House Calendar

Tuesday, April 23, 2019
105th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

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An act relating to increasing the legal age for buying and using cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, and other tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age

**Rep. Brumsted of Shelburne**, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

By striking out Sec. 8, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 11-0-0)

(For text see Senate Journal February 28, 2019)

**Rep. Till of Jericho**, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Human Services.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

**Favorable with Amendment**

S. 40

An act relating to testing and remediation of lead in the drinking water of schools and child care facilities

**Rep. Webb of Shelburne**, for the Committee on Education, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A is added to read:
CHAPTER 24A. LEAD IN DRINKING WATER OF SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES

§ 1241. PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to require all school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, and child care providers in Vermont to:

(1) test drinking water in their buildings and child care facilities for lead contamination; and

(2) develop and implement an appropriate response or lead remediation plan when sampling indicates unsafe lead levels in drinking water at a school or child care facility.

§ 1242. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Action level” means five parts per billion (ppb) of lead.

(2) “Alternative water source” means:

   (A) water from an outlet within the building or facility that is below the action level; or
   (B) containerized, bottled, or packaged drinking water.

(3) “Building” means any structure, facility, addition, or wing that may be occupied or used by children or students.

(4) “Child care provider” has the same meaning as in 33 V.S.A. § 3511.

(5) “Child care facility” or “facility” has the same meaning as in 33 V.S.A. § 3511.

(6) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

(7) “Department” means the Department of Health.

(8) “Drinking water” has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 1671.

(9) “Independent school” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

(10) “Outlet” means a drinking water fixture currently or reasonably expected to be used for consumption or cooking purposes, including a drinking fountain, ice machine, or a faucet as determined by a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider.

(11) “School district” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

(12) “Supervisory union” has the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.
§ 1243. TESTING OF DRINKING WATER

(a) Scope of testing.

(1) Each school district, supervisory union, or independent school in the State shall collect a drinking water sample from each outlet in the buildings it owns, controls, or operates and shall submit the sample to the Department of Health for testing for lead contamination as required under this chapter.

(2) Each child care provider in the State shall collect a drinking water sample from each outlet in a child care facility it owns, controls, or operates for lead contamination as required under this chapter.

(b) Initial sampling.

(1) On or before December 31, 2020, each school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider in the State shall collect a first-draw sample and a second flush sample from each outlet in each building or facility it owns, controls, or operates. Sampling shall occur during the school year of a school district, supervisory union, or independent school.

(2) At least five days prior to sampling, the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider shall notify all staff and all parents or guardians of students directly in writing or by electronic means of:

   (A) the scheduled sampling;

   (B) the requirements for testing, why testing is required, and the potential health effects from exposure to lead in drinking water;

   (C) information, provided by the Department of Health, regarding sources of lead exposure other than drinking water;

   (D) information regarding how the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider shall provide notice of the sample results; and

   (E) how the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider shall respond to sample results that are at or above the action level.

(3) The Department may adopt a schedule for the initial sampling by school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, and child care providers.

(c) Continued sampling. Beginning January 1, 2021, each school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider in the State shall sample each outlet in each building or facility it owns, controls, or operates for
lead according to a schedule adopted by the Department by rule under section 1247 of this title.

(d) Interim methodology. Prior to adoption of the rules required under section 1247 of this title, sampling under this section shall be conducted according to a methodology established by the Department of Health, provided that the methodology shall be at least as stringent as the sampling methodology provided for under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and shall include a requirement for a first draw sample and a second flush sample.

(e) Exceptions.

(1) The testing requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider that:

(A) completed testing of all outlets in each building or facility it owns, controls, or operates after November 1, 2017;

(B) conducted testing according to a methodology consistent with the Department methodology established under subsection (d) of this section; and

(C)(i) determined no outlet is at or above the action level for lead; or

(ii) implemented or scheduled remediation that ensures that drinking water from all outlets is below the action level.

(2) A school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider that qualifies for the exception under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this act, submit a written notice of exception to the Department of Health that shall include the results of testing and a summary of remediation implemented or scheduled.

(3) A school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider that qualifies for the exception under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be eligible for assistance from the State for the costs of remediation.

(f) Laboratory analysis. The analyses of drinking water samples required under this chapter shall be conducted by the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory or by a certified laboratory under contract to the Department.

§ 1244. RESPONSE TO ACTION LEVEL; NOTICE; REPORTING

If a sample of drinking water under section 1243 of this title indicates that drinking water from an outlet is at or above the action level, the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider that owns,
controls, or operates the building or facility in which the outlet is located shall conduct remediation to eliminate or reduce lead levels in the drinking water from the outlet. At a minimum, the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider shall:

(1)(A) prohibit use of an outlet that is at or above the action level until:

   (i) implementation of a lead remediation plan or other remediation measure that was published or approved by the Commissioner or that is consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools; and

   (ii) sampling indicates that lead levels from the outlet are below the action level; or

   (B) prohibit use of an outlet that is at or above the action level until the outlet is permanently removed, disabled, or otherwise cannot be accessed by any person for the purposes of consumption or cooking;

(2) provide occupants of the building or child care facility an adequate alternative water source until remediation is performed;

(3) notify all staff and all parents or guardians of students directly of the test results and the proposed or taken remedial action in writing or by electronic means within 10 school days after receipt of the laboratory report;

(4) submit lead remediation plans to the Department as they are completed;

(5) notify all staff and all parents or guardians or students in writing or by electronic means of what remedial actions have been taken; and

(6) submit notice to the Department of Health that remediation plans have been completed.

§ 1245. RECORD KEEPING; PUBLIC NOTIFICATION; DATABASE

(a) Record keeping. The Department of Health shall retain all records of test results, laboratory analyses, lead remediation plans, and notices of exception for 10 years following the creation or acquisition of the record. Records produced or acquired by the Department under this chapter are public records subject to inspection or copying under the Public Records Act.

(b) Public notification. On or before March 1, 2021, the Commissioner shall publish on the Department website the data from testing under section 1243 of this title so that the results of sampling are fully transparent and accessible to the public. The data published by the Department shall include a list of all buildings or facilities owned, controlled, or operated by a school
district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider at which drinking water from an outlet tested at or above the action level within the previous two years of reported samples. The Commissioner shall publish all retesting data on the Department’s website within two weeks of receipt of the relevant laboratory analysis. The Secretary of Education shall include a link on the Agency of Education website to the Department of Health website required under this subsection.

§ 1246. LEAD REMEDIATION PLAN; GUIDANCE; COMMUNICATION

(a) Consultation. When a laboratory analysis of a sample of drinking water from an outlet at a building or facility owned, controlled, or operated by a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider is at or above the action level, the school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider may consult with the Commissioner regarding the development of a lead remediation plan or other necessary response.

(b) Guidance; lead remediation plan. The Commissioner, after consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Education, shall issue guidance on development of a lead remediation plan by a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider. The guidance provided by the Commissioner shall reference the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools.

(c) Communications: The Department of Health shall develop sample communications for parents for use by school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, and child care providers concerning lead in water and reducing exposure to lead under this chapter.

§ 1247. RULEMAKING

(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules under this chapter to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(b) On or before November 1, 2020, the Commissioner, with continuing consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Education, shall adopt rules regarding the implementation of the requirements of this chapter. The rules shall include:

(1) requirements or guidance for taking samples of drinking water from outlets in a building or facility owned, controlled, or operated by a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider that are no less stringent than the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and that include a first draw sample and second flush sample;
(2) the frequency of sampling required, including additional sampling requirements when drinking water from an outlet is at or above the action level;

(3) requirements for implementation of a lead mitigation plan or other necessary response to a report that drinking water from an outlet is at or above the action level;

(4) conditions or criteria for the exceptions from the sampling required under this chapter; and

(5) any other requirements that the Commissioner deems necessary for the implementation of the requirements of this chapter.

§ 1248. ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES

In addition to any other authority provided by law, the Commissioner of Health or a hearing officer designated by the Commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, impose an administrative penalty of up to $500.00 for a violation of the requirements of this chapter. The hearing before the Commissioner shall be a contested case subject to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6) is amended to read:

(6) “Education spending” means the amount of the school district budget, any assessment for a joint contract school, career technical center payments made on behalf of the district under subsection 1561(b) of this title, and any amount added to pay a deficit pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b) that is paid for by the school district, but excluding any portion of the school budget paid for from any other sources such as endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under chapter 101 of this title.

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(B) For purposes of calculating excess spending pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12), “education spending” shall not include:

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(xi) Costs incurred by a school district or supervisory union when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting drinking water outlets as required under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A.

Sec. 3. POSITIONS; SAMPLING OF DRINKING WATER OUTLETS IN SCHOOLS
The establishment of the following new classified limited service positions are authorized in fiscal year 2019:

(1) In the Agency of Natural Resources – environmental analyst V.
(2) In the Department of Health – public health analyst.

Sec. 4. STATUS OF REMEDIATION OF LEAD IN SCHOOLS AND
CHILD CARE FACILITIES

On or before January 15, 2020, the Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Education, shall provide written or oral testimony to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education regarding the implementation, administration, and financing of the requirements under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A that schools and child care providers sample for and remediate lead in drinking water. The testimony may include recommendations for additional programmatic and technical requirements for sampling for and remediating lead in schools or child care facilities in the State.

Sec. 5. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS; REMEDIATION; ELIGIBLE COSTS

(a) For remediation required under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A, the Department of Health shall pay a school district, supervisory union, or independent school for replacement of a drinking water fixture at the following amount listed for each type of fixture:

(1) public drinking fountains and ice machines: $1,849.00;
(2) outlets used for cooking: $554.00;
(3) all other outlets: $319.00.

(b) For remediation required under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A, the Department of Health shall pay a child care provider $454.00 for replacement of a drinking water fixture.

(c) The State shall make payments to school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, or child care facilities under this section from funds appropriated to the Department of Health for the costs of initial testing, retesting, and remediation under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A. Funds appropriated to the Department of Health in Sec. 88 (a)(2) of H.532 of 2019 may be transferred to the State agency or department administering these payments.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.
Rep. Gregoire of Fairfield, for the Committee on Human Services, recommends the bill ought to pass in concurrence with proposal of amendment as recommended by the Committee on Education, as further amended as follows:

First: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A, in section 1246, in subsection (b), in the first sentence, after “Secretary of Natural Resources” and before “and the Secretary of Education” by inserting “, the Commissioner for Children and Families.”

Second: In Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A, in section 1247, in subsection (b), in the first sentence, after “Secretary of Natural Resources” and before “and the Secretary of Education” by inserting “, the Commissioner for Children and Families.”

And by striking out subdivision (b)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (b)(2) to read as follows:

(2) the frequency of continued sampling of outlets by school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, and child care providers, provided that continued sampling shall be required no less frequently than every three years;

And in subdivision (b)(4), before “conditions or criteria” by inserting “exemptions from the requirements for sampling or remediation under this chapter, including”

Third: By adding a Sec. 3a to read as follows:

Sec. 3a. DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; RULES FOR REGULATED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

On or before December 31, 2020, the Commissioner for Children and Families shall amend the rules for regulated child care providers to comply with the requirements of 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A and rules adopted by the Department of Health under that chapter for the testing of lead in the drinking water of child care facilities.

Fourth: In Sec. 4, status of remediation of lead in schools and child care facilities, in the first sentence, after “Secretary of Natural Resources” and before “and the Secretary of Education” by inserting “, the Commissioner for Children and Families.”
Fifth: By striking out Sec. 5, allocation; eligible costs, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS; REMEDIATION; ELIGIBLE COSTS

(a) For remediation required under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A, the Department of Health shall pay a school district, supervisory union, independent school, or child care provider the actual cost of replacement of a drinking water fixture up to the following maximum amount for each type of fixture:

(1) public drinking fountains and ice machines: $2,000.00;

(2) outlets used for cooking: $700.00;

(3) all other outlets: $400.00.

(b) The State shall make payments to school districts, supervisory unions, independent schools, or child care providers under this section from one-time funds appropriated to the Department of Health in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 for the costs of initial testing, retesting, and remediation under 18 V.S.A. chapter 24A. Funds appropriated to the Department of Health in Sec. 88 (a)(2) of H.532 of 2019 may be transferred to the State agency or department administering these payments.

(Committee Vote: 10-1-0)

S. 95

An act relating to municipal utility capital investment

Rep. Sibilia of Dover, for the Committee on Energy and Technology, recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 1822 is amended to read:

§ 1822. POWERS; APPROVAL OF VOTERS

(a) In addition to the powers it may now or hereafter have, a municipal corporation otherwise authorized to own, acquire, improve, control, operate, or manage a public utility or project and to issue bonds pursuant to this subchapter, may also, by action of its legislative branch, exercise any of the following powers:

(1) to borrow money and issue bonds for the purposes of acquiring, improving, maintaining, financing, controlling, or operating the public utility or project, or for the purpose of selling, furnishing, or distributing the services, facilities, products, or commodities of such utility or project;
(2) to enter into contracts in connection with the issuance of bonds for any of the purposes enumerated in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(3) to purchase, hold, and dispose of any of its bonds;

(4) to pledge or assign all or part of any net revenues of the public utility or project, to provide for or to secure the payment of the principal of and the interest on bonds issued in connection with such public utility or project;

(5) to do any and all things necessary or prudent to carry out the powers expressly granted or necessarily implied in this subchapter, including without limitation those powers enumerated in section 1824 of this title.

(b)(1) The bonds authorized under this section shall be in such form, shall contain such provisions, and shall be executed as may be determined by the legislative branch of the municipal corporation, but shall not be executed, issued, or made, and shall not be valid and binding, unless and until at least a majority of the legal voters of such municipal corporation present and voting at a duly warned annual or special meeting called for that purpose shall have first voted to authorize the same.

(2) The warning calling such a meeting shall state the purpose for which it is proposed to issue bonds, the estimated cost of the project, the amount of bonds proposed to be issued under this subchapter therefor, that such bonds are to be payable solely from net revenues, and shall fix the place where and the date on which such meetings shall be held and the hours of opening and closing the polls.

(3) The notice of the meeting shall be published and posted as provided in section 1756 of this title.

(4) When a majority of all the voters voting on the question at such meeting vote to authorize the issuance of bonds under this subchapter to pay for such project, the legislative body shall be authorized to issue bonds or enter into contracts, pledges, and assignments as provided in this subchapter.

(5) Sections 1757 and 1758 of this title shall apply to the proceedings taken hereunder, except that the form of ballot to be used shall be substantially as follows:

Shall bonds of the (name of municipality) to the amount of $________ be issued under subchapter 2 of chapter 53 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated, payable only from net revenues derived from the (type) public utility system, for the purpose of paying for the following public utility project?
If in favor of the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square □.

If opposed to the bond issue, make a cross (x) in this square □.

(c) The bonds authorized by this subchapter shall be sold at par, premium, or discount by negotiated sale, competitive bid, or to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the legislative branch of a municipal corporation owning a municipal plant as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 2901 may authorize by resolution the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total assets of said municipal plant without the need for voter approval. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted as eliminating the requirement for approval from the Public Utility Commission pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 108, where applicable.

Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 108 is amended to read:

§ 108. ISSUE OF BONDS OR OTHER SECURITIES

* * *

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority or to a public utility which meets each and all of the following four conditions:

(1) is incorporated in some state other than Vermont;

(2) is conducting an interstate and intrastate telephone business which is subject to regulation by the Federal Communications Commission in some respects;

(3) is conducting telephone operations in four or more states; and

(4) has less than 10 percent of its total investment in property used or useful in rendering service located within this State to the extent that such public utility may issue stock, bonds, notes, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness not directly or indirectly constituting or creating a lien on any property used or useful in rendering service which is located within this State.

(c)(1) A municipality shall not issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, respecting the ownership or operation of a gas or electric utility, unless the Public Utility Commission first finds, upon petition of the municipality and after notice and an opportunity for hearing, that the proposed action will be consistent with the general good of the State.

(2) If the Public Utility Commission does not issue its ruling within 90 days of the filing of the petition, as may be extended by consent of the
municipality, the issuance of the proposed bonds or notes or pledge of net revenues shall be deemed to be consistent with the general good of the State.

(3) If the Public Utility Commission issues a ruling in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection, or does not rule within the period specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a municipality must subsequently obtain also have obtained voter approval in accordance with 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, if required, prior to issuing bonds or notes or pledging its net revenues.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, a municipality may:

(1) issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues payable within three years from the date of issue without such consent, provided such borrowing is necessary in an emergency to restore service immediately after damage by disaster; or

(2) issue bonds or notes or pledge its net revenues payable within one year of the date of issuance without the consent otherwise required by this subdivision, provided its total bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness so payable within one year do not exceed 20 percent of its total assets; or

(3) issue bonds or notes without the consent otherwise required by this subdivision, provided:

(A) the amount of the issuance plus the amount of any bond or note issuances during the previous 12 calendar months does not exceed 20 percent of the municipality’s total assets; and

(B) after the proposed issuance, the total amount of the municipality’s outstanding bonds, notes, or evidences of indebtedness would not exceed 50 percent of its total assets.

Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 5031(a)(4) is amended to read:

(4) Bonds and notes may be issued in accordance with this chapter, subject to without the need to obtain the consent and approval of the Public Utility Commission as provided in this title.

Sec. 4. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:

§ 8002. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(10) “Group net metering system” means a net metering system serving more than one customer, or a single customer with multiple electric meters,
located within the service area of the same retail electricity provider. Various buildings owned by municipalities, including water and wastewater districts, fire districts, villages, school districts, and towns, may constitute a group net metering system. A union or district school facility shall be considered in the same group net metering system with buildings of its member municipalities that are located within the service area of the same retail electricity provider that serves the facility. The cumulative group net metering capacity of a customer that is a school district shall not exceed 1 MW provided that each account is enrolled in only one group.

** * * *

Sec. 5. 30 V.S.A. § 8010 is amended to read:

§ 8010. SELF-GENERATION AND NET METERING

** * * *

(f) Except for net metering systems for which the Commission has established a registration process, the Commission shall issue a final determination as to an uncontested application within 90 days of the date of the last substantive filing by a party.

Sec. 6. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION; RULES

(a) The Public Utility Commission shall update its applicable rules for consistency with this act.

(b) The provisions of this act shall supersede any provisions to the contrary contained in the Public Utility Commission’s rules as they existed immediately prior to the effective date of this act.

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 7-1-1)

(For text see Senate Journal March 12, 2019)

Ordered to Lie

H. 97

An act relating to fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments.

Pending Question: Shall the House concur in the Senate Proposal of Amendment to House Proposal of Amendment to Senate Proposal of Amendment?
Public Hearings

April 23, 2019 - Room 11 - 5:00-7:00 P.M. - Public Hearing on Fossil Fuel Infrastructure (H. 51, H. 175, H. 214) - Held by House Committee on Energy and Technology