| 1 | H.549 |
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| 2 | Introduced by Representatives Hango of Berkshire, Gregoire of Fairfield, |
| 3 | Harrison of Chittenden, Higley of Lowell, Leffler of Enosburgh |
| 4 | Page of Newport City, and Palasik of Milton |
| 5 | Referred to Committee on |
| 6 | Date: |
| 7 | Subject: Conservation and development; land use; Act 250; housing; priority |
| 8 | housing project; sales and use tax exemption |
| 9 | Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the |
| 10 | definition of priority housing project. It would also exempt from sales and use |
| 11 | tax building supplies and materials used for the construction of priority |
| 12 | housing projects. |
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| 13 | An act relating to Vermont Housing Regulation Modernization |
| 14 | It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont: |
| 15 | * * * Short Title; Findings * * * |
| 16 | Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE |
| 17 | This act may be cited as the "Vermont Housing Regulation Modernization |
| 18 | Act" or "VHRMA". |

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| 1 | Sec. 2. FINDINGS |
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| 2 | The General Assembly finds: |
| 3 | (1) According to the Vermont Housing Needs Assessment, Vermont |
| 4 | continues to face a severe shortage of housing to meet its affordable housing |
| 5 | needs. |
| 6 | (2) Protracted permit timelines and regulatory hurdles are often cited as |
| 7 | major impediments to expanding the supply of affordable housing in Vermont. |
| 8 | (3) In recent years, the State has greatly expanded investments in |
| 9 | affordable housing through the issuance of bonds, increased allotments for tax |
| 10 | credits and other incentives, enhanced amounts for housing assistant programs, |
| 11 | and additional appropriations for housing-related items such as weatherization. |
| 12 | * * * Priority Housing Projects * * * |
| 13 | Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read: |
| 14 | § 6001. DEFINITIONS |
| 15 | As used in this chapter: |
| 16 | * * * |
| 17 | (29) "Affordable housing" means either of the following: |
| 18 | * * * |
| 19 | (B) Rental housing for which the total annual cost of renting, |

including rent, utilities, and condominium association fees, does not exceed 30

| 1 | percent of the gross annual income of a household at 80 120 percent of the |
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| 2 | highest of the following: |
| 3 | (i) the county median income, as defined by the U.S. Department |
| 4 | of Housing and Urban Development; |
| 5 | (ii) the standard metropolitan statistical area median income if the |
| 6 | municipality is located in such an area, as defined by the U.S. Department of |
| 7 | Housing and Urban Development; or |
| 8 | (iii) the statewide median income, as defined by the U.S. |
| 9 | Department of Housing and Urban Development. |
| 10 | * * * |
| 11 | (35) "Priority housing project" means a discrete project located on a |
| 12 | single tract or multiple contiguous tracts of land that consists exclusively of: |
| 13 | (A) mixed income housing or mixed use, or any combination thereof |
| 14 | and is located entirely within a designated downtown development district, |
| 15 | designated new town center, designated growth center, designated Vermont |
| 16 | neighborhood, designated neighborhood development area, or designated |
| 17 | village center that is also a designated neighborhood development area under |
| 18 | 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A ; or |
| 19 | (B) mixed income housing and is located entirely within a designated |
| 20 | Vermont neighborhood or designated neighborhood development area under |
| 21 | 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A. |

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| 2 | Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 6081(p) is amended to read: |
| 3 | (p)(1) No permit or permit amendment is required for any change to a |
| 4 | project that is located entirely within a downtown development district |
| 5 | designated pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2793, if the change consists exclusively of |
| 6 | any combination of mixed use and mixed income housing, and the cumulative |
| 7 | changes within any continuous period of five years, commencing on or after |
| 8 | May 28, 2002, remain below any applicable jurisdictional threshold specified |
| 9 | in subdivision 6001(3)(A)(iv)(I) of this title. |
| 10 | (2) No permit or permit amendment is required for a priority housing |
| 11 | project in a designated center other than a downtown development district if |
| 12 | the project remains below any applicable jurisdictional threshold specified in |
| 13 | subdivision 6001(3)(A)(iv)(I) of this title and will comply with all conditions |
| 14 | of any existing permit or permit amendment issued under this chapter that |
| 15 | applies to the tract or tracts on which the project will be located. If such a |
| 16 | priority housing project will not comply with one or more of these conditions, |
| 17 | an application may be filed pursuant to section 6084 of this title. |
| 18 | * * * Sales and Use Tax Exemption * * * |
| 19 | Sec. 5. 32 V.S.A. § 9743 is amended to read: |
| 20 | § 9743. ORGANIZATIONS NOT COVERED |

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| 1 | Any sale, service, or admission to a place of entertainment charged by or to |
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| 2 | any of the following or any use by any of the following are not subject to the |
| 3 | sales and use taxes imposed under this chapter: |
| 4 | * * * |
| 5 | (4)(A) Provided that the governmental body or agency, organization, |
| 6 | development corporation, or the developer of a priority housing project has |
| 7 | first obtained a certificate from the Commissioner stating that it is entitled to |
| 8 | the exemption, and the vendor keeps a record of the sales price of each |
| 9 | separate sale, the name of the purchaser, the date of each separate sale, and the |
| 10 | number of the certificate, Sales sales of building materials and supplies to be |
| 11 | used in the construction, reconstruction, alteration, remodeling, or repair of: |
| 12 | (A)(i) any building, structure, or other public works owned by or held |
| 13 | in trust for the benefit of any governmental body or agency mentioned in |
| 14 | subdivisions (1) and (2) of this section and used exclusively for public |
| 15 | purposes; |
| 16 | (B)(ii) any building or structure owned by or held in trust for the |
| 17 | benefit of any organization described in subdivision (3) and used exclusively |
| 18 | for the purposes upon which its exempt status is based; and |
| 19 | (C)(iii) any building or structure owned by any "local development |
| 20 | corporation" as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 212(10), and used exclusively for the |

purposes authorized in 10 V.S.A. chapter 12; and

| 1 | (iv) any building or structure that meets the definition of priority |
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| 2 | housing project as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001 provided, however, that the |
| 3 | governmental body or agency, the organization, or the development |
| 4 | corporation has first obtained a certificate from the Commissioner stating that |
| 5 | it is entitled to the exemption, and the vendor keeps a record of the sales price |
| 6 | of each separate sale, the name of the purchaser, the date of each separate sale, |
| 7 | and the number of the certificate. |
| 8 | (B) In For purposes of this subdivision (4), the words "building |
| 9 | materials and supplies" shall include all materials and supplies consumed, |
| 10 | employed, or expended in the construction, reconstruction, alteration, |
| 11 | remodeling, or repair of any building, structure, or other public work, as well |
| 12 | as the materials and supplies physically incorporated therein. |
| 13 | * * * |
| 14 | * * * Effective Date; Prospective Repeal * * * |
| 15 | Sec. 6. PROSPECTIVE REPEAL |
| 16 | 32 V.S.A. § 9743(4)(A)(iv) is repealed on January 1, 2025. |
| 17 | Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE |
| 18 | This act shall take effect on passage. |