Senate Calendar

FRIDAY, MAY 03, 2019
SENATE CONVENES AT: 11:30 A.M.

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ACTION CALENDAR

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 95

An act relating to municipal utility capital investment.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out 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 that 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 that 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 that 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 may be considered in the same group net metering system with buildings of its member municipalities schools 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:

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§ 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Third Reading

H. 82.

An act relating to the taxation of timber harvesting equipment.

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 57.

An act relating to preserving the right to abortion.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out Sec. 1 (legislative intent) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Currently Vermont does not impose legal restrictions on the right to abortion. Health care practitioners providing abortion care in Vermont make determinations regarding the provision of safe and legal abortion within the scope of their practice and license, and in accordance with the relevant standards of medical practice and guiding ethical principles. The General
Assembly intends this act to safeguard these existing rights to access reproductive health services in Vermont by ensuring those rights are not denied, restricted, or infringed by a governmental entity. Nothing about this act shall be construed to undermine the supreme legislative power exercised by the Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with Chapter II, Section 2 of the Vermont Constitution or the judicial power vested in Vermont’s unified judicial system in accordance with Chapter II, Section 4 of the Vermont Constitution, or to contravene 18 U.S.C. § 1531.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for February 21, 2019, pages 206-238)

House Proposal of Amendment

S. 149

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to vehicles and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 1, 23 V.S.A. § 104(a), in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 104(a) is amended to read:

(a) The records of the registration of motor vehicles, snowmobiles, and motorboats, licensing of operators and registration of dealers, all original accident reports, and the records showing suspension and revocation of licenses and registrations and the records regarding diesel fuel, gasoline, and rental vehicle taxes shall be deemed official and public records, and shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable hours. The Commissioner shall furnish certified copies of the records to any interested person on payment of such fee as established by subdivision 114(a)(21) of this title. Notwithstanding section 114 of this title, information from the records of the Department may be made available to government agencies in the manner determined by the Commissioner and at the actual cost of furnishing the same. The records may be maintained on microfilm or electronic imaging. Any information contained in Department records is subject to and shall be released pursuant to the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. chapter 123 as amended.

Second: By striking out Sec. 2, 23 V.S.A. § 114, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 114 is amended to read:
§ 114. FEES

(a) The Commissioner shall be paid the following fees for miscellaneous transactions:

1. Listings of 1 through 4 registrations $8.00
2. Certified copy of registration application $8.00
3. Sample plates $18.00
4. Lists of registered dealers, transporters, periodic inspection stations, fuel dealers, and distributors, including gallonage sold or delivered and rental vehicle companies $8.00 per page
5. [Repealed.]
6. Periodic inspection sticker record $8.00
7. Certified copy individual accident crash report $12.00
8. Certified copy police accident crash report $18.00
9. Certified copy suspension notice $8.00
10. Certified copy mail receipt $8.00
11. Certified copy proof of mailing $8.00
12. Certified copy reinstatement notice $8.00
13. Certified copy operator’s license application $8.00
14. Certified copy three-year operating record $14.00
15. [Repealed.]
16. Government official photo identification card $6.00
17. Listing of operator’s licenses of 1 through 4 $8.00
18. Statistics and research $42.00 per hour
19. Insurance information on crash $8.00
20. Certified copy complete operating record $20.00
21. Records not otherwise specified $8.00 per page
22. List of title records and related data elements excluding any personally identifiable information—initial computer programming $5,331.00
   Public records request for
   Department records requiring custom computer programming $100.00
   per hour, but not less than $500.00
(23) List of title records and related data elements excluding any personally identifiable information—record set on electronic media. Public records request for Department records requiring custom computer programming (updated) $119.00

(b) The Commissioner shall furnish the items listed in subsection (a) of this section only upon a request which completely identifies the information sought or pursuant to a contract with an outside entity for purposes permitted under law, including the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. chapter 123 as amended. For purposes of this subsection, a request that completely identifies the information sought for individuals an individual shall mean name and date of birth, and for vehicles it a vehicle shall mean either the registration number or the vehicle identification number.

Third: By striking out Sec. 16, 23 V.S.A. chapter 41, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 16 to read as follows:

Sec. 16. 23 V.S.A. chapter 41 is added to read:

CHAPTER 41. AUTOMATED VEHICLE TESTING

§ 4201. SHORT TITLE
This chapter may be cited as the Automated Vehicle Testing Act.

§ 4202. DEFINITIONS
As used in this chapter:

(1) “Automated driving system” means the hardware and software that are collectively capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task within its operational design domain, if any, including achieving a minimal risk condition, without any intervention or supervision by a conventional human driver.

(2) “Automated vehicle” means a motor vehicle that is equipped with an automated driving system.

(3) “Automated vehicle tester” or “tester” means an individual, company, public agency, or other organization that is testing automated vehicles on public highways in this State pursuant to this chapter including an automated vehicle manufacturer, municipal or State agency, institution of higher education, fleet service provider, or automotive equipment or technology provider.
(4) “Conventional human driver” means an individual who manually engages in-vehicle braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices in order to operate a vehicle.

(5) “Dynamic driving task” means all the real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle in on-road traffic within its specific operational design domain, if any, excluding the strategic functions such as trip scheduling and selection of destinations and waypoints.

(6) “Highly automated vehicle” means a vehicle equipped with an automated driving system capable of performing all aspects of the dynamic driving task within its operational design domain, if any, including achieving a minimal risk condition, without any intervention or supervision by a conventional human driver.

(7) “Manufacturer” means an individual or company that designs, produces, or constructs vehicles or equipment. Manufacturers include original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), multiple and final stage manufacturers, individuals or companies making changes to a completed vehicle before first retail sale or deployment (upfitters), and modifiers (individuals or companies making changes to existing vehicles after first retail sale or deployment).

(8) “Minimal risk condition” means a condition in which an automated vehicle operating without a human driver, upon experiencing a failure of its automated driving system that renders the automated vehicle unable to perform the dynamic driving task, achieves a reasonably safe state that may include bringing the automated vehicle to a complete stop.

(9) “Operational design domain” means a description of the specific domain or domains in which an automated driving system is designed to properly operate, including types of roadways, ranges of speed, weather, time of day, and environmental conditions.

(10) “Operator” means an individual employed by or under contract with an automated vehicle tester who has successfully completed the tester’s training on safe driving and the capabilities and limitations of the automated vehicle and automated driving system, can take immediate manual or remote control of the automated vehicle being tested, is 21 years of age or older, and holds an operator’s license for the class of vehicle being tested.

(11) “Public highway” means a State or municipal highway as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1(12).
§ 4203. TESTING OF AUTOMATED VEHICLES ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

(a) An automated vehicle shall not be operated on public highways for testing until the Traffic Committee as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1(24) approves a permit application for automated vehicle testers that defines the geographic scope and operational design domain for the test and demonstrates the ability of the automated vehicle tester to comply with the requirements of this section.

(b) Prior to approving a permit application, the Traffic Committee will conduct a hearing to provide for comments from the public. Legislative bodies of the municipalities where an automated vehicle will be tested shall be notified by the Traffic Committee 60 calendar days prior to the Traffic Committee hearing when the geographic scope of the test includes State highways or Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 Town Highways, as classified pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 302, within the geographic boundaries of the municipality.

(c) The Traffic Committee is authorized to approve the testing of automated vehicles on:

(1) All State highways and Class 1 Town Highways.

(2) Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of municipalities that have preapproved testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality as of the date the permit application for automated vehicle testing is filed. A municipality may immediately revoke its preapproval of automated vehicle testing by notifying the Secretary of Transportation in writing that it no longer wishes to allow testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality.

(d) The Agency of Transportation’s Automated Vehicle Testing Guide shall include a list of municipalities that have preapproved testing of automated vehicles and shall update the Automated Vehicle Testing Guide within 10 business days after a municipality notifies the Secretary of Transportation in writing that it now wishes to allow testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality or no longer wishes to allow testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality.

(e) The Traffic Committee has the sole authority to approve specific test permit applications. Municipal approval of specific testing permits is not required. Notwithstanding subdivision (c)(2) of this section, after a test permit has been approved by the Traffic Committee, all modifications to the operational design domain or other permit conditions, including changes

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affecting town highways in a preapproved testing municipality, requires
approval by the Traffic Committee.

(f) Before a test commences, the Traffic Committee shall make approved
automated vehicle test permits readily available to law enforcement and
municipalities within the geographic scope of the operational design domain
designated in the permit.

(g) The automated vehicle tester shall submit a report to the Traffic
Committee annually, until all testing ceases, summarizing results and
observations related to safety, traffic operations, interaction with roadway
infrastructure, comments from the public, and any other relevant matters.

(h) An automated vehicle tester shall not test an automated vehicle on a
public highway unless:

1) The operator is:
   - (A) seated in the driver’s seat of the automated vehicle;
   - (B) monitoring the operation of the automated vehicle; and
   - (C) capable of taking immediate manual control of such automated
     vehicle.

2) The automated vehicle tester:
   - (A) registers each automated vehicle to be tested with the
     Commissioner pursuant to chapter 7 of this title;
   - (B) submits to the Commissioner, in a manner and form directed by
     the Commissioner, proof of liability insurance, self-insurance, or a surety bond
     of at least five million dollars for damages by reason of bodily injury, death, or
     property damage caused by an automated vehicle while engaged in automated
     vehicle testing;
   - (C) has established and enforces a zero-tolerance policy for drug and
     alcohol use by operators while engaged in automated vehicle testing. The
     policy shall include provisions for investigations of alleged policy violations
     and the suspension of drivers under investigation; and
   - (D) has conducted background checks for all operators pursuant to
     section 751 of this title, which may be inspected by the Commissioner of
     Motor Vehicles or designee pursuant to section 752 of this title.

3) The operator and automated vehicle tester:
   - (A) comply with applicable standards established by the National
     Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding the testing of automated
     vehicles or are capable of providing proof of exemptions or waivers to such
     standards:
(B) report to the Agency of Transportation and the applicable law enforcement agency within 72 hours after any motor vehicle crash involving the testing of the automated vehicle that results in personal injury or property damage; and

(C) satisfy any other requirements and permit conditions as determined by the Traffic Committee as necessary to ensure the safe operation of such automated vehicles.

(i) An automated vehicle testing permit may be voided and invalidated for the trip by a law enforcement officer who determines there is a violation of any condition specified in the terms of the automated vehicle test permit or that the continuation of the trip would be unsafe.

(j) An automated vehicle testing permit may be suspended or revoked by the Traffic Committee if, after the opportunity for a hearing, the Traffic Committee determines that there is a violation of any condition or conditions specified in the terms of the automated vehicle test permit that warrants the suspension or revocation of the testing permit or that the continuation of the testing would be unsafe.

(k) Operating or testing in violation of a suspension or revocation order shall be a traffic violation for which there shall be a penalty of not more than $1,000.00.

(l) Test vehicles must be capable of operating in compliance with applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this State, subject to this subchapter.

(m) An individual shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of an automated vehicle being tested on a public highway when the individual’s blood alcohol concentration is 0.02 or more.

(n) An automated vehicle being tested on a public highway shall be clearly identifiable by the public.

Fourth: By striking out Sec. 18, automated vehicle testing implementation, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 18 to read as follows:

Sec. 18. AUTOMATED VEHICLE TESTING IMPLEMENTATION

(a) As soon as practicable, but not later than January 1, 2021, the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with Vermont’s Regional Planning Commissions, shall identify which legislative bodies of municipalities in the State have approved the testing of automated vehicles on the Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways, as classified pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 302, within the geographic boundaries of the municipality.
(b) As soon as practicable, but not later than January 1, 2021, the Agency of Transportation shall publish an Automated Vehicle Testing Guide and application form to support review by the Traffic Committee and consistent with the requirements of 23 V.S.A. § 4203 as added in Sec. 16 of this act, including that the Automated Vehicle Testing Guide include a list of municipalities that have preapproved testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality and be updated whenever a new municipality wishes to allow testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality or a municipality no longer wishes to allow testing of automated vehicles on Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways within the geographic boundaries of the municipality.

(c) The Agency of Transportation may adopt rules to implement the provisions of 23 V.S.A. chapter 41 as added in Sec. 16 of this act.

Fifth: By striking out Sec. 23, 23 V.S.A. § 631, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 23 to read as follows:

Sec. 23. 23 V.S.A. § 631 is amended to read:

§ 631. REQUIREMENTS; RULES

(a) The Commissioner may adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 governing the examination of new applicants for operator’s licenses and may prescribe what shall be requisite requirements to obtain or hold a license or learner’s permit, by either a new or renewal applicant, as to driving experience, mental and physical qualifications, and any other matter or thing which, in his or her judgment, will contribute to the selection of safe and efficient operators.

(b) Any written forms, applications, or tests used by the Department of Motor Vehicles for operator licensing shall be translated into primary languages of nations from which individuals assisted by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Vermont in the prior 10 years hail, as determined on an annual basis by the Department in consultation with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Vermont, and available at all Department locations and on the Department’s website if the English version is available. Nothing in this subsection is intended to require the Department to translate any educational manuals.

Sixth: By striking out Sec. 25, 23 V.S.A. § 4108, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 25 to read as follows:

Sec. 25. [Deleted.]
Seventh: By striking out Sec. 28, effective dates, and its accompanying reader assistance heading in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**Colored Signal Lamps**

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

§ 1252. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED LAMPS, OR BOTH; USE OF AMBER LAMPS

(a) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens or colored signal lamps in the following manner:

(1) Sirens, or blue or blue and white signal lamps, red signal lamps, or a combination of these thereof, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council. If the applicant is a constable, the application shall be accompanied by a certification by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly elected or appointed constable and attesting that the town has not voted to limit the constable’s authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a.

(2) Sirens and red or white signal lamps may be authorized for all ambulances, fire apparatus and other emergency medical service (EMS) vehicles, vehicles owned or leased by a fire department, vehicles used solely in rescue operations, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer firefighters and voluntary rescue squad members, including a vehicle owned by a volunteer’s employer when the volunteer has the written authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for emergency fire or rescue activities. A single blue signal lamp may be authorized for all ambulances, other EMS vehicles, and vehicles owned or leased by a fire department or rescue squad organization, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp to be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

(3) No vehicle may be authorized a permit for more than one of the combinations described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(4) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

(5) Upon application to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may issue a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

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Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps, or sirens and blue or blue and white signal lamps, may be authorized for restored emergency or enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and lamps authorized under this subdivision may only be activated during an exhibition, such as a car show or parade.

(b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all registered snow removal equipment when in use removing snow on public highways and the amber lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all sides of the motor vehicle. A vehicle equipped with an amber signal lamp may not be issued a permit for the installation and use of a siren.

* * * Junior Operator Use of Portable Electronic Devices * * *

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 1095a(d) is added to read:

(d)(1) A person who violates this section commits a traffic violation as defined in section 2302 of this title and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100.00 and not more than $200.00 for a first violation, and of not less than $250.00 and not more than $500.00 for a second or subsequent violation within any two-year period.

(2) A person convicted of violating this section while operating within the following areas shall have four points assessed against his or her driving record for a first conviction and five points assessed for a second or subsequent conviction:

(A) a properly designated work zone in which construction, maintenance, or utility personnel are present; or

(B) a school zone marked with warning signs conforming to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

(3) A person convicted of violating this section outside the areas designated in subdivision (2) of this subsection shall have two points assessed against his or her driving record.

Sec. 29a. 23 V.S.A. § 2502 is amended to read:

§ 2502. POINT ASSESSMENT; SCHEDULE

(a) Unless the assessment of points is waived by a Superior judge or a Judicial Bureau hearing officer in the interests of justice and in accordance with subsection 2501(b) of this title, a person operating a motor vehicle shall have points assessed against his or her driving record for convictions for moving violations of the indicated motor vehicle statutes in accord with the
following schedule: (All references are to Title 23 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.)

(1) Two points assessed for:

* * *

(LL)(i) § 1095. Entertainment picture visible to operator;

(ii) § 1095a(d)(3). Junior operator use of portable electronic device outside work or school zone;

(iii) § 1095b(c)(3). Use of portable electronic device outside work or school zone;

* * *

(3) Four points assessed for:

* * *

(E) § 1095a(d)(2). Junior operator use of portable electronic device in work or school zone—first offense;

(F) § 1095b(c)(2). Use of portable electronic device in work or school zone—first offense;

(4) Five points assessed for:

* * *

(D) § 1095a(d)(2). Junior operator use of portable electronic device in work or school zone—second and subsequent offenses;

(E) § 1095b(c)(2). Use of portable electronic device in work or school zone—second and subsequent offenses;

* * *

* * * Master License Agreement Study * * *

Sec. 30. STUDY ON THE AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION’S USE OF MASTER LICENSE AGREEMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, shall report back to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before November 15, 2019 concerning the use and
contents of master license agreements and other agreements or contracts by the Agency of Transportation when a municipality, utility, or other person needs to use the right-of-way for the line of railroad owned by the State. The report shall include the history of the Agency’s use of master license agreements and other agreements or contracts, including the contents thereof; alternatives to the use of such agreements; whether a municipality or municipal operated utility can secure sufficient insurance coverage to enter into the Agency’s current iteration of the standard conditions to the master license agreement it uses when a municipality, utility, or other person needs to use the right-of-way for the line of railroad owned by the State; and what other states do when a municipality, utility, or other person needs to use the right-of-way for any state-owned railroad lines.

** * * * Safety Belts * * * **

Sec. 31. 23 V.S.A. § 1259 is amended to read:

§ 1259. SAFETY BELTS; PERSONS AGE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER

*(e)* This section may be enforced only if a law enforcement officer has detained the operator of a motor vehicle for another suspected traffic violation. An operator shall not be subject to the penalty established in this section unless the operator is required to pay a penalty for the primary violation. [Repealed.]

(f) The penalty for violation of this section shall be as follows:

(1) $25.00 $0.00 for a first violation;
(2) $50.00 $25.00 for a second violation;
(3) $50.00 for a third violation; and
(4) $100.00 for third fourth and subsequent violations.

Sec. 31a. REPORTING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, in consultation with law enforcement agencies, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and on Judiciary on or before the 15th day of January in 2022, 2023, and 2024 containing, for the prior State fiscal year:

(1) the total number of traffic stops broken out by race of the driver involved in the traffic stop; and
(2) the following information for all traffic stops involving safety belts not worn by persons 18 years of age or over:
(A) the age, gender, and race of the driver involved in the traffic stop;

(B) the reason for the traffic stop;

(C) the type of search conducted, if any;

(D) the evidence located, if any;

(E) the outcome of the traffic stop, including whether:
   (i) a written warning was issued,
   (ii) a citation for a civil ticket was issued;
   (iii) a citation or arrest for a misdemeanor or a felony occurred; or
   (iv) no subsequent action was taken;

(F) summary data broken out by age, gender, race, and outcome of the traffic stop where the reason for the stop was the primary enforcement of a person 18 years of age or over not wearing a safety belt; and

(G) summary data broken out by age, gender, race, and outcome of the traffic stop where the reason for the stop was for any reason other than the primary enforcement of a person 18 years of age or over not wearing a safety belt.

*** Motor Vehicle Registrations ***

Sec. 32. 23 V.S.A. § 307 is amended to read:

§ 307. CARRYING OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE; REPLACEMENT AND CORRECTED CERTIFICATES

(a) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle nor draw a trailer or semi-trailer unless all required registration certificates are carried in some easily accessible place in the motor vehicle.

(b) In case of the loss, mutilation, or destruction of a certificate, the owner of the vehicle described in it shall forthwith notify the Commissioner and remit a fee of $16.00, upon receipt of which the Commissioner shall furnish the owner with a duplicate certificate.

(c) A corrected registration certificate shall be furnished by the Commissioner upon request and receipt of a fee of $16.00.

(d) An operator cited for violating subsection (a) of this section with respect to a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $5.00, which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if
he or she is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of the motor vehicle’s registration.

Sec. 33. 23 V.S.A. § 511 is amended to read:

§ 511. MANNER OF DISPLAY

(a) A motor vehicle operated on any highway shall have displayed in a conspicuous place either one or two number plates as the Commissioner may require. Such number plates shall be furnished by the Commissioner and shall show the number assigned to such vehicle by the Commissioner. If only one number plate is furnished, the same shall be securely attached to the rear of the vehicle. If two are furnished, one shall be securely attached to the rear and one to the front of the vehicle. The number plates shall be kept entirely unobscured, and the numerals and the letters thereon shall be plainly legible at all times. They shall be kept horizontal, shall be so fastened as not to swing, excepting however, there may be installed on a motor truck or truck tractor a device which would, upon contact with a substantial object, permit the rear number plate to swing toward the front of the vehicle, provided such device automatically returns the number plate to its original rigid position after contact is released, and the ground clearance of the lower edges thereof shall be established by the Commissioner pursuant to the provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(b) A registration validation sticker shall be unobstructed, and shall be affixed as follows:

(1) for vehicles issued registration plates with dimensions of approximately 12 × 6 inches, in the lower right corner of the rear registration plate; and

(2) for vehicles issued a registration plate with a dimension of approximately 7 × 4 inches, in the upper right corner of the rear registration plate.

(c) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless number plates and a validation sticker are displayed as provided in this section.

(d) An operator cited for violating subsection (c) of this section with respect to failure to display a validation sticker on a pleasure car, motorcycle, or truck that could be registered for less than 26,001 pounds shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $5.00, which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if he or she is cited within the 14 days following the expiration of the motor vehicle’s registration.
**Motor Vehicle Inspections**

Sec. 34. 23 V.S.A. § 1222(c) is amended to read:

(c) A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless it has been inspected as required by this section and has a valid certification of inspection affixed to it. A person shall be subject to a **fine civil penalty** of not more than $5.00, which penalty shall be exempt from surcharges under 13 V.S.A. § 7282(a), if he or she is cited for a violation of this section within the 14 days following expiration of the motor vehicle inspection sticker. The month of next inspection for all motor vehicles shall be shown on the current inspection certificate affixed to the vehicle.

**Effective Dates**

Sec. 35. **EFFECTIVE DATES**

(a) This section and Secs. 26 (Department of Motor Vehicles training), 27 (translated documents and use of interpreters implementation), and 30 (master license agreement study) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 23 (written forms) and 24 (examination required) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(c) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

**NOTICE CALENDAR**

Second Reading

Favorable with Proposal of Amendment

H. 13.

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to alcoholic beverage and tobacco laws.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: In Sec. 3, 7 V.S.A. § 64, after “who intentionally removes or defaces the label attached to a keg shall be” by striking out “imprisoned not more than **two years** **one year** or”, and after “fined not more than $1,000.00” by striking out “, or both”.
Second: By striking out Sec. 15, 7 V.S.A. § 1005, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 15 to read as follows:

Sec. 15. [Deleted.]

Third: By striking out Sec. 45, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new Secs. 45–47 and their respective reader assistance headings to read as follows:

* * * Tax on Spirits and Fortified Wines * * *

Sec. 45. 7 V.S.A. § 422 is amended to read:

§ 422. TAX ON SPIRITS AND FORTIFIED WINES

(a) A tax of five percent is assessed on the gross revenue from the sale of spirits and fortified wines in the State of Vermont by the Board of Liquor and Lottery or the retail sale of spirits and fortified wines in Vermont by a manufacturer or rectifier of spirits or fortified wines, in accordance with the provisions of this title. The tax shall be at the following rates based on the gross revenue of the retail sales by the seller in the current year:

(1) if the gross revenue of the seller is $500,000.00 or lower, the rate of tax is five percent;

(2) if the gross revenue of the seller is between $500,000.00 and $750,000.00, the rate of tax is $25,000.00 plus 10 percent of the gross revenues over $500,000.00;

(3) if the gross revenue of the seller is $750,000.00 or more, the rate of tax is 25 percent.

* * *

* * * Board of Liquor and Lottery; Duties * * *

Sec. 46. 7 V.S.A. § 104 is amended to read:

§ 104. DUTIES; AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

The Board shall supervise and manage the sale of spirits and fortified wines within the State in accordance with the provisions of this title, and through the Commissioner of Liquor and Lottery shall:

* * *

(13) Set and periodically revise the prices for spirits and fortified wines sold in Vermont in a manner that is designed to ensure that the Department generates revenue for the State that is equal to or greater than the revenue generated by the Department during the prior fiscal year.
Sec. 47. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 19, 2019, pages 429-449)

Reported favorably by Senator Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and when so amended ought to pass.

(Committee vote: 5-1-1)

H. 529.

An act relating to the Transportation Program and miscellaneous changes to laws related to transportation.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Mazza for the Committee on Transportation.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

*** Transportation Program Adopted as Amended; Definitions ***

Sec. 1. TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADOPTED AS AMENDED; DEFINITIONS

(a) The Agency of Transportation’s proposed fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program appended to the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019), as amended by this act, is adopted to the extent federal, State, and local funds are available.

(b) As used in this act, unless otherwise indicated:

(1) “Agency” means the Agency of Transportation.

(2) “Electric vehicle supply equipment” has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 201 as amended by Sec. 30 of this act.

(3) “Plug-in electric vehicle” has the same meaning as in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) as added by Sec. 29 of this act and is abbreviated “PEV.”
(4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(5) The table heading “As Proposed” means the Transportation Program referenced in subsection (a) of this section; the table heading “As Amended” means the amendments as made by this act; the table heading “Change” means the difference obtained by subtracting the “As Proposed” figure from the “As Amended” figure; and the terms “change” or “changes” in the text refer to the project- and program-specific amendments, the aggregate sum of which equals the net “Change” in the applicable table heading.

(6) “TIB funds” means monies deposited into the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Fund in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 11f.

(c) In the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Public Transit, the abbreviation “FAA” is struck and “FTA” is inserted in lieu thereof.

* * * Summary of Transportation Investments * * *

Sec. 2. FISCAL YEAR 2020 TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS INTENDED TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, REDUCE FOSSIL FUEL USE, AND SAVE VERMONT HOUSEHOLDS MONEY

This act includes the State’s fiscal year 2020 transportation investments intended to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fossil fuel use, and save Vermont households money in furtherance of the policies articulated in 19 V.S.A. § 10b and the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan, and to satisfy the Executive and Legislative Branches’ commitments to the Paris Agreement climate goals. In fiscal year 2020, these efforts will include the following:

(1) Park and Ride Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $2,651,588.00, which will fund four park and ride construction projects—creating 277 new spaces across the State—and the design of five additional facilities—totaling 277 additional spaces—scheduled for construction in fiscal year 2021. Once completed, these 554 new park and ride spaces will increase the number of State-owned parking spaces by 34 percent. Specific additions and improvements include:

(A) Williston - Construction of 142 spaces;
(B) Saint Johnsbury - Construction of 44 spaces;
(C) Royalton - Construction of 91 spaces;
(D) Cambridge - Improvements to existing spaces;
(E) Thetford - Design for 40 spaces;
(F) Berlin (Exit 6) - Design for 62 spaces;
(G) Berlin (Exit 7) - Design for 75 spaces;
(H) Manchester - Design for 50 spaces; and
(I) Williamstown - Design for 50 spaces.

(2) Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $14,737,044.00, which will fund 34 bike and pedestrian construction projects, and 20 bike and pedestrian design or right-of-way projects, or both, for construction in fiscal year 2021. The construction projects include the creation, improvement, or rehabilitation of walkways, sidewalks, shared use paths, bike paths, and cycling lanes. Projects are funded in Albany, Arlington, Bennington, Burlington, Castleton, Chester, Colchester, Dover, East Montpelier, Enosburg Falls, Essex, Fair Haven, Fairfield, Franklin, Hardwick, Hartford, Hinesburg, Jericho, Lake Champlain causeway, Manchester, Middlebury, Milton, Montpelier-Berlin, Moretown, Norwich, Pittsford, Plainfield, Pownal, Richford, Royalton, Rutland City, South Burlington, Springfield, Stowe, Sheldon, Swanton, Thetford, Underhill, Waitsfield, Waterbury, West Rutland, Williston, and Winooski.

(3) Transportation Alternatives Program. This act provides for a fiscal year expenditure of $4,085,772.00, which will fund 21 transportation alternatives construction projects and 14 design or right-of-way projects, or both. Of these 35 projects, 12 involve environmental mitigation related to clean water or stormwater concerns, or both, and the remaining 23 involve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Projects are funded in Bennington, Brandon, Burlington, Castleton, Chester, Colchester, East Montpelier, Enosburg, Essex, Essex Junction, Hartford, Hyde Park, Jericho, Montpelier, Newfane, Pomfret, Putney, Rutland City, Shelburne, South Burlington, Springfield, St. Albans, St. Johnsbury, Thetford, Williston, Wilmington, and Winooski.

(4) Public Transit Program. This act authorizes $36,824,399.00 in funding for public transit uses throughout the State, which is a 17.2 percent increase over fiscal year 2019 levels. This authorization includes $1,884,000.00 for two large all-electric transit buses for the Burlington area, $480,000.00 for two all-electric small shuttle buses for the Montpelier area, and $3,000,000.00 from the Federal Transit Authority that flows through the State directly to the Green Mountain Transportation Authority. Also included in the authorization are:

(A) Go! Vermont at $858,434.00, which supports the promotion and use of carpools and vanpools.
(B) Barre Transit Expansion at $275,000.00, which increases service available through Barre Transit.

(C) Capital Commuters at $100,000.00, which provides discounted bus passes to those commuting to work in Montpelier.

(D) Vermont Kidney Association Grant at $50,000.00, which supports the transit needs of Vermonters in need of dialysis services.

(5) Rail Program. This act authorizes $35,983,865.00 for passenger and freight rail uses throughout the State, which is an 11 percent increase over fiscal year 2019 levels. This authorization includes $5,200,000.00 for infrastructure upgrades to bring passenger rail service to Burlington from Rutland and $8,300,000.00 to support Amtrak service. Since one freight rail car holds the equivalent of four tractor trailer trucks, increased usage of freight rail lines will reduce carbon emissions and minimize wear and tear on the State’s highway network.

(6) Multi-Modal Facilities Program. This act authorizes $1,250,000.00 to complete the $7,750,000.00 multi-modal transit center, bike path, and pedestrian facility in Montpelier.

(7) Transformation of the State Vehicle Fleet. The State Vehicle Fleet, which is under the management of the Department of Buildings and General Services, contains 734 vehicles. Presently, 54 of those vehicles are hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles. Secs. 40, 41, and 42 of this act will require that not less than 50 percent of vehicles purchased or leased by the Department of Buildings and General Services on or after July 1, 2019 be hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles, and not less than 75 percent beginning July 1, 2021.

(8) Vehicle incentive and emissions repair programs. Sec. 34 of this act authorizes $1,500,000.00 to support two programs.

   (A) Plug-in electric vehicle incentive program. This program will offer financial incentives to income-eligible Vermont households purchasing or leasing new plug-in electric vehicles. As more fully described in Sec. 34 of this act, the Agency of Transportation will administer this program, which will be offered on a first-come first-served basis until the funds are exhausted.

   (B) High fuel efficiency vehicle incentive and emissions repair program. This program will offer financial incentives to income-eligible Vermont households to replace older, fuel inefficient vehicles with used high fuel efficiency vehicles, including hybrid vehicles, and emissions repair vouchers for certain vehicles that failed the on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection but could, with less than $2,500.00 in emissions repair work, pass the OBD systems inspection. As more fully described in Sec. 34 of
this act, the Agency of Transportation will administer this program, which will target incentives to households that are served by the State’s network of community action agencies. These households, for whom the purchase of new plug-in electric vehicles is financially out of reach, will benefit financially by switching to far more efficient vehicles as envisioned by this program or having emissions repair work done to their existing vehicle.

(9) Report on methods to increase public transit ridership. This act, through the spending authorization for the Policy and Planning Program, includes funding for and direction to the Agency of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive study of strategies to increase public transit ridership, with an emphasis on rural areas.

(10) Report on time-of-acquisition feebates. This act, through the spending authorization for the Policy and Planning Program, includes funding for and directs the Agency of Transportation to conduct a study on time-of-acquisition feebates and make a recommendation on whether Vermont should establish a time-of-acquisition feebate program on the purchase and lease, if applicable, of new vehicles. Such a program would establish one or more levels of fuel efficiency based on miles per gallon or miles per gallon equivalent and provide an immediate cash incentive for vehicles that exceed that level, or levels, or assess a financial fee on vehicles that perform less than the established level, or levels.

(11) Report on weight-based annual registration fees. This act, through the spending authorization for the Policy and Planning Program, includes funding for and directs the Agency of Transportation to conduct a study on whether Vermont should establish an annual vehicle registration fee schedule based upon the weight of the vehicle. As gas sales decline, revenues to support transportation infrastructure will continue to decline if not replaced with another source reflecting impact on roads, the environment, and State policies.

(12) Plug-in electric vehicle charging regulatory report. This act lays the groundwork for a regulatory structure in support of transportation electrification. The policies in this act, combined with impending action at the Public Utility Commission, will provide predictability for plug-in electric vehicle owners and the sustainability of Vermont’s transportation infrastructure.

(13) Electrification of the State’s motor vehicle fleet. This act, in concert with the Big Bill, appropriates $512,000.00 to electrify the State’s motor vehicle pool. The expenditures support the purchase of 12 fully electric vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment at the following State facilities:
(A) 134 State St., Montpelier;
(B) Rutland;
(C) Springfield; and
(D) Barre.

(14) Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI). This act, through the spending authorization for the Policy and Planning Program, supports staff work in collaboration with the Agency of Natural Resources to negotiate the Transportation and Climate Initiative agreement with other participating jurisdictions. TCI jurisdictions are negotiating a regional low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would cap and reduce carbon emissions from the combustion of transportation fuels through a cap-and-invest program or other pricing mechanism and allow each TCI jurisdiction to invest proceeds from the program into low-carbon and more resilient transportation infrastructure.

* * * Amendments to Transportation Program – Program Development * * *

Sec. 3. FISCAL YEAR SPENDING AUTHORITY; PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

If the Agency’s fiscal year 2019 maintenance of effort requirement is attained and toll credits are approved by the Federal Highway Administration in fiscal year 2020, then spending authority in Program Development in the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) is amended as follows:

(1) transportation funds is reduced by the amount of toll credits approved, but not to exceed $845,416.64; and

(2) federal funds is increased by the amount of toll credits approved, but not to exceed $845,416.64.

Sec. 4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT; ROADWAY

(a) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Program Development—Roadway authorized spending for Burlington MEGC M 5001 (1) is amended as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>As Proposed</th>
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<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Sources of funds

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(b) Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Program Development—Roadway authorized spending for Waterbury FEGC F 013-4(13) is amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY20</th>
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Sec. 5. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT; TRAFFIC & SAFETY

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Program Development—Traffic & Safety authorized spending for Shelburne – South Burlington – NHG SGNL(51) is amended as follows:

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</table>

- 1619 -
Sec. 6. SPENDING AUTHORITY IN THE MUNICIPAL MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(a) Spending authority for grants in the Municipal Mitigation Assistance Program in the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) is increased by $135,000.00 in transportation funds.

(b) If the Agency’s fiscal year 2019 maintenance of effort requirement is attained and toll credits are approved by the Federal Highway Administration in fiscal year 2020, then spending authority for grants in the Municipal Mitigation Assistance Program in the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) is further increased by the amount of toll credits approved, but not to exceed $845,416.64.

Sec. 7. OPIOID TREATMENT PILOT

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Public Transit authorized spending for Opioid Treatment Pilot is amended as follows:

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<tr>
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Sources of funds

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<tr>
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Sec. 8. CLARENDON SRE BUILDING

Within the Agency of Transportation’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019) for Aviation authorized spending for Clarendon SRE Building is amended as follows:

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Sources of funds:

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>658,472</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Voluntary Cancellation of Municipal Projects ***

Sec. 9. 19 V.S.A. § 10g(h) is amended to read:

(h) Should capital projects in the Transportation Program be delayed because of unanticipated problems with permitting, right-of-way acquisition, construction, local concern, or availability of federal or State funds, the Secretary is authorized to advance projects in the approved Transportation Program. The Secretary is further authorized to undertake projects to resolve emergency or safety issues. Upon authorizing a project to resolve an emergency or safety issue, the Secretary shall give prompt notice of the decision and action taken to the Joint Fiscal Office and to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation when the General Assembly is in session, and when the General Assembly is not in session, to the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, the Joint Fiscal Office, and the Joint Fiscal Committee. Should an approved project in the current Transportation Program require additional funding to maintain the approved schedule, the Agency is authorized to allocate the necessary resources. However, the Secretary shall not delay or suspend work on approved projects to reallocate funding for other projects except when other funding options are not available. In such case, the Secretary shall notify the members of the Joint Transportation Oversight Committee, and the Joint Fiscal Office, and the Joint Fiscal Committee when the General Assembly is not in session and the House and Senate Committees on Transportation and the Joint Fiscal Office when the General Assembly is in session. With respect to projects in the approved Transportation Program, the Secretary shall notify, in the district affected, the regional planning commission, the municipality, Legislators, members of the Senate and House Committees on Transportation, and the Joint Fiscal Office of
any change which likely will affect the fiscal year in which the project is planned to go to construction. No project shall be canceled without the approval of the General Assembly, except that the Agency may cancel a municipal project when requested by the municipality or when the Agency and the municipality concur that the project no longer is necessary.

* * * Project Additions * * *

Sec. 10. ADDITION OF COLCHESTER – BAYSIDE INTERSECTION PROJECT

The following project is added to the candidate list of Program Development—Traffic & Safety Program within the Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019): Colchester – Bayside Intersection Roundabout and Stormwater Improvements.

Sec. 11. ADDITION OF SHELBURNE – SOUTH BURLINGTON PROJECT AND SPENDING AUTHORITY

(a) The following project is added to the candidate list of the Program Development—Traffic & Safety Program within the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program (Revised February 21, 2019): Shelburne – South Burlington – Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures.

(b) Spending authority for the Shelburne – South Burlington – Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures project is authorized as follows:

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Sources of funds

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* * * BUILD Grant Acceptance * * *

Sec. 12. BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) GRANT (RAIL)

Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5 (acceptance of grants) and 19 V.S.A. § 7(k) (Secretary; powers and duties), the Agency of Transportation is authorized to accept the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
grant awarded in federal fiscal year 2019 for the Vermont Regional Freight Rail Corridor Upgrade Project in the amount of $20,000,000.00.

** CRISI Grant Acceptance and Project Addition **

Sec. 13. CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (CRISI) GRANT (RAIL)

(a) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 5 (acceptance of grants) and 19 V.S.A. § 7(k) (Secretary; powers and duties), the Agency of Transportation is authorized to accept the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant in the amount of $2,082,519.00 for the following project, which is added to the fiscal year 2020 Transportation Program: Windsor – St. Albans CRISI (17) Vermonter Amtrak Safety Project.

(b) Spending authority for the Windsor – St. Albans CRISI (17) Vermonter Amtrak Safety Project is authorized as follows:

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** Central Garage **

Sec. 14. TRANSFER TO CENTRAL GARAGE FUND

Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 13(c)(1), in fiscal year 2020, the amount of $355,358.00 is transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Central Garage Fund created in 19 V.S.A. § 13.

Sec. 15. CENTRAL GARAGE EQUIPMENT

Authorized spending in fiscal year 2020 for operating expenses in the Central Garage is reduced by $39,904.00 in internal service funds.

Sec. 16. 19 V.S.A. § 13(c)(1) is amended to read:

(c)(1) For the purpose specified in subsection (b) of this section, the following amount shall be transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Central Garage Fund:

(A) in fiscal year 2019 $1,318,442.00 and $1,355,358.00; and
(B) in subsequent fiscal years, at a minimum, the amount specified in
subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) as adjusted annually by increasing the previous fiscal year’s amount by the percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) during the previous two most recently closed State fiscal year years.

* * * State Aid for Town Highways * * *

Sec. 17. 19 V.S.A. § 306(a) is amended to read:

§ 306. APPROPRIATION; STATE AID FOR TOWN HIGHWAYS

(a) General State aid to town highways.

(1) An annual appropriation to class 1, 2, and 3 town highways shall be made. This appropriation shall increase over the previous fiscal year’s appropriation by the same percentage as the following, whichever is less:

(A) the year-over-year increase in the two most recently closed fiscal years in the Agency’s total appropriations funded by Transportation Fund revenues, excluding the appropriation for town highways under this subsection (a) for that year; or

(B) the percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) during the previous State fiscal year same period in subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection.

(2) If the year-over-year change in appropriations specified in either subdivision (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection is negative, then the appropriation to town highways under this subsection shall be equal to the previous fiscal year’s appropriation.

(3) The funds appropriated shall be distributed to towns as follows:

(A) Six percent of the State’s annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 1 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town’s percentage of class 1 town highways of the total class 1 town highway mileage in the State.

(B) Forty-four percent of the State’s annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 2 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town’s percentage of class 2 town highways of the total class 2 town highway mileage in the State.

(C) Fifty percent of the State’s annual town highway appropriation shall be apportioned to class 3 town highways. The apportionment for each town shall be that town’s percentage of class 3 town highways of the total class 3 town highway mileage in the State.
(D) Monies apportioned under subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall be distributed to each town in quarterly payments beginning July 15 in each year.

(E) Each town shall use the monies apportioned to it solely for town highway construction, improvement, and maintenance purposes or as the nonfederal share for public transit assistance. These funds may also be used for the establishment and maintenance of bicycle routes and sidewalks. The members of the selectboard shall be personally liable to the State, in a civil action brought by the Attorney General, for making any unauthorized expenditures from money apportioned to the town under this section.

* * * Public Transit Funding * * *

Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 5083 is amended to read:

§ 5083. DECLARATION OF POLICY

(a) It shall be the State’s policy to make maximum use of available federal funds for the support of public transportation. State operating support funds shall be included in Agency operating budgets to the extent that funds are available. State policy shall support the maintenance of existing public transit services and creation of new services including, in order of precedence, the following goals:

(1) Provision for basic mobility for transit-dependent persons, as defined in the current public transit policy plan of January 15, 2000, including meeting the performance standards for urban, suburban, and rural areas. The density of a service area’s population is an important factor in determining whether the service offered is fixed route, demand-response, or volunteer drivers.

(2) Expanding public transit service in rural areas and increasing ridership statewide.

(3) Access to employment, including creation of demand-response service.

(3)(4) Congestion mitigation to preserve air quality, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and sustain the highway network.

(4) Advancement of economic development objectives, including services for workers and visitors that support the travel and tourism industry. Applicants for “new starts” in this service sector shall demonstrate a high level of locally derived income for operating costs from fare-box recovery, contract income, or other income.
(b) The Agency of Transportation shall evaluate proposals for new public transit service submitted by providers in response to a notice of funding availability, by examining feasibility studies submitted by providers. The feasibility studies shall address criteria set forth in the most recent public transit policy plan.

(c) The Agency, in cooperation with the Public Transit Advisory Council, shall adopt appropriate performance and service standards for transit systems receiving federal or State assistance. The Agency of Transportation shall provide guidance, training, funding, and technical assistance to transit systems in order to meet the performance and service standards established.

(d) The Agency of Transportation shall provide written guidance, funding, and technical assistance in the preparation of financial and management plans for public transit systems for each fiscal year. To provide a foundation for financial stability and reliability in the provision of transportation services to the public, the Agency of Transportation shall, in cooperation with the Public Transit Advisory Council, establish both short and long-range fiscal, operating, and capital investment plans to support the goals outlined in this section and regional transportation development plan proposals and regional plans as required by section 5089 of this title.

Sec. 19. 24 V.S.A. § 5091(i) is amended to read:

(i) To implement The Agency of Transportation shall distribute State and federal funds to public transit systems through an annual competitive program that implements the public transportation policy goals set forth in section 5083 of this title and 19 V.S.A. § 10f, the Agency of Transportation shall use the following formula for distribution of operating funds to public transit systems:

(1) (A) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State’s population of elders (persons age 60 and above) in each of the designated transit service areas;

(B) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State’s youth population (persons ages 12 through 17) in each of the designated transit service areas;

(C) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State’s population of people who have limited physical mobility in each of the designated transit service areas;

(D) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State’s population of people who are in poverty in each of the designated transit service areas;

(E) 10 percent based on the percentage of the State’s households lacking access to an automobile in each of the designated transit service areas.
(2) 20 percent of operating funds shall be based on need for employment transportation, as measured by the percentage of the State’s employed persons residing in each of the designated transit service areas, using data developed by the Vermont Department of Labor. [Repealed.]

(3) 15 percent of operating funds shall be based on the need for congestion mitigation and air quality, as measured by the percentage of the State’s overall population living in high density areas in each of the designated transit service areas, using data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. [Repealed.]

(4) 15 percent of the operating funds shall be based on need for economic development transportation, as measured by the percentage of the State’s jobs in each of the designated transit service areas, using data developed annually by the Vermont Department of Labor. [Repealed.]

**Public Transit Study**

Sec. 20. STUDY OF METHODS TO INCREASE PUBLIC TRANSIT RIDERSHIP IN VERMONT

(a) The Agency of Transportation shall, in consultation with stakeholders, study methods to increase use of public transit in Vermont for both residents and visitors. This study shall review the Agency’s current initiatives and those in other territories, states, and countries; review literature, marketing, and activities regarding methods to increase ridership with special emphasis on rural areas; determine unmet needs from current studies; examine the benefit of providing local connectivity to transit; and evaluate what factors affect public transit ridership in Vermont.

(c) The Agency shall deliver a written report of its findings and any recommendations, including where and how to make the most effective improvements in service and criteria to use to determine the priorities of investments, to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 2020.

(d) The Agency shall evaluate recommendations for potential inclusion in its fiscal year 2021 budget proposal and estimated funding necessary to achieve the recommendations for any new initiatives identified in the study.

**State Highway Condemnation and Acquisition**

Sec. 21. 19 V.S.A. § 503(d) is amended to read:

(d) Notice and other documents. The Agency shall hand-deliver or send by mail to interested persons owners of property to be acquired a notice of
procedures and rights and the offer of just compensation. The notice of procedures and rights shall include an explanation of the proposed State highway project and its purpose, and statements that:

* * *

Sec. 22. 19 V.S.A. § 504(a) is amended to read:

(a) Verified complaint. If a property owner has not entered into an agreement stipulating to the necessity of a taking and the public purpose of a highway project, and the Agency wishes to proceed with the taking, the Agency shall file a verified complaint in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in a county where the project is located seeking a judgment of condemnation. The complaint shall name as defendants each interested person property owner who has not stipulated to a proposed taking, and shall include:

1. Statements that the Agency has complied with subsection 503(d) of this chapter.
2. The Agency’s written determination of necessity.
3. A general description of the negotiations undertaken.
4. A survey of the proposed project, and legal descriptions of the property and of the interests therein proposed to be taken. As used in this subdivision, “survey” means a plan, profile, or cross section of the proposed project. The survey and legal descriptions served upon the property owner only need to include the particular property or properties at issue.

Sec. 23. 19 V.S.A. § 502(a) is amended to read:

(a) Authority. The Agency, when in its judgment the interest interests of the State requires, may take any property necessary to lay out, relocate, alter, construct, reconstruct, maintain, repair, widen, grade, or improve any State highway, including affected portions of town highways. In furtherance of these purposes, the Agency may enter upon lands to conduct necessary examinations and surveys; however, the Agency shall do this work with minimum damage to the land and disturbance to the owners and shall be subject to liability for actual damages. All property taken permanently shall be taken in fee simple whenever practicable. The Agency’s acquisition of property pursuant to this chapter, whether by condemnation or conveyance in lieu of condemnation, shall not require subdivision approval under any law, regulation, or municipal ordinance. For all State highway projects involving property acquisitions, the Agency shall follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act (“Act”) (Act) and its implementing regulations, as may be amended.
**Public-Private Partnership (P3) Definition**

Sec. 24. 19 V.S.A. § 2612(4) is amended to read:

(4) “Public-private partnership” or “P3” means an alternative project delivery mechanism that may be used by the Agency to permit private sector participation in a project, including in its financing, development, operation, management, ownership, leasing, or maintenance. As used in this subchapter, “partnership” shall refer solely to a “public-private partnership” and “partner” shall refer to the State or to the private entity participant or participants in a public-private partnership.

**Highway Work; Minimum Wages**

Sec. 25. 19 V.S.A. § 18 is amended to read:

§ 18. WAGES

In making up specifications and advertising for bids on highway work, the board Agency shall fix, subject to local conditions, the minimum wage per hour for various classes of labor and the minimum to be paid per hour or per cubic yard for trucks which the contractor shall be bound to pay.

**Junior Operator Use of Portable Electronic Devices**

Sec. 26. 23 V.S.A. § 1095a(d) is added to read:

(d) A person who violates this section commits a traffic violation as defined in section 2302 of this title and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100.00 and not more than $200.00 for a first violation, and of not less than $250.00 and not more than $500.00 for a second or subsequent violation within any two-year period.

**School Bus Driver Blood Alcohol Content Limitation**

Sec. 27. 23 V.S.A. § 1201(a) is amended to read:

(a) A person shall not operate, attempt to operate, or be in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway:

(1) when the person’s alcohol concentration is 0.08 or more, or 0.02 or more if the person is operating a school bus as defined in subdivision 4(34) of this title vehicle when the operation requires an operator’s license with a school bus endorsement; or

**School Bus Driver Blood Alcohol Content Limitation**

- 1629 -
**Evidentiary Blood Sample**

Sec. 28. 23 V.S.A. § 1203(b) is amended to read:

(b) Only a physician, licensed nurse, medical technician, physician assistant, medical technologist, or laboratory assistant, intermediate or advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic acting at the request of a law enforcement officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol or other drug. This limitation does not apply to the taking of a breath sample. A medical facility or business may not charge more than $75.00 for services rendered when an individual is brought to a facility for the sole purpose of an evidentiary blood sample or when an emergency medical technician or paramedic draws an evidentiary blood sample.

**Electric Vehicle Definitions**

Sec. 29. 23 V.S.A. § 4(85) is added to read:

(85) “Plug-in electric vehicle” means a motor vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system, such as from storage batteries or other portable electrical energy storage devices provided that the vehicle can draw recharge energy from a source off the vehicle such as electric vehicle supply equipment. A “plug-in electric vehicle” includes both a motor vehicle that can only be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system and a motor vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor drawing current from a rechargeable energy storage system but also has an onboard combustion engine.

Sec. 30. 30 V.S.A. § 201 is amended to read:

§ 201. DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this chapter, the word “company”:

(1) “Company” or “companies” means and includes individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, and municipalities owning or conducting any public service business or property used in connection therewith and covered by the provisions of this chapter. The term “company” or “companies” also includes electric cooperatives organized and operating under chapter 81 of this title, the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority to the extent not inconsistent with chapter 84 of this title, and the Vermont Hydroelectric Power Authority to the extent not inconsistent with chapter 90 of this title. In the context of actions requiring prior approval under section 107 of this title, the term “company” shall also mean any individual, partnership, association, corporation, group, syndicate, operating division,
joint stock company, trust, other entity, or municipality which would be defined as a company pursuant to this section if such approval were to be granted.

(2) “Electric vehicle supply equipment” means a device or system designed and used specifically to transfer electrical energy to a plug-in electric vehicle as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85), either as charge transferred via a physical or wireless connection, by loading a fully charged battery, or by other means. “Electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public” shall:

(A) be located at a publicly available parking space, which does not include a parking space that is part of or associated with a private residence or a parking space that is reserved for the exclusive use of an individual driver, vehicle, or group of drivers or vehicles including employees, tenants, visitors, residents of a common interest development, residents of an adjacent building, or customers of a business whose primary business is not electric vehicle charging;

(B) disclose all charges for the use of the electric vehicle supply equipment at the point of sale; and

(C) provide multiple payment options that allow access by the public, if a fee is required, and shall not require persons desiring to use such public electric vehicle supply equipment to pay a subscription fee or otherwise obtain a membership in any club, association, or organization as a condition of using such electric vehicle supply equipment, but may have different price schedules that are conditioned on a subscription or membership in a club, association, or organization.

(b) As used in this chapter, “energy”

(3) “Energy” means not only the traditional scientific characteristic of “ability to do work” but also the substances or processes used to produce heat, light, or motion, including petroleum or other liquid fuels, natural or synthetic fuel gas, solid carbonaceous fuels, solar radiation, geothermal sources, nuclear sources, biomass, organic waste products, wind, or flowing water.

Sec. 31. 9 V.S.A. § 2651(14) is amended to read:

(14) “Weights and measures” means all weights and measures of every kind, instruments and devices for weighing and measuring, and any appliances and accessories associated with any or all such instruments and devices including electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public, as defined in subdivision 2730(a)(14) of this title, but not including meters for the measurement of electricity, gas (natural or manufactured), or water when they are operated in a public utility system. Such electricity, gas, and water meters
are specifically excluded from the purview of this chapter, and this chapter shall not apply to such meters or to any appliances or accessories associated therewith.

Sec. 32. 9 V.S.A. § 2730(a)(14) is added to read:

(14) “Electric vehicle supply equipment” and “electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public” have the same meanings as in 30 V.S.A. § 201.

* * * Net Metering at Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment * * *

Sec. 33. 30 V.S.A. § 8002(16) is amended to read:

(16) “Net metering system” means a plant for generation of electricity that:

(A) is of no more than 500 kW capacity;

(B) operates in parallel with facilities of the electric distribution system;

(C) is intended primarily to offset the customer’s own electricity requirements and does not supply electricity to electric vehicle supply equipment, as defined in section 201 of this title, for the for profit resale of electricity to the public by the kWh or for other retail sales to the public, including those based in whole or in part on a flat fee per charging session or a time-based fee for occupying a parking space while using electric vehicle supply equipment; and

(D)(i) employs a renewable energy source; or

(ii) is a qualified micro-combined heat and power system of 20 kW or fewer that meets the definition of combined heat and power in subsection 8015(b) of this title and uses any fuel source that meets air quality standards.

* * * Vehicle Incentive and Emissions Repair Programs * * *

Sec. 34. VEHICLE INCENTIVE AND EMISSIONS REPAIR PROGRAMS

(a) Vehicle incentive and emissions repair programs administration. The Agency of Transportation (Agency), in consultation with the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Public Service, Vermont electric distribution utilities that are offering incentives for PEVs, and the State’s network of community action agencies, shall establish and administer the programs described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. The Agency is authorized to spend $1,500,000.00 on the two programs. Subject to State procurement requirements, the Agency may retain
a contractor or contractors to assist with marketing, program development, and administration of the two programs and up to $150,000.00 of program funding may be set aside for this purpose. The Agency shall annually evaluate the two programs to gauge effectiveness and submit a written report on the effectiveness of the programs to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, the House Committee on Energy and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before the 31st day of December in each year that an incentive or repair voucher is provided through one of the programs.

(b) Electric vehicle incentive program. A new PEV purchase and lease incentive program for Vermont residents shall structure PEV purchase and lease incentive payments by income to help all Vermonters benefit from electric driving, including Vermont’s most vulnerable. Specifically, the program shall:

(1) apply to both purchases and leases of new PEVs with an emphasis on creating and matching incentives for exclusively electric powered vehicles that do not contain an onboard combustion engine;

(2) provide incentives to Vermont households with low and moderate income at or below 140 percent of the State’s prior five-year average Median Household Income (MHI) level; and

(3) apply to manufactured PEVs with a Base Manufacturer’s Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of $40,000.00 or less.

(c) High fuel efficiency vehicle incentive and emissions repair program. A used high fuel efficiency vehicle purchase incentive and emissions repair program for Vermont residents shall structure high fuel efficiency purchase incentive payments and emissions repair vouchers by income to help all Vermonters benefit from more efficient driving, including Vermont’s most vulnerable. Specifically, the program shall:

(1) apply to purchases of used high fuel efficient motor vehicles, which for purposes of this program shall be pleasure cars with a combined city/highway fuel efficiency of at least 40 miles per gallon or miles per gallon equivalent as rated by the Environmental Protection Agency when the vehicle was new, and repairs of certain vehicles that failed the on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection;

(2) base eligibility on the same criteria used for income qualification for weatherization services through the Weatherization Program and provide vouchers through the State’s network of community action agencies; and

(3) provide one of the following to qualifying individuals:
(A) a point-of-sale voucher of up to $5,000.00 to assist in the purchase of a used high fuel efficient motor vehicle that may require that a condition of the voucher be that if the individual is the owner of either a motor vehicle that failed the OBD systems inspection or a motor vehicle that is more than 15 years old and has a combined city/highway fuel efficiency of less than 25 miles per gallon as rated by the Environmental Protection Agency when the vehicle was new that the vehicle will be removed from operation and either donated to a non-profit organization to be used for parts or destroyed; or

(B) a point-of-repair voucher to repair a motor vehicle that was ready for testing, failed the OBD systems inspection, requires repairs that are not under warranty, and will be able to pass the State’s vehicle inspection once the repairs are made provided that the point-of-repair voucher is commensurate with the fair market value of the vehicle to be repaired and does not exceed $2,500.00, with $2,500.00 vouchers only being available to repair vehicles with a fair market value of at least $5,000.00.

*** Public Utility Commission Report ***

Sec. 35. PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TARIFF DESIGN REPORT

As a follow up to the report due on or before July 1, 2019, the Public Utility Commission, in consultation with those Vermont electric distribution utilities that wish to participate, the Agency of Transportation, the Department of Public Service, and Efficiency Vermont, shall report back to the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committees on Transportation and on Energy and Technology on or before December 15, 2019 concerning the steps necessary to implement fees on PEV charging if fees are to be collected on PEV charging:

(1) Fees and assessments. Whether or not electric distribution utilities should collect both a transportation efficiency fee, as defined in subdivision (A) of this subdivision, and a transportation infrastructure assessment, as defined in subdivision (B) of this subdivision, or just a transportation infrastructure assessment and how best to implement:

(A) A transportation efficiency fee. A per-kWh transportation efficiency fee on electricity provided by an electric distribution utility for electric vehicle supply equipment equal to the energy efficiency charge rate set by the Commission, and to be charged instead of an energy efficiency charge; and

(B) A transportation infrastructure assessment. A per-kWh transportation infrastructure assessment on electricity provided by an electric distribution utility for electric vehicle supply equipment.
(2) Electric vehicle charging tariff design. The design of an electric vehicle charging tariff for electric utilities with more than 17,000 customers, and other electric utilities at their discretion, that allows a customer, including a company that owns and operates electric vehicle supply equipment, to purchase electricity solely to charge a plug-in electric vehicle. The report should consider whether the tariff should:

(A) contain either a time-of-day or off-peak rate, as elected by the electric utility that takes advantage of lower-cost electricity and minimizes adverse grid effects and investment costs, maximizes the grid benefits of PEV charging, including electric distribution utility control of charging, and reduces the negative environmental effects of burning fossil fuels for transportation and electrical generation;

(B) include the per-kWh transportation efficiency fee;

(C) include the per-kWh transportation infrastructure assessment;

(D) offer a customer the option to purchase electricity from the utility’s current mix of energy supply sources or entirely from renewable energy sources;

(E) include a mechanism to allow the recovery of costs reasonably necessary to comply with electric vehicle charging tariff setting, such as costs to inform and educate customers about the financial, energy conservation, and environmental benefits of electric vehicles and to publicly advertise and promote participation in a customer-optional tariff;

(F) provide for clear and transparent customer billing statements including the amount of energy consumed under the tariff;

(G) incorporate any necessary costs of metering or submetering within the rate charged to the customer; and

(H) factor in other considerations as the Commission deems appropriate.

(3) Reporting by electric distribution utilities. Whether there should be a mandatory periodic report from electric distribution utilities to the Commission and what should be included in those reports, consideration should be given to:

(A) participation and impact highlights, including participation levels and new electric vehicle supply equipment installed by county;

(B) the overall costs and benefits of the tariff, including any changes or issues encountered during the reporting period; and
(C) other data required by the Commission.

(4) Incremental revenue and costs. The amount of incremental revenue to electric distribution utilities expected to be generated by PEVs and all other financial benefits that PEVs may bring to electric distribution utilities over the next 10 years, whether there are necessary costs and technical feasibility problems to meter PEV charging separate from other electrical demand on the same account, and all other costs expected to be incurred by the electric distribution utilities related to PEV deployment and associated infrastructure.

(5) Net metering. How to address the use of net metering energy and net metering energy credits for electric vehicle supply equipment.

*** Reporting by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets ***

Sec. 36. REPORTING BY THE AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS

(a) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall file a written report with the Senate Committees on Transportation and on Finance and the House Committees on Transportation and on Ways and Means on or before December 1, 2019 that provides an update on the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s progress towards adopting a code on electric vehicle fueling systems and makes a recommendation for an annual licensing fee for electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public for inclusion in 9 V.S.A. § 2730(f)(1).

(b) If the National Institute of Standards and Technology has not adopted a code on electric vehicle fueling systems by December 1, 2020 then the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall file a written report with the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before December 1, 2020 that provides an update on the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s progress towards adopting a code on electric vehicle fueling systems.

*** Fees for Use of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment ***

Sec. 37. 32 V.S.A. § 604 is added to read:

§ 604. ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FEES

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, any agency or department that owns or controls electric vehicle supply equipment, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, may establish, set, and adjust fees for the use of that electric vehicle supply equipment. The agency or department may establish fees for electric vehicle charging at less than its costs, to cover its costs, or equal to the retail rate charged for the use of electric vehicle supply equipment available to the public. Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in
the same fund or account within a fund from which the electric operating expense for the electric vehicle supply equipment originated.

Sec. 38. ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FEES REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 604 (electric vehicle supply equipment fees) is repealed on July 1, 2022.

* * * Jurisdiction Over Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment * * *

Sec. 39. 30 V.S.A. § 203 is amended to read:

§ 203. JURISDICTION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Public Utility Commission and the Department of Public Service shall have jurisdiction over the following described companies within the State, their directors, receivers, trustees, lessees, or other persons or companies owning or operating such companies and of all plants, lines, exchanges, and equipment of such companies used in or about the business carried on by them in this State as covered and included herein. Such jurisdiction shall be exercised by the Commission and the Department so far as may be necessary to enable them to perform the duties and exercise the powers conferred upon them by law. The Commission and the Department may, when they deem the public good requires, examine the plants, equipment, lines, exchanges, stations, and property of the companies subject to their jurisdiction under this chapter.

(1) A company engaged in the manufacture, transmission, distribution, or sale of gas or electricity directly to the public or to be used ultimately by the public for lighting, heating, or power and so far as relates to their use or occupancy of the public highways.

(2) That part of the business of a company which consists of the manufacture, transmission, distribution, or sale of gas or electricity directly to the public or to be used ultimately by the public for lighting, heating, or power and so far as relates to their use or occupancy of the public highways.

* * *

(7) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section, the Commission and Department shall not have jurisdiction over persons otherwise not regulated by the Commission that is engaged in the siting, construction, ownership, operation, or control of a facility that sells or supplies electricity to the public exclusively for charging a plug-in electric vehicle, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85). These persons may charge by the kWh for owned or operated electric vehicle supply equipment, as defined in 30 V.S.A. § 201, but shall not be treated as an electric distribution utility just because electric vehicle supply equipment charges by the kWh.
**State Vehicle Fleet**

Sec. 40. 29 V.S.A. § 903(g) is amended to read:

(g) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, when purchasing or leasing vehicles for State use shall consider vehicles using alternative fuels when the alternative fuel is suitable for the vehicle’s operation, is available in the region where the vehicle will be used, and is competitively priced with traditional fuels, to the maximum extent practicable, purchase or lease hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85), but in no instance shall less than 50 percent of the vehicles annually purchased or leased be hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles. The Commissioner shall, whenever possible, purchase or lease the lowest-cost year of the selected make and model, and only the latest year model when it is the least expensive.

Sec. 41. 29 V.S.A. § 903(g) is amended to read:

(g) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, when purchasing or leasing vehicles for State use shall, to the maximum extent practicable, purchase or lease hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles, as defined in 23 V.S.A. § 4(85), but in no instance shall less than 75 percent of the vehicles annually purchased or leased be hybrid or plug-in electric vehicles. The Commissioner shall, whenever possible, purchase or lease the lowest-cost year of the selected make and model, and only the latest year model when it is the least expensive.

Sec. 42. 3 V.S.A. § 217(c) is amended to read:

(c) At least 50 percent of the vehicles purchased annually by the Commissioner shall be low emission passenger vehicles. The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall purchase and lease vehicles for the State Fleet subject to the requirements of 29 V.S.A. § 903(g).

**Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee**

Sec. 43. 19 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

§ 38. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT PROGRAM

(a) The Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee is created and shall comprise:

(1) the Secretary of Transportation or his or her designee;

(2) a representative from the Division of Historic Preservation appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;

(3) one member appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development to represent the tourism and marketing industry;
(4) a representative of the Agency of Natural Resources appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources;

(5) three municipal representatives appointed by the governing body of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns;

(6) one member representing and appointed by the governing board of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies;

(7) two members from the House designated by the Speaker; and

(8) two members from the Senate designated by the Committee on Committees. [Repealed.]

(b) Municipal and legislative members of the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee shall serve concurrently for two-year terms and the initial appointments of these members shall be made in a manner which allows for them to serve a full legislative biennium. In the event a municipal or legislative member ceases to serve on the Committee prior to the full term, the appointing authority shall fill the position for the remainder of the term. The Committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, encompass a broad geographic representation of Vermont. [Repealed.]

(c) The Transportation Alternatives Grant Program is created. The Grant Program shall be administered by the Agency, and shall be funded in the amount provided for in 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), less the funds set aside for the Recreational Trails Program. Awards shall be made to eligible entities as defined under 23 U.S.C. § 133(h), and awards under the Grant Program shall be limited to the activities authorized under federal law and no more than $300,000.00 per grant.

(d) Eligible entities awarded a grant must provide all funds required to match federal funds awarded for a Transportation Alternatives project. All grant awards shall be decided and awarded by the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee Agency.

(e) Transportation Alternatives grant awards shall be announced annually by the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee Agency not earlier than December and not later than the following March.

(f)(1) In fiscal years 2018 and 2019, all Grant Program funds shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

(2) In fiscal years 2020 and 2021, Grant Program funds shall be awarded for any eligible activity and in accordance with the priorities established in subdivision (4) of this subsection.
(3) In fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, $1,100,000.00 of Grant Program funds, or such lesser sum if all eligible applications amount to less than $1,100,000.00, shall be reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

(4) Regarding Grant Program funds awarded in fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and the balance of Grant Program funds not reserved for environmental mitigation projects in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter, in evaluating applications for Transportation Alternatives grants, the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee Agency shall give preferential weighting to projects involving as a primary feature a bicycle or pedestrian facility. The degree of preferential weighting and the circumstantial factors sufficient to overcome the weighting shall be in the complete discretion of the Transportation Alternatives Grant Committee Agency.

(g) The Agency shall develop an outreach and marketing effort designed to provide information to communities with respect to the benefits of participating in the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program. The outreach and marketing activities shall include apprising municipalities of the availability of grants for salt and sand sheds. The outreach effort should be directed to areas of the State historically underserved by this Program.

* * * Emissions Inspections * * *

Sec. 44. 23 V.S.A. § 1222(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except for school buses, which shall be inspected as prescribed in section 1282 of this title, and motor buses as defined in subdivision 4(17) of this title, which shall be inspected twice during the calendar year at six-month intervals, all motor vehicles registered in this State shall be inspected undergo a safety and visual emissions inspection once each year and all motor vehicles that are registered in this State and are 15 model years old or less shall undergo an emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection once each year as applicable. Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer not currently inspected in this State shall be inspected within 15 days following the date of its registration in the State of Vermont.

Sec. 45. RULEMAKING; IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Within 14 days after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall file with the Secretary of State a proposed amended rule governing vehicle inspections in this State (Periodic Inspection Manual) that is consistent with amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1222 in Sec. 44 of this act, with the effect that no motor vehicle that is more than
15 model years old will be required to undergo an emissions or on board diagnostic (OBD) systems inspection.

(b) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner shall update the content of inspections conducted through the Automated Vehicle Inspection Program to exclude any requirements of the current Periodic Inspection Manual that are inconsistent with the amendments to 23 V.S.A. § 1222 in Sec. 44 of this act, with the effect that no motor vehicle that is more than 15 model years old will be required to undergo an emissions or OBD systems inspection.

(c) In the event that the Commissioner cannot update the content of inspections conducted through the Automated Vehicle Inspection Program in accordance with subsection (b) of this section within 30 days after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner shall, within 30 days after the effective date of this section, develop and implement a temporary work-around to ensure that no motor vehicle that is more than 15 model years old will be required to undergo an emissions or OBD systems inspection.

*** Vehicle Feebate Report ***

Sec. 46. VEHICLE FEEBATE REPORT

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall complete a study and submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before October 15, 2019 concerning whether Vermont should establish a time-of-acquisition vehicle feebate program to act as a self-funding incentive program. For purposes of this section, a “vehicle feebate” provides rebates to individuals who purchase or, if applicable, lease efficient vehicles that are funded by fees levied on individuals who purchase or, if applicable, lease inefficient vehicles. The report shall, at a minimum, consider whether vehicle feebates should be structured in steps—one or multiple—or as a continuum; whether there should be separate vehicle feebates for different classes of vehicles and, if so, whether there should be different pivot points for where a fee crosses over to a rebate; and if vehicle feebates should apply to both new and used vehicles and purchased and leased vehicles. The report shall also consider how a time-of-acquisition vehicle feebate program or other funding mechanism could function with the vehicle incentive programs established in Sec. 34 of this act and the level of investment, incentives, feebates, and other monetary incentives and disincentives needed to reach the number of plug-in electric vehicles in Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan.
** * * Weight-Based Annual Registration Report * * *

Sec. 47. WEIGHT-BASED ANNUAL REGISTRATION REPORT

The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, shall complete a study and submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before December 15, 2019 concerning the feasibility of implementing an annual motor vehicle registration fee system that addresses road maintenance cost allocations for road traveling motor vehicles based on vehicle weight. Such a registration fee system could be in addition to or in lieu of existing motor vehicle registration fees. The study and report shall, at a minimum, identify, analyze, and make recommendations on: the current motor vehicle registration fee structure, any benefits to establishing a new system that better allocates costs based on vehicle weight; any anticipated implementation difficulties; ways to measure vehicle weight; what types of road traveling motor vehicles could and should be subject to such a registration fee; how to calculate registration fees to best account for weight-based wear on Vermont roads; and how other States have implemented weight-based registration fees.

** * * * Sign Law Violation Civil Ticket * * *

Sec. 48. 10 V.S.A. § 503 is amended to read:

§ 503. PENALTY

A person who violates this chapter shall be fined, assessed a civil penalty of not more than $100.00 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both. Each day the violation continues shall be a separate offense.

Sec. 49. 4 V.S.A. § 1102 is amended to read:

§ 1102. JUDICIAL BUREAU; JURISDICTION

* * *

(b) The Judicial Bureau shall have jurisdiction of the following matters:

* * *

(29) Violations of 10 V.S.A. chapter 21, relating to the prohibition of outdoor advertising.

* * *

** * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 50. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. 1(b) (act definitions), 12 (BUILD grant), 13 (CRISI grant), 20 (public transit study), 29 (plug-in electric vehicle definition),

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30 (electric vehicle supply equipment definition), 33 (net metering), 34 (vehicle incentive and emissions repair programs), 35 (Public Utility Commission report), 36 (Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets reporting), 39 (PUC jurisdiction), 44 (emissions inspections), 45 (emissions inspections implementation), 46 (vehicle feebate report), and 47 (weight-based annual registration report) shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 31 (weights and measures definition), and 32 (electric vehicle supply equipment definition) shall take effect on the earlier of January 1, 2021 or six months after the National Institute of Standards and Technology adopts code on electric vehicle fueling systems.

(c) Sec. 41 (State vehicle fleet) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

(d) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Committee vote: 4-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 22, 2019, pages 644-645 and March 26, 2019, page 657)

Reported favorably by Senator Campion for the Committee on Finance.

The Committee recommends that the bill be amended as recommended by the Committee on Transportation and when so amended ought to pass.

(Committee vote: 6-0-1)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions For Action Under Joint Rule 16

The following joint concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House. They will be adopted by the Senate unless a Senator requests floor consideration before the end of the session. Requests for floor consideration should be communicated to the Secretary’s Office.

H.C.R. 154 - 164 (For text of Resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar for May 2, 2019)

CONFIRMATIONS

The following appointments will be considered by the Senate, as a group, under suspension of the Rules, as moved by the President pro tempore, for confirmation together and without debate, by consent thereby given by the Senate. However, upon request of any senator, any appointment may be singled out and acted upon separately by the Senate, with consideration given to the report of the Committee to which the appointment was referred, and

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with full debate; and further, all appointments for the positions of Secretaries of Agencies, Commissioners of Departments, Judges, Magistrates, and members of the Public Utility Commission shall be fully and separately acted upon.

Lindsay H. Kurrle of Middlesex – Commissioner, Department of Labor – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (5/1/19)

Sarah Squirrel of Waterbury Center – Commissioner, Department of Mental Health (term 1/1/19 – 2/28/19) – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Sarah Squirrel of Waterbury Center – Commissioner, Department of Mental Health (term 3/1/19 – 2/28/21) – By Sen. Cummings for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Kenneth A. Schatz of South Burlington – Commissioner, Department for Children and Families – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/3/19)

Mona Abdelghani of White River Junction – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Brenda A. Cruickshank of Northfield – Member, Human Services Board – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Susan Harritt of Jericho – Member, Human Services Board – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Rick A. Hildebrant of Clarendon – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Allyson Laackman of Burlington – Member, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (5/1/19)

Leo LeCours of Jericho – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Morgan Manning of Johnson – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Sen. Westman for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Dale Miller of Colchester – Member, State Workforce Development Board – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (5/1/19)
Robert E. Tortolani of Brattleboro – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. McCormack for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/1/19)

Alan Willard of Woodstock – Member, State Labor Relations Board – By Sen. Clarkson for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. (5/1/19)

Mike Donohue of Shelburne – Member, Human Services Board – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/3/19)

Regine Ewins of Charlotte – Member, Board of Libraries – By Sen. Hardy for the Committee on Education. (5/3/19)

Kimberly Gleason of Essex Junction – Member, State Board of Education – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Education. (5/3/19)

Elizabeth Morris of Richmond – Member, Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs – By Sen. Lyons for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/3/19)

Gillian Stearns-Parr of South Burlington – Member, Board of Medical Practice – By Sen. Ingram for the Committee on Health and Welfare. (5/3/19)

Fred Baser of Bristol – Commissioner, Vermont Housing Finance Agency – By Sen. Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance. (5/7/19)

Katherine Buckley of Guilford – Commissioner, Vermont Housing Finance Agency – By Sen. Sirotkin for the Committee on Finance. (5/7/19)

David Coates of Colchester – Director, Vermont Municipal Bond Bank – By Sen. Brock for the Committee on Finance. (5/7/19)

Dana Kittell of East Fairfield – Member, Vermont Economic Development Authority – By Sen. Brock for the Committee on Finance. (5/7/19)

Mary Alice McKenzie of Colchester – Director, Vermont Municipal Bond Bank – By Sen. Pearson for the Committee on Finance. (5/7/19)

Linda Saarnijoki of Weston - Member, Board of Libraries - By Sen. McNeil for the Committee on Education. (5/7/19)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

May 8, 2019 - 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. - Room 11 - Re: Proposal 2 - Declaration of Rights: Clarifying the prohibition on slavery and indentured servitude - House Committee on Government Operations.