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Introduced by Representatives Sullivan of Dorset, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of
St. Johnsbury, Feltus of Lyndon, Graham of Williamstown,
Lefebvre of Orange, Morgan, L. of Milton, Norris of Shoreham,
Notte of Rutland City and Page of Newport City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; Vermont Climate Council

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
the members of the Vermont Climate Council do not participate in matters in
which they have a conflict of interest or appearance of a conflict of interest.

An act relating to the Vermont Climate Council and conflicts of interest

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

Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 590 is amended to read:

§ 590. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Adaptation” means reducing vulnerability and advancing resilience
through planned and implemented enhancements to, or avoiding degradation
of, natural and built systems and structures.

1 (2) “Appearance of a conflict of interest” means an impression that a
2 reasonable person may have that a person has a conflict of interest.

3 (3) “Conflict of interest” means a significant personal or financial
4 interest of a member of the Council, a person within the member’s immediate
5 family, or a member’s business associate in the outcome of a matter that is
6 pending before, or will be pending before, the Council.

7 (4) “Greenhouse gas” has the same meaning as in section 552 of this
8 title.

9 ~~(3)~~(5) “Mitigation” means reduction of anthropogenic greenhouse gas
10 emissions, and preservation and enhancement of natural systems to sequester
11 and store carbon, in order to stabilize and reduce greenhouse gases in the
12 atmosphere.

13 ~~(4)~~(6) “Resilience” means the capacity of individuals, communities, and
14 natural and built systems to withstand and recover from climatic events, trends,
15 and disruptions.

16 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 591(f) is amended to read:

17 (f)(1) A majority of the sitting members of the Council shall constitute a
18 quorum, and action taken by the Council may be authorized by a majority of
19 the members present and voting at any meeting at which a quorum is present.
20 The Council may permit any or all members to participate in a meeting by, or
21 conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication,

1 including electronic, telecommunications, and video- or audio-conferencing
2 technology, by which all members participating may simultaneously or
3 sequentially communicate with each other during the meeting. A member
4 participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at
5 the meeting.

6 (2) The Council shall meet at the call of the Chair or a majority of the
7 members of the Council, and the Council may elect officers and adopt any
8 other procedural rules as it shall determine necessary and appropriate to
9 perform its work.

10 (3) A Council member shall not participate in, discuss, or vote upon any
11 Council matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest or an appearance of
12 a conflict of interest.

13 (A) A Council member shall disclose any conflict of interest or
14 appearance of a conflict of interest to the Council.

15 (B) A Council member who fails to disclose a conflict of interest or
16 an appearance of a conflict of interest, or who participates in, discusses, or
17 votes upon a matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest or an
18 appearance of a conflict of interest shall immediately be removed from the
19 Council and shall not be eligible to be reappointed to the Council.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.