

H.16

An act relating to boards and commissions

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

* * * Vermont State Archives and Records Administration; State Boards and

Commissions Registry * * *

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 116a is amended to read:

§ 116a. ~~MAINTENANCE OF INVENTORY OF STATE BOARDS AND~~
COMMISSIONS REGISTRY

(a)(1) The ~~Secretary of State~~ Vermont State Archives and Records Administration shall maintain and make available on ~~his or her official~~ its website ~~an inventory~~ a registry of the State boards and commissions, and shall update that ~~inventory~~ registry when changes are made that affect the information provided in the ~~inventory~~ registry.

(2)(A) The ~~inventory~~ registry shall include the names of the members of each State board and commission, their term length and expiration, and their appointing authority.

(B) Each State board and commission shall be responsible for providing to the ~~Secretary of State~~ Vermont State Archives and Records Administration this ~~inventory~~ registry information and any updates to it in a manner prescribed by the State Archivist.

(3) The registry shall track the dates of the initial creation of State boards and commissions created by State law and of any amendments to those

laws for the purpose of the intended five-year expiration of those State boards and commissions described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, except for State boards and commissions required by interstate compact and except as otherwise provided by law, a State board or commission created by State law shall cease to exist after five years from the date of its initial creation, five years from the last date that the statutory or session law containing the State board or commission was amended, or on January 1, 2025, whichever date is latest.

(2)(A) In each biennial session beginning in the year 2025, the Office of Legislative Council, in consultation with the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration and based on the registry's date tracking described in subdivision (a)(3) of this section, shall prepare for the General Assembly's review a list of the State boards and commissions subject to expiration under this subsection.

(B) A State board or commission shall only expire pursuant to legislative enactment.

(c) As used in this section, "State ~~boards and commissions~~ board or commission" means a professional or occupational licensing ~~boards~~ board or ~~commissions~~ commission, advisory ~~boards~~ board or ~~commissions~~ commission, appeals ~~boards~~ board, promotional ~~boards~~ board, interstate ~~boards~~ board,

~~supervisory boards and councils~~ board or council, and ~~or any other boards or~~
~~commissions of the State~~ similar entity that:

(1) is created by State law, by federal law and contains State appointees,
or by executive order;

(2) is established as or is attached to an Executive Branch entity;

(3) has statewide jurisdiction or carries out a State function; and

(4) is not composed of members appointed exclusively by regional,
county, or municipal entities.

Sec. 2. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 2, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except that Sec. 12, 3 V.S.A.

§ 116a (~~Secretary of State~~ VSARA; ~~maintenance of inventory of State boards~~
and commissions registry), shall take effect on January 1, ~~2019~~ 2023.

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

* * * Standard Per Diem and Expense Reimbursement * * *

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 1010 is amended to read:

§ 1010. MEMBERS OF CERTAIN BOARDS

(a) Except for those members serving ex officio or otherwise regularly
employed by the State, the ~~compensation of the~~ members of the following
~~Boards~~ boards shall be entitled to receive \$50.00 in per diem compensation:

(1) Board of Bar Examiners

- (2) Board of Libraries
- (3) Vermont Milk Commission
- (4) Board of Education
- (5) State Board of Health
- (6) Emergency Board
- (7) Board of Liquor and Lottery
- (8) Human Services Board
- (9) State Fish and Wildlife Board
- (10) State Board of Mental Health
- (11) Vermont Employment Security Board
- (12) Capitol Complex Commission
- (13) Natural Gas and Oil Resources Board
- (14) Transportation Board
- (15) Vermont Veterans' Home Board of Trustees
- (16) Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- (17) The Electricians' Licensing Board
- (18) Offender Work Programs Board
- (19) Emergency Personnel Survivors Benefit Review Board
- (20) Community High School of Vermont Board

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of professional or occupational licensing boards or commissions, advisory boards

or commissions, appeals boards, promotional boards, interstate boards, supervisory boards and councils, or any other boards, ~~or commissions, or~~ similar entities that are not listed in subsection (a) of this section but are otherwise entitled by act of the General Assembly to receive per diem compensation, shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation in the amount of \$50.00 per day for each day devoted to official duties. This subsection shall not reduce the amount of per diem compensation ~~heretofore~~ provided by act of the General Assembly to members of boards or commissions entitled to receive more than \$50.00 per day.

(2) "Per diem" means the amount of compensation to which a member of a statutory board or commission is entitled for:

(1)(A) attendance at a regular or special meeting of such board or commission or any committee thereof; or

(2)(B) performance of other duties directly related to the efficient conduct of necessary board business as assigned and approved by the chairperson, provided that payment for such duties shall be at the per diem rate prorated for actual time spent performing duties. Proration shall be calculated based on an eight-hour day. Under no circumstances shall the daily payment exceed the per diem amount.

(c) The members of the boards and ~~departments~~ commissions, including those members serving ex officio or otherwise regularly employed by the

State, shall be entitled to receive their actual and necessary expenses when away from home or office upon their official duties.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a member shall not be entitled to receive State per diem compensation for any meeting or other official duty for which specific compensation is provided by another source.

(e) The Governor may authorize per diem compensation and expense reimbursement in accordance with this section for members of boards and commissions, including temporary study commissions, created by Executive Order.

(f) Members of the Parole Board shall be entitled to receive \$100.00 per diem for each day of official duties together with reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

* * * Travel Information Council * * *

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 484 is amended to read:

§ 484. TRAVEL INFORMATION COUNCIL; CREATION, MEMBERSHIP,
TERMS

(a) The Travel Information Council is created to administer the provisions of this chapter.

(1) The Agency of Transportation shall be responsible for the administration and maintenance of the official business directional sign

program, information plazas, and other tourist information facilities deemed appropriate by the Council.

(2) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall be responsible for the collection and distribution of travel information, as deemed appropriate by the Council.

(b)(1) The ~~Travel Information~~ Council may ~~make~~ adopt rules, consistent with this chapter relating to the determination of locations for official business directional signs and to all other matters necessary and appropriate to the administration of this chapter. In ~~making~~ adopting those rules it shall give consideration to the adequacy of information provided by highway directional signs and the preservation of scenic and aesthetic values and shall consult with the Agency of Transportation as to matters of highway safety.

(2) It shall determine whether official business directional signs at a particular location shall be displayed in tiers or upon panels.

(3) It shall advise the Agency of Commerce and Community Development on policies and matters pertaining to collection and distribution of tourist information.

(c)(1) The ~~Travel Information~~ Council shall have seven members, comprising the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or designee, who shall chair the ~~council~~ Council, and six appointed members as follows: one representing the lodging industry, one the restaurant industry, one

the recreation industry, one the Agency of Transportation, one the general public, and one agriculture.

(2) The six appointed members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate ~~with the six initially appointed members appointed as of the effective date of this chapter, with three initial members appointed for one year terms, and three for two year terms. Three appointed in~~ two-year staggered terms so that three members shall be are appointed ~~biennially thereafter~~ annually. The members are eligible for reappointment.

(3) Members of the Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010, which shall be paid by the Agency of Transportation.

(d)(1) The ~~Travel Information~~ Council shall designate, in each State transportation district, a person to represent business, a person to represent the public, and a person to represent the district planning or development agencies as a committee to act for it in those districts in considering applications for signs and the location thereof.

(2) The members of the committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Council, and a majority of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any business.

(3) A person aggrieved by a decision of a committee may ask for and shall be granted a hearing before the ~~Travel Information~~ Council and may

appeal on questions of law to the Superior Court under V.R.C.P. 74 from a decision of the Council.

* * * Travel and Recreation Council * * *

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 652 is amended to read:

§ 652. TRAVEL AND RECREATION COUNCIL; MEMBERSHIP

(a) ~~A travel and recreation council~~ The Travel and Recreation Council is created. It shall comprise the following members:

- (1) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, or designee;
- (2) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or designee;
- (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or designee;
- (4) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, or designee;
- (5) the Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, or designee; and
- (6) ten members from the private sector appointed by the Governor.

(b)(1) The ten members appointed by the Governor shall serve a term of three years, beginning July 1, or the unexpired portion thereof. For the initial appointments, the Governor shall appoint three for one year, four for two years, and three for three years.

(2) When appointing members, the Governor shall consider persons who have understanding of the travel and recreation industry and who will adequately represent the various interests in the State.

(c) The Council shall elect its chair annually from among its members.

(d) The Council shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the ~~chair~~ Chair or the agency secretary.

(e) Members of the Council shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement ~~for~~ of expenses ~~in accordance with as~~ permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010, which shall be paid by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

* * * Vermont Community Development Board * * *

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 685 is amended to read:

§ 685. THE VERMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(a) There ~~shall be~~ is created within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development the Vermont Community Development Board consisting of nine members who shall be residents of the State.

(b)(1) The members shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of three years, or for the unexpired portion thereof. For the initial appointments, the Governor shall appoint three for one year, three for two years, and three for three years.

(2) In the appointment of the members, consideration shall be given to the selection of such persons as shall adequately represent the interests of various sections of the State and the principal beneficiaries of the program.

(c) The Chair shall be appointed annually by the Governor from among the members.

(d) Members of the Board shall be ~~compensated at the rate of \$30.00 per day for time spent in the performance of their duties, and they shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred therein~~ entitled to receive per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010, which shall be paid by the Agency.

(e) No person who receives a significant portion of his or her income directly or indirectly from the community development activities governed by this subchapter shall be a member of the Board.

(f) The Agency shall provide staff assistance and administrative support to the Board.

(g) Prior to January 15 of each year, the Board shall submit a report of its activities and grants for the preceding year to the Governor and General Assembly.

* * * State and Regional Economic Development and Planning Services
Oversight Panel * * *

Sec. 8. REPEAL

2010 Acts and Resolves No. 146, Sec. G.6 (State and Regional Economic Development and Planning Services; Oversight Panel) is repealed.

* * * Development Cabinet * * *

Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 2293 is amended to read:

§ 2293. ~~DEVELOPMENT CABINET~~

~~(a) Legislative purpose. The General Assembly deems it prudent to establish a permanent and formal mechanism to assure collaboration and consultation among State agencies and departments, in order to support and encourage Vermont's economic development, while at the same time conserving and promoting Vermont's traditional settlement patterns, its working and rural landscape, its strong communities, and its healthy environment, all in a manner set forth in this section.~~

~~(b) Development Cabinet.~~

~~(1) A Development Cabinet is created, to consist of the Secretaries of the Agencies of Administration, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of Commerce and Community Development, of Education, of Natural Resources, and of Transportation. The Governor or the Governor's designee shall chair the Development Cabinet.~~

~~(2) The Development Cabinet shall advise the Governor on how best to implement the purposes of this section, and shall recommend changes as appropriate to improve implementation of those purposes.~~

~~(3) The Development Cabinet may establish interagency work groups to support its mission, drawing membership from any agency or department of~~

~~State government. Any interagency work groups established under this subsection shall evaluate, test the feasibility of, and suggest alternatives to economic development proposals, including proposals for public private partnerships, submitted to them for consideration. The Development Cabinet shall refer to appropriate interagency workgroups any economic development proposal that has a significant impact on the inventory or use of State land or buildings.~~

~~(c) Implementation. All State agencies that have programs or take actions affecting land use, including those identified under 3 V.S.A. chapter 67, shall, through or in conjunction with the members of the Development Cabinet:~~

~~(1) Support conservation of working lands and open spaces.~~

~~(2) Strengthen agricultural and forest product economies, and encourage the diversification of these industries.~~

~~(3) Develop and implement plans to educate the public by encouraging discussion at the local level about the impacts of poorly designed growth, and support local efforts to enhance and encourage development and economic growth in the State's existing towns and villages.~~

~~(4) Administer tax credits, loans, and grants for water, sewer, housing, schools, transportation, and other community or industrial infrastructure, in a manner consistent with the purposes of this section.~~

~~(5) To the extent possible, endeavor to make the expenditure of State appropriations consistent with the purposes of this section.~~

~~(6) Encourage development in, and work to revitalize, land and buildings in existing village and urban centers, including "brownfields," housing stock, and vacant or underutilized development zones. Each agency is to set meaningful and quantifiable benchmarks.~~

~~(7) Encourage communities to approve settlement patterns based on maintaining the State's compact villages, open spaces, working landscapes, and rural countryside.~~

~~(8) Encourage relatively intensive residential development close to resources such as schools, shops, and community centers and make infrastructure investments to support this pattern.~~

~~(9) Support recreational opportunities that build on Vermont's outstanding natural resources, and encourage public access for activities such as boating, hiking, fishing, skiing, hunting, and snowmobiling. Support and work collaboratively to make possible sound development and well-planned growth in existing recreational infrastructure.~~

~~(10) Provide means and opportunity for downtown housing for mixed social and income groups in each community.~~

~~(11) [Repealed.]~~

~~(12) Encourage timely and efficient processing of permit applications affecting land use, including 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 and the subdivision regulations adopted under 18 V.S.A. § 1218, in order to encourage the development of affordable housing and small business expansion, while protecting Vermont's natural resources.~~

~~(13) Participate in creating a long term economic development plan, including making available the members of any agency or department of State government as necessary and appropriate to support the mission of an interagency work group established under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(d) Interagency work group.~~

~~(1) Pursuant to the recommendations of the Oversight Panel on Economic Development created in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 146, Sec. G6, the Development Cabinet shall create an interagency work group as provided in subsection (b) of this section with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development serving as its chair.~~

~~(2) The mission of the work group shall be to develop a long term economic development plan for the State, which shall identify goals and recommend actions to be taken over 10 years, and which shall be consistent with the four principles of economic development identified in 10 V.S.A. § 3 and the relevant population level outcomes for economic development set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311.~~

~~(e) Long term economic development plan.~~

~~(1) On or before January 15, 2014, and every two years thereafter, the Development Cabinet or its work group shall complete a long term economic development plan as required under subsection (d) of this section and recommend it to the Governor.~~

~~(2) Commencing with the plan due on or before January 15, 2016, the Development Cabinet or its work group may elect only to prepare and recommend to the Governor an update of the long term economic development plan.~~

~~(3) Administrative support for the economic development planning efforts of the Development Cabinet or its work group shall be provided by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.~~

~~(f) Limitations. This Cabinet is strictly an information gathering and coordinating cabinet and confers no additional enforcement powers.~~

[Repealed.]

Sec. 10. [Deleted.]

* * * Film and New Media Advisory Board * * *

Sec. 11. 3 V.S.A. § 2471d is amended to read:

§ 2471d. ~~VERMONT FILM AND NEW MEDIA ADVISORY BOARD~~

~~The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall appoint a Film and New Media Advisory Board to make recommendations to the~~

~~Secretary on promoting Vermont as a location for commercial film and television production and facilitating the participation of local individuals and companies in such productions. The primary function of the Advisory Board is to recommend to the Secretary strategies to link Vermonters employed in the film and new media, video, or other creative arts, to economic opportunities in their trades in Vermont. [Repealed.]~~

* * * Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation * * *

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. chapter 12, subchapter 6 is amended to read:

Subchapter 6. Family Farm Assistance

§ 271. PURPOSES

~~It is the intention of the General Assembly in enacting this subchapter to provide a limited source of loan funds to family farmers or prospective family farmers under terms and conditions that will reduce their investment costs to an extent that offers them a reasonable chance to succeed. [Repealed.]~~

§ 272. DEFINITIONS

~~As used in this subchapter:~~

~~(1) "Authority" means the Vermont Economic Development Authority.~~

~~(2) "Family farmer" means a person who is a resident of this State and who is, or will become, engaged in farming on his or her own behalf managing and operating the farm on a full-time basis and whose net worth (including his or her dependents and spouse) does not exceed \$150,000.00.~~

~~(3) "Farming" shall mean the cultivation of land or other uses of land for the production of food, fiber, horticultural, orchard, or forest crops, or the raising of livestock, poultry, equines, fish, or bees. Farming also includes the storage, preparation, retail sale, and transportation of agricultural commodities accessory to the cultivation or use of such land.~~

~~(4) "Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation" means the nonprofit quasi-public corporation for which articles of association have been filed with the Secretary of State on April 26, 1935. [Repealed.]~~

§ 273. FARMERS LOAN PROGRAM; ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION

~~(a) The Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation shall establish a family farm assistance loan program to: strengthen existing farms, encourage diversification and innovative farming techniques, increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption, and assist beginning farmers to start new farms, provided that beginning farmers will not produce commodities that are already in surplus.~~

~~(b) In order to be eligible an applicant shall be:~~

~~(1) a family farmer who is a resident of this State;~~

~~(2) an owner or prospective purchaser of agricultural land in the State or depreciable farm machinery, equipment, or livestock to be used in the State;~~

~~(3) a person of sufficient education, training, or experience in the type of farming for which the applicant requests the loan;~~

~~(4) an operator or proposed operator of a farm for whom the loan reduces investment costs to an extent that offers him or her a reasonable chance to succeed;~~

~~(5) a credit worthy person under such standards as the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation may, in its discretion, establish; and~~

~~(6) in compliance with the requirements of subdivisions 262(2) through (4) and subdivisions (6) through (10) of this title. For purposes of this subchapter, the terms "eligible facility" and "facility" as used in section 262 shall be defined to include all farming operations.~~

~~(c) Applicants for the family farmer assistance loan program under this subchapter shall apply to the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation, which shall review proposed farm projects, and the applicant's qualifications and grant loans under the provisions of this subchapter, subject to such reasonable terms and conditions as the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation deems appropriate.~~

~~(d) Any person who obtains a loan under this subchapter shall not be eligible for loan assistance under subchapter 5 of this chapter during the period in which the subchapter 6 loan is outstanding.~~

~~(e) All meetings of the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation board of directors that concern the family farm assistance program shall be subject to 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 5. [Repealed.]~~

§ 274. ~~LOAN TERMS AND CONDITIONS~~

~~(a) Within the limits of funds available, the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation may make loans to eligible applicants upon such terms and conditions as may reasonably be expected to be fulfilled by the applicant. In no event shall the total principal obligation of all Vermont Economic Development authority loans granted under this subchapter to any family farmer exceed \$50,000.00.~~

~~(b) The Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation shall require the farmer to execute a note, loan agreement, security agreement, mortgage, or other evidence of indebtedness in favor of the Authority sufficient to protect reasonably the security of the mortgage or secured loan. All payments shall be made to the Authority for the use of section 234 of this title. The Vermont Economic Development Authority shall service all loans made by the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation under this subchapter. In the event of default by a loan recipient under this subchapter, the Authority shall consult with the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation prior to commencing any collection or foreclosure action. [Repealed.]~~

§ 275. ~~FUNDING~~

~~In fiscal year 1986, the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation, in its discretion, may loan up to \$400,000.00 of the Vermont Jobs Fund established by section 234 of this title for the purposes of this subchapter. Depending on~~

~~its assessment of the progress of the family farm assistance program, the General Assembly may adjust the loan limits from those established for fiscal year 1986 and may establish appropriate loan limits in fiscal years 1987 and 1988. [Repealed.]~~

~~§ 277. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT~~

~~(a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, with the consent of the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation, may use a portion of the funds provided under section 275 of this title, not to exceed \$20,000.00 in any fiscal year, to contract for assistance in reviewing loan applications, making recommendations to the board, reviewing compliance with loan conditions, and carrying out such other activities as the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may direct.~~

~~(b) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets may provide the Vermont Rehabilitation Corporation with additional personnel and other support as he or she deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. [Repealed.]~~

* * * State Natural Resources Conservation Council

Board of Adjustment * * *

Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. chapter 31, subchapter 1 is amended to read:

Subchapter 1. Conservation, Development, and Use of Natural Resources

* * *

§ 731. FAILURE TO OBSERVE LAND-USE ORDINANCE;

CONFERENCES

(a) In the event that the supervisors of a district find that the provisions of a land-use ordinance adopted according to the provisions of this chapter are not being observed on particular lands, and that such nonobservance tends substantially to increase erosion on such lands and substantially interferes with the prevention or control of erosion or conservation of natural resources on other lands within the district, the supervisors may summon the owner of the land to appear before them to discuss the failure of the owner to observe the regulations, and to perform particular work, operations, or avoidances as required by ordinance of the district, when the nonobservance tends substantially to increase erosion on the lands and substantially interferes with the prevention or control of erosion or conservation of natural resources on other lands within the district.

(b) By conference thus convoked, the supervisors and the owner of land not observing the ordinance adopted by the district, shall together make and sign a finding as to the issues ~~which~~ that are involved in the failure of the owner to observe the ordinance of the district.

(c)(1) Upon the basis of such findings and if, after conference, it appears to the supervisors that there are great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship involved in the full observance of the ordinance of the district, the

~~supervisor~~ supervisors shall endeavor to work out a program with the owner, as shall be acceptable to the owner and shall enable the owner to comply with the ordinance.

(2)(A) Alternatively, upon the basis of their findings, the supervisors may authorize such variance from the ordinances in their application to the lands of the owner who has not complied with the ordinance of the district, when such variance will relieve practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship to that owner and when such variance is not contrary to public interest and is in accordance with the purpose of land use regulations.

(B) The supervisors may request the landowner not complying with an ordinance to sign a stipulation setting forth the conditions agreed upon by the landowner and supervisors so that the practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship may be overcome and the work proceed by the consent of such landowner upon the land.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to make ineffective any remedies available under the laws of the State.

§ 732. ~~NONCOMPLIANCE; REFERENCE TO BOARD OF~~

~~ADJUSTMENT; COMPOSITION OF BOARD; TERMS,~~

~~COMPENSATION, CONDUCT~~

~~(a) When by conference the supervisors and the landowner not complying with the ordinances of the district are unable to agree on the conditions under~~

~~which compliance may be effected, the supervisors shall refer the matter to a board of adjustment which shall be appointed by the State Council upon request of the supervisors.~~

~~(b) The board of adjustment shall consist of three members appointed for a term of one year. The board shall elect its own chair. Vacancies in the board of adjustment shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The members of the board shall receive compensation for their services at a rate not to exceed the per diem rate as defined by 32 V.S.A. § 1010(b) in addition to expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. The State Council shall pay the necessary administrative and other expenses of operation incurred by the board upon vouchers signed by the chair of the board. The board shall adopt rules to govern its procedure, which rules shall be in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and with the provisions of any recommendations made by the State Council. Any two members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The chair, or in the chair's absence such other member of the board as the chair may designate to serve as acting chair, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All meetings of the board shall be open to the public. The board shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, and shall file all documents and memoranda of proceedings with the state council, when each grievance has been adjusted. [Repealed.]~~

§ 733. ~~POWERS OF BOARD~~

~~Upon the basis of such inquiry as it deems it necessary to conduct, and upon the basis of findings resulting therefrom, the board of adjustment shall have authority by order to authorize such variance from the ordinances in their application to the lands of the owner who has not complied with the ordinance of the district, when such variance will relieve practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship to such owner and when such variance is not contrary to public interest and is in accordance with the purpose of land use regulations. The board of adjustment may request the landowner not complying with an ordinance to sign a stipulation setting forth the conditions agreed upon by the landowner and supervisors so that the practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship may be overcome and work proceed by the consent of such landowner upon his land. However, nothing in this chapter shall be construed so as to make ineffective any remedies available under the laws of the state.~~

[Repealed.]

§ 734. SUPERVISORS MAY PETITION SUPERIOR COURT, ~~WHEN~~

If a landowner does not sign such stipulation, the supervisors may petition the Superior Court to require such landowner to bring his or her land into conformity with the ordinance, and the ~~Court~~ court shall order such relief as it may deem necessary in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

However, no landowner shall by ordinance or otherwise be required to pay any

money or perform any act that shall not be for the protection of his or her own land nor shall he or she be required to pay any money, perform any act, or carry out any practice that shall not be in just proportion to the benefits that he or she will receive and further provided that he or she shall not be required to pay any money, perform any act, or carry out any practice that shall not be deemed to be necessary for the public good.

* * *

* * * Pesticide Advisory Council * * *

Sec. 14. 6 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

* * *

(d) The functions of the Council are:

* * *

(6) To recommend targets with respect to the State goal of achieving an overall reduction in the use of pesticides consistent with sound pest or vegetative management practices and to ~~issue an annual report to the General Assembly, detailing~~ measure the State's progress in reaching those targets and attaining that goal. The targets should be designed to enable evaluation of multiple measures of pesticide usage, use patterns, and associated risks.

Targets should take into consideration at a minimum the following:

(A) reducing the amount of acreage where pesticides are used;

- (B) reducing the risks associated with the use of pesticides;
- (C) increasing the acreage managed by means of integrated pest management techniques;
- (D) decreasing, within each level of comparable risk, the quantity of pesticides applied per acre; and
- (E) making recommendations regarding the implementation of other management practices that result in decreased pesticide use.

* * *

* * * Vermont Milk Commission * * *

Sec. 15. 6 V.S.A. § 2937 is amended to read:

§ 2937. ~~ANNUAL~~ PERIODIC REPORT

The Commission ~~shall~~ may report ~~annually~~ as needed on its activities to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture ~~on or before January 15,~~
~~beginning in 2009.~~

* * * Sustainable Agriculture Council * * *

Sec. 16. 6 V.S.A. § 4701 is amended to read:

§ 4701. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
PROGRAM

(a) The purpose of this section is to promote research and education that will encourage the development and use of economically and ecologically sound sustainable agriculture practices such as organic methods, biological

control, integrated pest management, soil improvement, cultivation, harvesting and irrigation techniques, and transportation and marketing innovations, through:

(1) ~~The~~ the control of pests and diseases of agricultural importance through alternatives that reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and petrochemicals;

(2) ~~The~~ the production, processing, and distribution of food and fiber in ways that consider the interactions among soils, plants, water, air, animals, tillage, machinery, labor, energy, and transportation to enhance the viability of agricultural soils, public health, and resource conservation;

(3) ~~The~~ the expansion of marketing opportunities and promotion of products produced through the practice of sustainable agriculture ~~which~~ that will encourage the purchase of Vermont grown foods and promote regional food security; and

(4) ~~The~~ the coordination of research and education activities on sustainable agriculture among private and public agencies and individuals within Vermont.

~~(b) A Sustainable Agriculture Council is established, to be chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The Council shall include the Secretary of Education and representatives, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, of the College of Agriculture at the University~~

~~of Vermont, University of Vermont Extension, Vermont Technical College and farm organizations, and a representative of the low input sustainable agriculture program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Council shall meet on call of the Secretary and shall make recommendations regarding:~~

~~(1) Goals and priorities for ongoing public and private research of particular relevance to Vermont agriculture, and for the coordination of research and demonstration projects on sustainable agriculture.~~

~~(2) The dissemination of research results, the identification of future research needs and other useful information on sustainable agriculture.~~

~~(3) The use of State owned lands, participating farmer managed land, and land owned by the University of Vermont and State Colleges System for continuing research on sustainable agriculture practices.~~

~~(4) Techniques for financing the integration of sustainable agriculture practices into farming operations.~~

~~(5) The teaching of sustainable agriculture practices in schools at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels. [Repealed.]~~

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets is authorized to apply for, accept, and make use of grants from public and private sources to achieve the objectives of this section, in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 5. In awarding grants, preference shall be given to individuals, especially farmers, conducting on-farm research.

(d) ~~By January 15, annually, the Council shall prepare a report for distribution to participating organizations and the public summarizing developments in sustainable agriculture in Vermont and nationally. The report shall also make recommendations for future activities that will promote the objectives of this section.~~ [Repealed.]

* * * Vermont Transportation Authority * * *

Sec. 17. REPEAL

29 V.S.A. chapter 16 (Vermont Transportation Authority) is repealed.

* * * Capitol Complex Commission * * *

Sec. 18. 29 V.S.A. § 182 is amended to read:

§ 182. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(2) “~~Capitol complex commission~~ Complex Commission” means a commission consisting of ~~five~~ seven members.

(A) Four members shall be appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor, with the advice and consent of the ~~senate~~ Senate, for a term of three years. One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one member shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, each for a term of two years. The ~~fifth~~ seventh member shall be appointed by the Montpelier ~~city council~~ City Council for a term of two years.

(B) The ~~chair~~ Chair of the ~~capitol complex commission~~ Capitol Complex Commission shall be designated by the ~~governor~~ Governor.

(C) ~~No more~~ Not fewer than two members of the ~~commission~~ Commission shall be residents of the ~~city~~ City of Montpelier, and ~~no~~ a member ~~may~~ shall not be an exempt employee of the ~~state~~ State of Vermont or a State legislator.

(D) The ~~commissioner of buildings and general services~~ Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall be the executive secretary of the ~~board~~ Commission and shall have no vote.

* * *

* * * Vermont Enhanced 911 Board * * *

Sec. 19. VERMONT ENHANCED 911 BOARD; SECRETARY OF
ADMINISTRATION; REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

(a) On or before January 15, 2020, the Secretary of Administration shall report to the Senate Committee on Government Operations and the House Committee on Energy and Technology with a recommendation regarding which agency or department the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board shall report beginning in Fiscal Year 2021.

(b) In formulating the recommendation required by this section, the Secretary shall receive input from the State and local agencies and departments impacted by any changes.

* * * Artificial Intelligence Task Force * * *

Sec. 20. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 137, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TASK FORCE; REPORT

* * *

(e) Meetings.

* * *

(3) The Task Force shall meet not more than ~~10~~ 15 times ~~and, except~~
that this limitation on meetings shall not apply to any public hearing the Task
Force holds for the purpose of obtaining public testimony regarding artificial
intelligence. The Task Force shall cease to exist on ~~June 30, 2019~~
January 15, 2020.

* * *

(h) Reports. On or before February 15, 2019, the Task Force shall submit
an update to the Senate Committee on Government Operations and the House
Committee on Energy and Technology. On or before ~~June 30, 2019~~
January 15, 2020, the Task Force shall submit a final report to the Senate
Committee on Government Operations and the House Committee on Energy
and Technology that shall include:

* * *

* * * Contract Negotiations * * *

Sec. 21. 3 V.S.A. § 925 is amended to read:

§ 925. MEDIATION; FACT FINDING

* * *

(i)(1) ~~If~~ In the case of the Vermont State Colleges or the University of Vermont, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time frame mutually agreed upon by the parties that may be no more than an additional 30 days, each party shall submit as a single package its last best offer on all disputed issues to the Board. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with the Board under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the public record only when both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board. The Board shall hold one or more hearings. Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board shall select between the last best offers of the parties, considered in ~~its~~ their entirety without amendment.

(2) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, if the dispute remains unresolved 20 days after transmittal of findings and recommendations to the parties or within a time frame mutually agreed upon by the parties that may be no more than an additional 30 days, each party shall submit as a single package its last best offer on all disputed issues to the Board, or upon the request of either party, to

an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the American Arbitration Association shall appoint a neutral third party to act as arbitrator. Each party's last best offer shall be filed with the Board or the arbitrator under seal and shall be unsealed and placed in the public record only when both parties' last best offers are filed with the Board or the arbitrator. The Board or the arbitrator shall hold one or more hearings. Within 30 days of the certifications, the Board or the arbitrator shall select between the last best offers of the parties, considered in their entirety without amendment.

(j) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (i) of this section:

(1) In the case of the Vermont State Colleges or the University of Vermont, should the Board find the last best offers of both parties unreasonable and likely to produce undesirable results, or likely to result in a long-lasting negative impact upon the parties' collective bargaining relationship, then the Board may select the recommendation of the fact finder under subsection (g) of this section as to those disputed issues submitted to the Board in the last best offers.

(2) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, should the Board or the arbitrator find the last best offers of both parties unreasonable and likely to produce undesirable results, or likely to result in a long-lasting negative impact upon the parties' collective

bargaining relationship, then the Board or the arbitrator may select the recommendation of the fact finder under subsection (g) of this section as to those disputed issues submitted to the Board or the arbitrator in the last best offers.

~~(k)(1) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the decision of the Board shall be final, and the terms of the chosen agreement shall be binding on each party, subject to appropriations in accordance with subsection 982(d) of this title. In the case of the University of Vermont or the Vermont State Colleges, the decision of the Board shall be final and binding on each party.~~

(2) In the case of the State of Vermont or the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, the decision of the Board or the arbitrator shall be final, and the terms of the chosen agreement shall be binding on each party, subject to appropriations in accordance with subsection 982(d) of this title.

(l) Nothing herein shall be construed to permit an arbitrator or the Board to issue an order under subsection (i) of this section binding upon the parties that is in conflict with any statute or any rule or regulation that is not bargainable.

Sec. 22. 21 V.S.A. § 1733 is amended to read:

§ 1733. ARBITRATION

(a)(1) Nothing ~~herein~~ in this chapter shall prevent the legislative body of a municipal employer and the exclusive bargaining agent from voluntarily

submitting a contract impasse to final and binding arbitration or for the municipality by a referendum vote from adopting binding arbitration procedures, in the following form:

The arbitrator shall have the power to determine all issues in dispute involving wages, hours, and conditions of employment as defined by ~~this~~ chapter 21 V.S.A. chapter 22.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of subdivision (1) of this section, if an impasse continues between the legislative body of a municipal employer and the exclusive bargaining agent for municipal public safety employees for 20 days after a fact finder has made its report public under subsection 1732(e) of this title, the legislative body of the municipal employer and the exclusive bargaining agent for the municipal public safety employees shall submit the contract impasse to final and binding arbitration pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(B) Notwithstanding section 1732 of this chapter to the contrary, after the mediator has certified to the Commissioner of Labor that the impasse continues, the legislative body of a municipal employer and the exclusive bargaining agent for municipal public safety employees may agree to proceed directly to final and binding arbitration pursuant to the provisions of this section without first submitting the dispute to fact finding pursuant to section 1732 of this chapter.

(C) The provisions of this subdivision (2) shall not apply to negotiations between the legislative body of a municipal employer and the exclusive bargaining agent for a bargaining unit that includes both municipal public safety employees and other municipal employees.

* * *

Sec. 23. 21 V.S.A. § 1722 is amended to read:

§ 1722. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(22) “Municipal public safety employee” means a municipal employee who is:

(A) a firefighter as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 3151(3);

(B) an ambulance service, emergency medical personnel, or first responder service as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651; or

(C) a law enforcement officer who has been certified by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358.

Sec. 24. APPLICATION

Secs. 21-23 of this act (contract negotiations) shall apply to contract negotiations that begin on or after July 1, 2019.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.