

1 * * * Working Group on Water Quality Funding * * *

2 Sec. X. WORKING GROUP ON WATER QUALITY FUNDING

3 (a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on Water Quality
4 Funding to develop a recommended method of assessing a statewide
5 impervious surface fee, per parcel fee, per acre fee, or some combination of the
6 foregoing, in order to generate revenue to be deposited in the Clean Water
7 Fund under 10 V.S.A. § 1388 to fund water quality restoration and
8 conservation in the State.

9 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
10 11 members:

11 (1) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

12 (2) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

14 (3) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
15 Committee on Committees;

16 (4) the State Treasurer or designee;

17 (5) one member from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns,
18 appointed by the Board of Directors of that organization;

19 (6) one member from the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers
20 Association, appointed by the Executive Board of that organization;

1 (7) one member from the Vermont Mayor’s Coalition appointed by that
2 organization;

3 (8) one member representing commercial or industrial business interests
4 in the State, to be appointed by the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of
5 Commerce, after consultation with other business groups in the State;

6 (9) the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation or designee;

7 (10) the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation or designee;

8 (11) a representative of an environmental advocacy group, appointed by
9 the Speaker of the House;

10 (12) a representative of the agricultural community appointed by the
11 Vermont Association of Conservation Districts; and

12 (13) a representative of the University of Vermont Extension service,
13 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

14 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group on Water Quality Funding
15 shall recommend to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish a
16 statewide method of assessing an impervious surface fee, a per parcel fee, a per
17 acre fee, or some combination of the foregoing, in order to generate revenue to
18 fund water quality restoration and conservation in the State. In developing the
19 draft legislation, the Working Group shall address:

20 (1) whether the fee or fees shall be assessed on impervious surface, per
21 parcel, per acre, or some combination of the foregoing;

1 (2) whether the fee or fees shall be tiered to reflect the amount of
2 impervious surface, size of a parcel, acreage of a parcel, type of property,
3 usage of the property, impact of the property on water quality, or other factors;

4 (3) the amount of fee or fees to be assessed;

5 (4) how the fee or fees shall be collected and remitted to the State;

6 (5) whether any property shall be exempt from the fee or fees;

7 (6) how an owner of property subject to a municipal stormwater utility
8 fee or other revenue mechanism for funding water quality improvements shall
9 receive a credit or reduced fee for payment of the municipal fee; and

10 (7) how to provide for abatement, delinquency, and enforcement of the
11 required fee or fees.

12 (d) Assistance. The Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall have
13 the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Natural
14 Resources and the Department of Taxes. The Working Group on Water
15 Quality Funding shall have the technical assistance of the Vermont Center for
16 Geographic Information or designee.

17 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2018, the Working Group on Water
18 Quality Funding shall submit to the General Assembly a summary of its
19 activities and the draft legislation establishing a statewide method of assessing
20 an impervious surface fee, per parcel fee, per acre fee, or some combination of
21 the foregoing.

1 (f) Meetings.

2 (1) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall call the first meeting of the
3 Working Group on Water Quality Funding to occur on or before July 1, 2017.

4 (2) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the Chair of the
5 Working Group on Water Quality Funding.

6 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

7 (4) The Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall cease to exist
8 on March 1, 2018.

9 (g) Reimbursement.

10 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
11 Assembly, legislative members of the Working Group on Water Quality
12 Funding shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
13 expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

14 (2) Other members of the Working Group on Water Quality Funding
15 who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise
16 compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem
17 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

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