

1 H.448

2 Introduced by Representatives Anthony of Barre City, Walz of Barre City,  
3 Browning of Arlington, Donovan of Burlington, Masland of  
4 Thetford, and Till of Jericho

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Housing; affordable housing; Vermont Housing and Conservation  
8 Board; appropriation; study

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide  
10 funding to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to support an  
11 affordable housing pilot project. This bill also proposes to study the use of a  
12 housing bond and options for imposing financial penalties on owners of vacant  
13 property.

14 An act relating to funding affordable housing initiatives

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

16 Sec. 1. VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD; FY 2020

17 APPROPRIATION; AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT PROJECT

18 In fiscal year 2020, the General Assembly shall appropriate \$1,000,000.00

19 in general funds to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to provide

1 additional support to its affordable housing pilot project. Funds shall be used  
2 to rehabilitate and repurpose existing housing.

3 Sec. 2. HOUSING BOND; STUDY

4 (a) On or before December 15, 2019, the State Treasurer shall study and  
5 write a report on what revenue sources may be used to support a housing bond  
6 to fund affordable housing projects in at least ten communities. The report  
7 shall include recommendations for any necessary legislative action.

8 (b) The State Treasurer shall submit a copy of the report described in  
9 subsection (a) of this section to the House Committees on Commerce and  
10 Economic Development and on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the  
11 Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

12 Sec. 3. PENALTIES FOR VACANT PROPERTY; STUDY

13 (a) On or before December 15, 2019, the Secretary of Commerce and  
14 Community Development, in consultation with the Executive Director of the  
15 Vermont League of Cities and Towns, shall study and write a report on  
16 approaches to imposing penalties on property owners who leave property  
17 vacant for one year or more. The report shall include recommendations for  
18 any necessary legislative action.

19 (b) The Secretary shall submit a copy of the report described in  
20 subsection (a) of this section to the House Committees on Commerce and

- 1 Economic Development and on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and the
- 2 Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.
- 3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 4 This act shall take effect on passage.