

1 H.926

2 Representative Sheldon recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

3 First: In Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. chapter 151, in subdivision 6001(3)(A)(xi), after
4 the “the midpoint of the interconnecting roadways,” by inserting the words
5 “unless it is in a designated center or”

6 Second: In Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. chapter 151, following “Subchapter 2.
7 Administration” by striking out “* * *” and inserting in lieu thereof the
8 following:

9 § 6021. BOARD; VACANCY, REMOVAL

10 (a) A Natural Resources Board is created.

11 (1) The Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor,
12 with the advice and consent of the Senate, so that one appointment expires in
13 each year. In making these appointments, the Governor and the Senate shall
14 give consideration to experience, expertise, or skills relating to ~~the~~
15 ~~environment or land use~~ environmental science, natural resources law and
16 policy, land use planning, community planning, environmental justice, or racial
17 equity.

18 (A) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Board, a position that
19 shall be a full-time position. The Governor shall ensure, to the extent possible,
20 that the Board membership reflects the racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic
21 diversity of the State.

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Third: In Sec. 3, 10 V.S.A. chapter 151, after “* * *” and before § 6031. ETHICAL STANDARDS” by inserting the following:

§ 6026. DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

(a) For the purposes of the administration of this chapter, the State is divided into nine districts.

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(b) A District Environmental Commission is created for each district. Each District Commission shall consist of three members from that district appointed in the month of February by the Governor so that two appointments expire in each odd-numbered year. Two of the members shall be appointed for a term of four years, and the Chair (third member) of each District shall be appointed for a ~~two-year~~ four-year term. In any district, the Governor may appoint ~~not more than four~~ up to two alternate members from that district whose terms shall not exceed two years, who may hear any case when a regular member is disqualified or otherwise unable to serve. The Governor shall ensure, to the extent possible, that appointments are made in a timely manner and that each District Commission reflects the racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity of the State.

(c) Members shall be removable for cause only, except the Chair, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

1 (d) Any vacancy shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired period of
2 the term.

3 § 6027. POWERS

4 (a) The Board and District Commissions shall have supervisory authority in
5 environmental matters respecting projects within their jurisdiction and shall
6 apply their independent judgment in determining facts and interpreting law.
7 They each shall have the power, with respect to any matter within its
8 jurisdiction, to:

9 (1) administer oaths, take depositions, subpoena and compel the
10 attendance of witnesses, and require the production of evidence;

11 (2) allow parties to enter upon lands of other parties for the purposes of
12 inspecting and investigating conditions related to the matter before the Board
13 or Commission;

14 (3) enter upon lands for the purpose of conducting inspections,
15 investigations, examinations, tests, and site evaluations as it deems necessary
16 to verify information presented in any matter within its jurisdiction; and

17 (4) apply for and receive grants from the federal government and from
18 other sources.

19 (b) The powers granted under this chapter are additional to any other
20 powers ~~which~~ that may be granted by other legislation.

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