village center no longer meets the standards for
8 designation established in subsection (a) of this section, it may take any of the
9 following actions:

10 * * *

11 Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 2793b is amended to read:

12 § 2793b. DESIGNATION OF NEW TOWN CENTER DEVELOPMENT
13 DISTRICTS

14 * * *

15 (d) A designation issued under this section shall be effective for eight years
16 and may be renewed on application by the municipality. The State Board also
17 shall review a new town center designation ~~every five~~ four years after issuance
18 or renewal and may review compliance with the designation requirements at
19 more frequent intervals. The State Board may adjust the schedule of review
20 under this subsection to coincide with the review of a related growth center. If
21 at any time the State Board determines the new town center no longer meets

1 the standards for designation established in subsection (b) of this section, it
2 may take any of the following actions:

3 * * *

4 Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 4345b is amended to read:

5 § 4345b. INTERMUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

6 (a)(1) Prior to exercising the authority granted under this section, a regional
7 planning commission shall:

8 (A) draft bylaws specifying the process for entering into, method of
9 withdrawal from, and method of terminating service agreements with
10 municipalities; and

11 (B) hold one or more public hearings within the region to hear from
12 interested parties and citizens regarding the draft bylaws.

13 (2) At least 30 days prior to any hearing required under this subsection,
14 notice of the time and place and a copy of the draft bylaws, with a request for
15 comments, shall be delivered to the chair of the legislative body of each
16 municipality within the region, which may be done electronically, provided the
17 sender has proof of receipt. The regional planning commission shall make
18 copies available to any individual or organization requesting a copy.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 9. 24 V.S.A. § 4348 is amended to read:

2 § 4348. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF REGIONAL PLAN

3 * * *

4 (c) At least 30 days prior to the first hearing, a copy of the proposed plan or
5 amendment, with a request for general comments and for specific comments
6 with respect to the extent to which the plan or amendment is consistent with
7 the goals established in section 4302 of this title, shall be delivered physically
8 or electronically with proof of receipt, or sent by certified mail, return receipt
9 requested, to each of the following:

10 (1) the chair of the legislative body of each municipality within the
11 region;

12 (2) the executive director of each abutting regional planning
13 commission;

14 (3) the Department of Housing and Community Development within the
15 Agency of Commerce and Community Development;

16 (4) business, conservation, low-income advocacy, and other community
17 or interest groups or organizations that have requested notice in writing prior to
18 the date the hearing is warned; and

19 (5) the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture,
20 Food and Markets.

21 * * *

1 (e) The regional planning commission may make revisions to the proposed
2 plan or amendment at any time not less than 30 days prior to the final public
3 hearing held under this section. If the proposal is changed, a copy of the
4 proposed change shall be delivered; physically or electronically with proof of
5 receipt or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the ~~chairperson~~ chair of
6 the legislative body of each municipality within the region, and to any
7 individual or organization requesting a copy, at least 30 days prior to the final
8 hearing.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 4352 is amended to read:

11 § 4352. OPTIONAL DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE;

12 ENHANCED ENERGY PLANNING

13 * * *

14 (e) Process for issuing determinations of energy compliance. Review of
15 whether to issue a determination of energy compliance under this section shall
16 include a public hearing noticed at least 15 days in advance by direct mail or
17 electronically with proof of receipt to the requesting regional planning
18 commission or municipal legislative body, posting on the website of the entity
19 from which the determination is requested, and publication in a newspaper of
20 general publication in the region or municipality affected. The Commissioner
21 or regional planning commission shall issue the determination in writing

1 within two months ~~of~~ after the receipt of a request for a determination. If the
2 determination is negative, the Commissioner or regional planning commission
3 shall state the reasons for denial in writing and, if appropriate, suggest
4 acceptable modifications. Submissions for a new determination that follow a
5 negative determination shall receive a new determination within 45 days.

6 * * *

7 Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 4384 is amended to read:

8 § 4384. PREPARATION OF PLAN; HEARINGS BY PLANNING
9 COMMISSION

10 * * *

11 (e) At least 30 days prior to the first hearing, a copy of the proposed plan or
12 amendment and the written report shall be delivered physically or
13 electronically with proof of receipt, or mailed by certified mail, return receipt
14 requested, to each of the following:

15 (1) the ~~chairperson~~ chair of the planning commission of each abutting
16 municipality, or in the absence of any planning commission in an abutting
17 municipality, to the clerk of that municipality;

18 (2) the executive director of the regional planning commission of the
19 area in which the municipality is located;

20 (3) the ~~department of housing and community affairs~~ Department
21 of Housing and Community Development within the ~~agency of commerce~~

1 ~~and community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community
2 Development; and

3 (4) business, conservation, ~~low income~~ low-income advocacy, and other
4 community or interest groups or organizations that have requested notice in
5 writing prior to the date the hearing is warned.

6 * * *

7 Sec. 12. 24 V.S.A. § 4385 is amended to read:

8 § 4385. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF PLANS; HEARING BY
9 LEGISLATIVE BODY

10 * * *

11 (c) A plan of a municipality or an amendment thereof shall be adopted by a
12 majority of the members of its legislative body at a meeting which is held after
13 the final public hearing. If, however, at a regular or special meeting of the
14 voters duly warned and held as provided in 17 V.S.A. chapter 55, a
15 municipality elects to adopt or amend municipal plans by Australian ballot,
16 that procedure shall then apply unless rescinded by the voters at a regular or
17 special meeting similarly warned and held. If the proposed plan or amendment
18 is not adopted so as to take effect within one year ~~of~~ after the date of the final
19 hearing of the planning commission, it shall be considered rejected by the
20 municipality. Plans and amendments shall be effective upon adoption, ~~and~~
21 Copies of newly adopted plans and amendments shall be provided to the

1 regional planning commission and to the ~~commissioner of housing and~~
2 ~~community affairs~~ Commissioner of Housing and Community Development
3 within 30 days ~~of~~ after adoption, which may be done electronically, provided
4 the sender has proof of receipt. If a municipality wishes its plan or plan
5 amendment to be eligible for approval under the provisions of section 4350 of
6 this title, it shall request approval. The request for approval may be before or
7 after adoption of the plan by the municipality, at the option of the municipality.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 13. 24 V.S.A. § 4424 is amended to read:

10 § 4424. SHORELANDS; RIVER CORRIDOR PROTECTION AREAS;
11 FLOOD OR HAZARD AREA; SPECIAL OR FREESTANDING
12 BYLAWS

13 (a) Bylaws; flood and other hazard areas; river corridor protection. Any
14 municipality may adopt freestanding bylaws under this chapter to address
15 particular hazard areas in conformance with the municipal plan or, for the
16 purpose of adoption of a flood hazard area bylaw, a local hazard mitigation
17 plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6. Such freestanding bylaws may include
18 the following, which may also be part of zoning or unified development
19 bylaws:

20 (1) Bylaws to regulate development and use along shorelands.

1 (2) Bylaws to regulate development and use in flood areas, river
2 corridor protection areas, or other hazard areas. The following shall apply if
3 flood or other hazard area bylaws are enacted:

4 * * *

5 (D)(i) Mandatory provisions. Except as provided in subsection (c) of
6 this section, all flood and other hazard area bylaws shall provide that no permit
7 for new construction or substantial improvement shall be granted for a flood or
8 other hazard area until after both the following:

9 (I) A copy of the application is mailed or delivered by the
10 administrative officer or by the appropriate municipal panel to the Agency of
11 Natural Resources or its designee, which may be done electronically, provided
12 the sender has proof of receipt.

13 (II) Either 30 days have elapsed following the mailing or the
14 Agency or its designee delivers comments on the application.

15 (ii) The Agency of Natural Resources may delegate to a qualified
16 representative of a municipality with a flood hazard area bylaw or ordinance or
17 to a qualified representative for a regional planning commission the Agency’s
18 authority under this subdivision (a)(2)(D) to review and provide technical
19 comments on a proposed permit for new construction or substantial
20 improvement in a flood hazard area. Comments provided by a representative

1 delegated under this subdivision (a)(2)(D) shall not be binding on a
2 municipality.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 14. 24 V.S.A. § 4441 is amended to read:

5 § 4441. PREPARATION OF BYLAWS AND REGULATORY TOOLS;

6 AMENDMENT OR REPEAL

7 * * *

8 (e) At least 15 days prior to the first hearing, a copy of the proposed bylaw,
9 amendment, or repeal and the written report shall be delivered physically or
10 electronically with proof of receipt; or mailed by certified mail, return receipt
11 requested, to each of the following:

12 (1) The ~~chairperson~~ chair of the planning commission of each abutting
13 municipality, or in the absence of any planning commission in a municipality,
14 the clerk of that abutting municipality.

15 (2) The executive director of the regional planning commission of the
16 area in which the municipality is located.

17 (3) The ~~department of housing and community affairs~~ Department of
18 Housing and Community Development within the ~~agency of commerce and~~
19 ~~community development~~ Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

20 * * *

1 Sec. 15. 24 V.S.A. § 4445 is amended to read:

2 § 4445. AVAILABILITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

3 Current copies of plans, bylaws, and capital budgets and programs shall be
4 available to the public during normal business hours in the office of the clerk
5 of any municipality in which those plans, bylaws, or capital budgets or
6 programs have been adopted. The municipality shall provide all final adopted
7 bylaws, amendments, or repeals to the regional planning commission of the
8 area in which the municipality is located and to the ~~department of housing and~~
9 ~~community affairs~~ Department of Commerce and Community Development,
10 which may be done electronically, provided the sender has proof of receipt.

11 * * *

12 * * * Wastewater and Potable Water Lending * * *

13 Sec. 16. 24 V.S.A. § 4752 is amended to read:

14 § 4752. DEFINITIONS

15 As used in this chapter:

16 * * *

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

* * *

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

Sec. 17. 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.

* * *

1 Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4763b is amended to read:

2 § 4763b. LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR FAILED WASTEWATER
3 SYSTEMS AND FAILED POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES

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

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

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

19 (3) ~~loans a loan~~ may only be made ~~if the owner of the residence~~ to an
20 owner who has been denied financing for the repair, replacement, or

1 construction due to involuntary disconnection by at least one other financing
2 entity;

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

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

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

15 (B) the individual applying for the loan certifies to the Secretary of
16 Natural Resources that the proposed project has secured all State and federal
17 permits, licenses, and approvals necessary to construct and operate the project
18 to be financed by the loan;

19 ~~(5)~~(6) all funds from the repayment of loans made under this section
20 shall be deposited into the Vermont Wastewater and Potable Water Revolving
21 Loan Fund.

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

5 * * * Rural Economic Development Districts * * *

6 Sec. 19. 24 V.S.A. § 5704 is amended to read:

7 § 5704. GOVERNING BOARD; COMPOSITION; MEETINGS; REPORT

8 (a) Governing board. The legislative power and authority of a district and
9 the administration and the general supervision of all fiscal, prudential, and
10 governmental affairs of a district shall be vested in a governing board, except
11 as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter.

12 (b) Composition. The ~~first~~ governing board of the district shall consist of
13 ~~four to eight~~ members appointed in equal numbers by the legislative bodies of
14 the underlying municipalities. ~~It~~ The board shall draft the district's bylaws
15 specifying the size, composition, quorum requirements, and manner of
16 appointing and removing members to the ~~permanent governing~~ board,
17 including nonvoting, at-large board members. The bylaws shall require that a
18 ~~majority of the board shall be appointed annually by~~ the legislative bodies of
19 the underlying municipalities appoint board members and fill board member
20 vacancies. Board members appointed by the underlying municipalities may
21 appoint additional, nonvoting, at-large board members and fill at-large board

1 member vacancies. Board members, including at-large members, are not
2 required to be residents of an underlying municipality. However, a majority of
3 the board shall be residents of an underlying municipality. Board members
4 shall serve staggered, three-year terms, and shall be eligible to serve successive
5 terms. ~~The legislative bodies of the municipalities in which the district is~~
6 ~~located shall fill board vacancies, and may remove board members at will.~~ At-
7 large board members shall serve one-year terms, and shall be eligible to serve
8 successive terms. Any bylaws developed by the governing board under this
9 subsection shall be submitted for approval to the legislative bodies of the
10 municipalities within the district and shall be considered duly adopted 45 days
11 ~~from~~ after the date of submission, provided none of the legislative bodies
12 disapprove ~~of~~ the bylaws.

13 (c) First meeting. The first meeting of the district shall be called upon
14 30 days' posted and published notice by a presiding officer of a legislative
15 body in which the district is located. ~~Voters within a municipality in which the~~
16 ~~district is located are eligible to vote at annual and special district meetings. At~~
17 ~~the first meeting of the district, and at each subsequent annual meeting, there~~
18 ~~shall be elected from among board members a chair, vice chair, clerk, and~~
19 ~~treasurer who shall assume their respective offices upon election. At the first~~
20 ~~meeting, the fiscal year of the district shall be established and rules of~~
21 ~~parliamentary procedure shall be adopted.~~ The board shall elect from among

1 its members a chair, vice chair, clerk, and treasurer. The board shall establish
2 the fiscal year of the district and shall adopt rules of parliamentary procedure.

3 Prior to assuming their offices, officers may be required to post bond in such
4 amounts as determined by resolution of the board. The cost of such bond shall
5 be borne by the district.

6 (d) Annual and special meetings. Unless otherwise established by the
7 voters, the annual district meeting shall be held on the second Monday in
8 January and shall be warned by the clerk or, in the clerk's absence or neglect,
9 by a member of the board. Special meetings shall be warned in the same
10 manner on application in writing by five percent of the voters of the district.

11 A warning for a district meeting shall state the business to be transacted. The
12 time and place of holding the meeting shall be posted in two or more public
13 places in the district not more than 40 days nor less than 30 days before the
14 meeting and recorded in the office of the clerk before the same is posted.

15 (e) Annual report. The district shall report annually to the legislative
16 bodies and the citizens of the municipalities in which the district is located on
17 the results of its activities in support of economic growth, job creation,
18 improved community efficiency, and any other benefits incident to its
19 activities.

20 (f) Definition. For purposes of this section and section 5709 of this
21 chapter, after a district has been established pursuant to section 5702 of this

1 chapter, “voter” means a board member or subscriber or customer of a service
2 provided by the district. “Voter” does not mean an at-large board member
3 unless the vote is taken at an annual or special meeting and the at-large board
4 member is a subscriber or customer of a service provided by the district.

5 Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. § 5705 is amended to read:

6 § 5705. OFFICERS

7 (a) Generally. The ~~district~~ board shall elect at its first meeting and at each
8 annual meeting thereafter a chair, vice chair, clerk, and treasurer, who shall
9 hold office until the next annual meeting and until others are elected. The
10 board may fill a vacancy in any office.

11 (b) Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the board and make
12 and sign all contracts on behalf of the district upon approval by the board. The
13 chair shall perform all duties incident to the position and office as required by
14 the general laws of the State.

15 (c) Vice chair. During the absence of or inability of the chair to render or
16 perform his or her duties or exercise his or her powers, the same shall be
17 performed and exercised by the vice chair, and when so acting, the vice chair
18 shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities given to or
19 imposed upon the chair. During the absence or inability of the vice chair to
20 render or perform his or her duties or exercise his or her powers, the board
21 shall elect from among its members an acting vice chair who shall have the

1 powers and be subject to all the responsibilities given to or imposed upon the
2 vice chair.

3 (d) Clerk. The clerk shall keep a record of the meetings, votes, and
4 proceedings of the district for the inspection of its inhabitants.

5 (e) Treasurer. The treasurer of the district shall be ~~appointed~~ elected by the
6 board, and shall serve at its pleasure. The treasurer shall have the exclusive
7 charge and custody of the funds of the district and shall be the disbursing
8 officer of the district. When warrants are authorized by the board, the treasurer
9 may sign, make, or endorse in the name of the district all checks and orders for
10 the payment of money and pay out and disburse the same and receipt therefor.
11 The treasurer shall keep a record of every obligation issued and contract
12 entered into by the district and of every payment made. The treasurer shall
13 keep correct books of account of all the business and transactions of the district
14 and such other books and accounts as the board may require. The treasurer
15 shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the district at each
16 regular meeting of the board and at such other times as required of the
17 treasurer. The treasurer shall prepare the annual financial statement and the
18 budget of the district for distribution, upon approval of the board, to the
19 legislative bodies of district members. Upon the treasurer's termination from
20 office by virtue of removal or resignation, the treasurer shall immediately pay

1 over to his or her successor all of the funds belonging to the district and at the
2 same time deliver to the successor all official books and papers.

3 * * * Effective Date * * *

4 Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

6

7

8 (Committee vote: _____)

9

10

Representative _____

11

FOR THE COMMITTEE