



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. Botzow, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

From: Rep. Townsend, Chair, Committee on Government Operations

Date: April 19, 2017

Subject: S.135, Sec. B.1

The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development requested that the Committee on Government Operations review and give input concerning section B.1 of S.135. This section establishes rural economic development infrastructure (REDI) districts.

Government Operations respectfully recommends that this section be amended as indicated with magenta highlighting in the attached document and, as amended, be included in the version of S.135 that Commerce and Economic Development will vote out of Committee. (See attached document #324758.)

Government Operations supports the creation of REDI districts. The Committee made certain relatively minor amendments to the bill. These changes can be summarized as follows:

- Changed “communities” to “areas” in the purpose section.
- Clarified that districts do not have eminent domain authority.
- Clarified that the assets of a district, not just revenue, may be leveraged for financing; and that any liabilities are general obligations of the district.
- Clarified that the treasurer may sign checks when “warrants” are authorized by the governing board.
- Requires the results of the annual audit be provided to the governing board and to the legislative bodies of the municipalities in which the district is located.
- Replaced a reference to “communications plant” with “district assets.”

The Committee on Government Operations appreciates the opportunity to review this section of S.135 and would be happy to answer any questions.