

(b) VSAC shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on or before January 15, 2020.

\* \* \* NATURAL RESOURCES \* \* \*

Sec. E.700 24 V.S.A. § 4752 is amended to read:

§ 4752. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(20) "Hardship municipality" means a municipality served by a municipally owned public community water system that:

(A) has a residential population of 250 or less;

(B) has an annual household user cost that exceeds \$1,000.00 or 1.5 percent of the median household income after construction of the water supply improvements project as determined by the Secretary; and

(C) requires improvements to address an imminent public health hazard or a substantial threat to public health as determined by the Secretary.

Sec. E.700.1 24 V.S.A. § 4769 is added to read:

§ 4769. LOANS TO HARDSHIP MUNICIPALITIES

(a) Waiver of bond vote. A hardship municipality may receive a loan for an eligible project that includes a loan subsidy of up to \$200,000.00 in the form of 100 percent principal forgiveness with no interest or administrative fee from funds authorized in 24 V.S.A. § 4753(a)(3), subject to the availability of such loan subsidy. Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 4755(a)(3), the loan is not required to be evidenced by a municipal bond up to the amount to be forgiven.

(b) Waiver of reimbursement method required in statute. Notwithstanding the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 4755(b), loan funds may be disbursed to a hardship municipality for its approved project upon receipt by the Department of eligible project invoices without prior payment by the municipality.

Sec. E.702 WATER QUALITY TREATMENT AND TESTING:  
SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY

(a) The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Conservation shall review the water quality treatment and testing currently implemented at the Salisbury fish hatchery. On or before January 15, 2022, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, where appropriate, shall modify the water quality treatment and testing requirements at the hatchery in order to bring the