

1 H.386

2 Introduced by Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Bock of Chester, Conquest
3 of Newbury, Fegard of Berkshire, Gannon of Wilmington, and
4 O'Brien of Tunbridge

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to adopt various
9 proposals to promote economic development in smaller Vermont communities.

10 An act relating to promoting economic development in smaller Vermont
11 communities

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

13 * * * Local Option Tax * * *

14 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 138(d) is amended to read:

15 (d)(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section ~~and~~, in
16 subdivision (2) of this subsection with respect to taxes collected on the sale of
17 aviation jet fuel, and in subdivision (3) of this subsection governing small rural
18 communities, of the taxes collected under this section, 70 percent of the taxes
19 shall be paid on a quarterly basis to the municipality in which they were
20 collected, after reduction for the costs of administration and collection under

1 subsection (c) of this section. Revenues received by a municipality may be
2 expended for municipal services only, and not for education expenditures.
3 Any remaining revenue shall be deposited into the PILOT Special Fund
4 established by 32 V.S.A. § 3709.

5 (2)(A) Of the taxes collected under this section on the sale of aviation jet
6 fuel, on a quarterly basis, 70 percent of the taxes shall be paid to the
7 municipality in which they were collected, and 30 percent shall be deposited in
8 the Transportation Fund.

9 (B) All revenues referenced in subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2)
10 shall be used exclusively for aviation purposes consistent with 49 U.S.C.
11 § 47133 and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and policies.

12 (3) For a municipality with fewer than 3,000 residents that adopts a tax
13 pursuant to this section on or after July 1, 2019, 90 percent of the taxes shall be
14 paid to the municipality and 10 percent shall be paid to the PILOT Special
15 Fund.

16 * * * Opportunity Zones * * *

17 Sec. 2. OPPORTUNITY ZONES; STUDY; REPORT

18 On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency of Commerce and Community
19 Development shall evaluate and submit to the House Committee on Commerce
20 and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic
21 Development, Housing and General Affairs one or more recommendations for

1 how the State can supplement or expand the federal Opportunity Zones
2 program to serve communities with fewer than 4,000 residents.

3 * * * Rural Marketing Support * * *

4 Sec. 3. AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT;

5 RURAL MARKETING SUPPORT

6 (a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall provide
7 rural marketing support to smaller Vermont communities and assistance with
8 designing and implementing small-town destination marketing campaigns,
9 including public-private partnerships with businesses and ski areas in
10 communities with fewer than 3,000 residents.

11 (b) On or before January 15, 2020, the Agency shall report to the House
12 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate
13 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
14 identifying the municipalities and the type of support provided to each
15 municipality served.

16 * * * Rural Outdoor Recreation Support * * *

17 Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;

18 RURAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPORT

19 (a) The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall provide
20 rural outdoor recreation support and assistance with promoting outdoor

1 recreation and related economic development for communities with fewer
2 than 3,000 residents.

3 (b) On or before January 15, 2020, the Department shall report to the
4 House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and to the
5 Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
6 identifying the municipalities and the type of support provided to each
7 municipality served.

8 * * * Rural Trail Network Small Grants Program * * *

9 Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 446 is amended to read:

10 § 446. VERMONT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND

11 (a) The Recreational Trails Fund is established, which shall be subject to
12 the provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5.

13 (b)(1) There shall be an annual transfer from the Transportation Fund to the
14 Recreational Trails Fund in the amount of ~~\$370,000.00~~ \$500,000.00.

15 (2) In each fiscal year, this amount shall be included in the budget
16 estimates and statements submitted under 32 V.S.A. § 301 for purposes of
17 determining appropriations by the General Assembly. Appropriations may be
18 made from the Fund to design, construct, and maintain recreational trails, to
19 conduct studies and prepare plans, to publish maps and information, and to
20 make grants to State and municipal agencies and nonprofit organizations.

