

1 S.219

2 Introduced by Senator Champion

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; water quality; microplastics study

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
7 Secretary of Natural Resources to contract with a consultant or organization to  
8 study the extent of microplastic contamination in the environment and drinking  
9 water of Vermont.

10 An act relating to the accumulation of microplastics in the waters and  
11 environment of the State

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. STUDY OF MICROPLASTIC ACCUMULATION IN THE  
14 ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER OF VERMONT

15 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

16 (1) "Bottled water" means water that is placed in a safety-sealed  
17 container or package for human consumption. Bottled water is calorie free and  
18 does not contain sweeteners or other additives except that it may contain:  
19 antimicrobial agents; fluoride; carbonation; vitamins, minerals, and  
20 electrolytes; oxygen; preservatives; and only those flavors, extracts, or

1 essences derived from a spice or fruit. “Bottled water” includes water that is  
2 delivered to the buyer in a reusable container that is not sold with the water.

3 (2) “Drinking water” shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
4 10 V.S.A. § 1671(1).

5 (3) “Microplastic” means a plastic particle or filament of less than five  
6 millimeters in size

7 (4) “Surface water” shall have the same meaning as the term “waters”  
8 set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 1251(13).

9 (b) Study required. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall contract with  
10 a qualified, independent environmental consultant or organization to study the  
11 extent of microplastic contamination in the environment and drinking water of  
12 Vermont. The contracted environmental consultant or organization shall have  
13 expertise or knowledge of State water quality requirements and programs,  
14 State and federal drinking water requirements and programs, water monitoring  
15 or testing, and the science of manufacturing, degradation, environmental  
16 accumulation, and bioaccumulation of microplastics.

17 (c) Contents of Study. The Study shall include all of the following:

18 (1) an analysis, based on available peer-reviewed scientific literature, of  
19 whether the accumulation of microplastics in the environment and drinking  
20 water of Vermont is harmful to human health and the environment;

1           (2) a recommendation, based on available engineering, of methods or  
2           mechanisms for removing microplastics from the environment and drinking  
3           water of Vermont; and

4           (3) the results of testing or monitoring required under subsection (d) of  
5           this section for microplastics in surface water, drinking water, and bottled  
6           water in Vermont.

7           (d) Required microplastics testing or monitoring. The consultant  
8           contracted with under this section shall be required to test or monitor at least  
9           one surface water and one source of drinking water in each county of the State  
10           for the presence of microplastics. The consultant shall also test at least four  
11           brands of bottled water sold in the State for the presence of microplastics.

12           (e) Report. On or before January 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural  
13           Resources shall submit the results of the contracted consultant's study to the  
14           Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Health and  
15           Welfare and the House Committees on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife  
16           and on Health Care.

17           (f) Funding. In fiscal year 2019, \$200,000.00 shall be appropriated from  
18           the Clean Water Fund under 10 V.S.A. § 1389 to the Secretary of Natural  
19           Resources for the purposes of contracting for the study required by this section.

20           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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