

H.122

An act relating to boards and commissions

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

By striking out Sec. 12, effective date, and its reader assistance heading in their entireties and adding eight sections to be Secs. 11a–18 with reader assistance headings to read as follows:

Sec. 11a. [Deleted.]

* * * State Emergency Response Commission; Regional Committees * * *

Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 6 is amended to read:

§ 6. LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

(a) Each town and city of this state is hereby authorized and directed to establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance with the ~~state~~ State emergency management plan and program. ~~Except in a town that has a town manager in accordance with chapter 37 of Title 24, the~~ The executive officer or legislative branch of the town or city is authorized to appoint a town or city emergency management director who shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and coordination of the local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of the executive officer or legislative branch. If the town or city that has not adopted the town manager form of government in accordance with chapter 37 of Title 24 and the executive officer or legislative branch of the

town or city has not appointed an emergency management director, the executive officer or legislative branch shall be the town or city emergency management director. The town or city emergency management director may appoint an emergency management coordinator and other staff as necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

(b) ~~Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, each~~ Each local organization for emergency management shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the town or city within which it is organized; and, in addition, shall conduct such functions outside of the territorial limits as may be required pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and in accord with such regulations as the governor may prescribe.

(c) Each local organization shall ~~participate in the development of~~ develop ~~and maintain~~ an all-hazards emergency management plan ~~with the local emergency planning committee and the public safety district in accordance with guidance set forth by the Division of Emergency Management.~~

(d) ~~Each local organization shall annually notify the local emergency planning committee on forms provided by the state emergency response commission of its capacity to perform emergency functions in response to an all hazards incident. Each local organization shall perform the emergency functions indicated on the most recently submitted form in response to an all-~~

~~hazards incident.~~ Regional emergency management committees shall be established by the Division of Emergency Management.

(1) Regional emergency management committees shall coordinate emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve their regions' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters.

(2) The Division of Emergency Management shall establish geographic boundaries and guidance documents for regional emergency planning committees in coordination with regional planning commissions and mutual aid associations.

(3) A regional emergency management committee shall consist of voting and nonvoting members.

(A) Voting members. The local emergency management director or designee and one representative from each town and city in the region shall serve as the voting members of the committee. A representative from a town or city shall be a member of the town's or city's emergency services community and shall be appointed by the town's or city's executive or legislative branch.

(B) Nonvoting members. Nonvoting members may include representatives from the following organizations serving within the region: fire departments; emergency medical services; law enforcement; media; transportation; regional planning commissions; hospitals; the Department of

Health's district office; the Division of Emergency Management; organizations serving vulnerable populations; and any other interested public or private individual or organization.

(4) Voting members shall annually elect a chair and vice chair of the committee from the voting membership. The Chair shall develop a meeting schedule, agenda, and facilitate each meeting. The Vice Chair shall fill in for the Chair during the Chair's absence.

(5) Committees shall develop and maintain a regional plan, consistent with guidance provided by the Division of Emergency Management in coordination with regional planning commissions, that describes regional coordination and regionally available resources.

Sec. 13. 20 V.S.A. § 30 is amended to read:

§ 30. STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION; CREATION

(a) ~~A state emergency response commission~~ The State Emergency Response Commission is created within the ~~department~~ Department of ~~public safety~~ Public Safety. The commission shall consist of ~~15~~ 17 members, ~~six~~ eight ex officio members, including the ~~commissioner of public safety~~ Commissioner of Public Safety, the ~~secretary of natural resources~~ Secretary of Natural Resources, the ~~secretary of transportation~~ Secretary of Transportation, the ~~commissioner of health~~ Commissioner of Health, the ~~secretary of agriculture, food~~ Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the

~~commissioner of labor~~ Commissioner of Labor, the Director of Fire Safety, and the Director of Emergency Management, or ~~their~~ designees; and nine public members, including a representative from each of the following: local government, ~~a~~ the local emergency planning committee, a regional planning commission, the fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, a hospital, a transportation entity required under EPCRA to report chemicals to the ~~state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission, and another entity required to report extremely hazardous substances under EPCRA. ~~The director of emergency management shall be the secretary of the commission without a vote.~~

(b) The nine public members shall be appointed by the ~~governor~~ Governor for staggered three year terms. The ~~governor~~ Governor shall appoint the chair of the commission.

(c) Members of the commission, except state employees who are not otherwise compensated as part of their employment and who attend meetings, shall be entitled to a per diem and expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

Sec. 14. 20 V.S.A. § 31 is amended to read:

§ 31. STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION; DUTIES

(a) The commission shall have authority to:

(1) Carry out all the requirements of a commission under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11000-11050

(1986) (EPCRA), ~~and all hazards mitigation, response, recovery, and preparedness, as hereafter amended and other applicable federal initiatives.~~

(2) Adopt rules necessary for the implementation of EPCRA and for the reporting of hazardous chemicals or substances, including setting minimum limits on the level of hazardous chemicals to be reported.

(3) Designate and appoint local emergency planning committees.

(4) Review and comment on the development and implementation of local emergency ~~response~~ plans by the local emergency planning ~~committees~~ committee and provide assistance to ~~those committees~~ that committee in executing ~~their~~ its duties.

(5) Review and comment on the comprehensive ~~state~~ State emergency ~~operations management~~ plan and the local emergency planning committee response plans.

(6) Meet with interested parties, which may include representatives of the carrier industry shippers, and state and local agencies, having an interest, responsibility, or expertise concerning hazardous materials.

(7) Ensure that a ~~state~~ State plan will go into effect when an accident occurs involving the transportation of hazardous materials. The plan shall be ~~field tested~~ exercised at least once annually and shall be coordinated with local and State emergency plans.

(8) Jointly adopt rules concerning reportable quantities of economic poison as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 911(5) with the ~~agency of agriculture, food and markets~~ Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The commission may enter into contracts with governmental agencies or private organizations to carry out the duties of this section.

(9) ~~Coordinate statewide efforts and draft policies regarding planning, mitigation, preparedness, and response to all hazards events to be approved by the commissioner.~~

~~(10) Recommend funding for awards to be made by the commissioner~~ Commissioner for planning, training, special studies, citizen corps councils, community emergency response teams (CERT), medical reserve corps, and hazardous materials response teams exercises, and response capabilities from funds that are available from federal sources or through the hazardous substances fund created in section 38 of this title. The commission may create committees as necessary for other related purposes and delegate funding recommendation powers to those committees.

(b) The Department of Public Safety shall provide administrative support to the State Emergency Response Commission.

Sec. 15. 20 V.S.A. § 32 is amended to read:

§ 32. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES; CREATION;
DUTIES

(a) ~~Local~~ One or more local emergency planning committees shall be appointed by the ~~state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission.

(b) ~~Local~~ All local emergency planning committees ~~should~~ shall include representatives from the following: fire departments; local and regional emergency medical services; local, county, and state law enforcement; media; transportation; regional planning commissions; hospitals; industry; the ~~national guard~~ Vermont National Guard; the ~~department~~ Department of ~~health~~ Health's district office; an animal rescue organization; and may include any other interested public or private individual or organization. Where the local emergency planning committee represents more than one region of the State, the commission shall appoint representatives that are geographically diverse.

(c) A local emergency planning committee shall perform all the following duties:

(1) Carry out all the requirements of a committee pursuant to EPCRA, including preparing a local emergency planning committee ~~response~~ plan. The plan shall be coordinated with the ~~state~~ State emergency ~~operations~~ management plan and may be expanded to address all hazards ~~and all phases of emergency management.~~ identified in the State emergency management plan.

At a minimum, the local emergency planning committee ~~response~~ plan shall include the following:

(A) Identifies facilities and transportation routes of extremely hazardous substances.

(B) Describes emergency response procedures, including those identified in facility plans.

(C) Designates a local emergency planning committee coordinator and facility coordinators to implement the plan.

(D) Outlines emergency notification procedures.

(E) Describes how to determine the probable affected area and population by releases of hazardous substances.

(F) Describes local emergency equipment and facilities and the persons responsible for them.

(G) Outlines evacuation plans.

(H) Provides for coordinated local training to ensure integration with the ~~state~~ State emergency ~~operations~~ management plan.

(I) Provides methods and schedules for exercising emergency ~~response~~ plans.

(2) Upon receipt by the committee or the committee's designated community emergency coordinator of a notification of a release of a hazardous chemical or substance, ~~insure~~ ensure that the local emergency ~~response~~ plan has been implemented.

(3) Consult and coordinate with the heads of local government emergency services, the emergency management director or designee, regional planning commissions, and the managers of all facilities within the ~~district~~ jurisdiction regarding the facility plan.

(4) Review and evaluate requests for funding and other resources and advise the ~~state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission and ~~district coordinators~~ concerning disbursement of funds.

(5) Work to support the various emergency services, mutual aid systems, town governments, regional planning commissions, state agency district offices, and others in their area in conducting coordinated all-hazards emergency management activities.

Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 38 is amended to read:

§ 38. SPECIAL FUNDS

~~(a)(1) There is created a radiological emergency response plan fund, into which any entity operating a nuclear reactor or storing nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in this state (referred to hereinafter as “the nuclear power plant”) shall deposit the amount appropriated to support the Vermont radiological response plan for that fiscal year, adjusted by any balance in the radiological emergency response plan fund from the prior fiscal year. There shall also be deposited into the fund any monies received from any other source, public or private, that is intended to support the radiological emergency~~

~~response planning process. The fund shall be managed in accordance with subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32. Any interest earned on the balance in the fund shall be retained by the fund.~~

~~(2) Expenditures from the fund shall be made by the division of emergency management, subject to an annual legislative appropriation. As part of the annual appropriations process, the division of emergency management shall present a budget for the ensuing fiscal year that anticipates the expenditures that will be made from the fund. Each fiscal year, the division of emergency management in collaboration with the state and local agencies, the management of the nuclear power plant, the selectboards of the municipalities in the emergency planning zone, the Windham regional planning commission, and any other municipality or emergency planning zone entity defined by the state as required to support the radiological emergency response plan shall develop the budget for expenditures from the radiological emergency response plan fund. State personnel with responsibility for local coordination and plan development shall be physically located in the region. The annual budget shall include only expenditures necessary to support the radiological emergency response plan.~~

* * *

~~(5) The state shall bill the nuclear power plant on a monthly basis based on the budget presented and approved by the legislature. The nuclear power plant shall have the right to audit the books and records of the fund.~~

~~(6) Upon the permanent cessation of operation of the nuclear reactor and final removal of all nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, and the removal of emergency response plan regulations and state responsibilities applicable to it by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission and any other federal agency having regulatory jurisdiction, and after all outstanding debts have been paid, all monies remaining in the fund shall be repaid to the nuclear power plant, and the fund terminated.~~

~~(b) There is created a hazardous chemical and substance emergency response fund which that shall include all moneys paid to the state State pursuant to section 39 of this title. The fund shall be managed pursuant to the provisions of subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32. The fund shall be used to implement and administer this chapter, including planning, training and response activities as well as the purchase of equipment and assisting local organizations referred to in section 6 of this chapter to develop emergency response plans. Each local emergency planning committee shall receive a minimum grant of \$1,500.00, and \$4,000.00 as of July 1, 2007, annually and may petition the state emergency response commission for additional funds if needed and available an annual grant from the Commissioner of Public Safety.~~

The annual total grant amount to be allocated to local emergency planning committees statewide shall not exceed \$52,000.00, and the Commissioner shall divide the total annual grant amount equally among the local emergency planning committees. After disbursement of the ~~minimum grant amounts~~ funding and after consideration of the comments and evaluation received from the ~~appropriate~~ local emergency planning committee and the State Emergency Response Commission, the commissioner Commissioner of Public Safety at the Commissioner's discretion ~~with the approval of the emergency response commission~~ may make additional grants from the fund to any local emergency planning committee or regional emergency response commission as well as to any political subdivisions including any city, town, fire district, incorporated village and other incorporated entities in the state in accordance with rules adopted by the ~~state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission. Unless waived by the ~~state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission, grants shall be matched by local governments in the amount of 25 percent of the grant. The matching may be by contribution or by privately furnished funds or by in-kind services, space, or equipment ~~which~~ that would otherwise be purchased by a local emergency planning committee.

Sec. 17. 20 V.S.A. § 3a is amended to read:

§ 3a. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION; DUTIES; BUDGET

(a) In addition to other duties required by law, the ~~emergency management division~~ Division of Emergency Management shall:

(1) ~~Establish and define emergency planning zones and prepare and maintain a comprehensive state State emergency management strategy that includes an emergency operations management plan, establish and define emergency planning zones and prepare and maintain a radiological emergency response plan for use in those zones~~ regional emergency management committees, and prepare an all-hazards mitigation plan in cooperation with other state, regional, and local agencies ~~for use in such zones and in compliance with adopted federal standards for emergency management. The strategy shall be designed to protect the lives and property, including domestic animals, of persons within this state State who might be threatened as the result of all-hazards and shall align state State coordination structures, capabilities, and resources into a unified and multi-disciplined multidisciplined all-hazards approach to incident management.~~

(2) ~~Design the radiological emergency response plan to protect persons and property within this state who or which might be threatened as the result of their proximity to any operating nuclear reactor. The plan shall be formulated~~

~~in accordance with procedures approved by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. At a minimum, the plan shall provide for all the following:~~

~~(A) Monitoring radiological activity within the state.~~

~~(B) Emergency evacuation routes within a ten-mile radius of any operating nuclear reactor.~~

~~(C) Adequate notification and communications systems.~~

~~(D) Contingency procedures as deemed necessary in the event of an incident or accident involving an operating nuclear reactor.~~

~~(3) Assist the state emergency response commission~~ State Emergency Response Commission, the local emergency planning committees, the regional emergency management committees, and the municipally established local organizations referred to in section 6 of this title in carrying out their designated emergency functions, including developing, implementing, and coordinating emergency response plans.

~~(4) Provide administrative support to the state emergency response commission.~~

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* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES

This section and Secs. 1–11a (misc. boards and commissions) shall take effect on passage, and Secs. 12–17 (emergency management commission/committees) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.