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Introduced by Representatives Walz of Barre City, Ancel of Calais,  
Bartholomew of Hartland, Campbell of St. Johnsbury,  
Christensen of Weathersfield, Cina of Burlington, Demrow of  
Corinth, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Hashim of Dummerston,  
Kitzmiller of Montpelier, LaLonde of South Burlington,  
Lanpher of Vergennes, Macaig of Williston, O’Sullivan of  
Burlington, Patt of Worcester, Squirrell of Underhill, Sullivan  
of Burlington, Szott of Barnard, Till of Jericho, and Townsend  
of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; water quality; microplastics study

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

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

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

2 Sec. 1. STUDY OF MICROPLASTIC ACCUMULATION IN THE  
3 ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER OF VERMONT

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

5 (1) "Bottled water" means water that is placed in a safety-sealed  
6 container or package for human consumption. Bottled water is calorie free and  
7 does not contain sweeteners or other additives except that it may contain:  
8 antimicrobial agents; fluoride; carbonation; vitamins, minerals, and  
9 electrolytes; oxygen; preservatives; and only those flavors, extracts, or  
10 essences derived from a spice or fruit. "Bottled water" includes water that is  
11 delivered to the buyer in a reusable container that is not sold with the water.

12 (2) "Drinking water" shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
13 10 V.S.A. § 1671(1).

14 (3) "Microplastic" means a plastic particle or filament of less than five  
15 millimeters in size.

16 (4) "Surface water" shall have the same meaning as the term "waters"  
17 set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 1251(13).

18 (b) Study required. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall contract with  
19 a qualified, independent environmental consultant or organization to study the  
20 extent of microplastic contamination in the environment and drinking water of  
21 Vermont. The contracted environmental consultant or organization shall have

1 expertise or knowledge of State water quality requirements and programs,  
2 State and federal drinking water requirements and programs, water monitoring  
3 or testing, and the science of manufacturing, degradation, environmental  
4 accumulation, and bioaccumulation of microplastics.

5 (c) Contents of study. The study shall include all of the following:

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

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

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

15 (d) Required microplastics testing or monitoring. The consultant or  
16 organization contracted with under this section shall be required to test or  
17 monitor at least one surface water and one source of drinking water in each  
18 county of the State for the presence of microplastics. The consultant or  
19 organization shall also test at least four brands of bottled water sold in the State  
20 for the presence of microplastics.

1       (e) Report. On or before January 1, 2021, the Secretary of Natural  
2       Resources shall submit the results of the contracted consultant or  
3       organization's study to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and  
4       Energy and on Health and Welfare and the House Committees on Natural  
5       Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Health Care.

6       (f) Funding. In fiscal year 2020, \$200,000.00 shall be appropriated from  
7       the Clean Water Fund under 10 V.S.A. § 1389 to the Secretary of Natural  
8       Resources for the purpose of contracting for the study required by this section.

9       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.