

1 H.697

2 Representative Kornheiser of Brattleboro moves that that the bill be
3 amended as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 2, 32 V.S.A. chapter 124, subchapter 1, in section 3750, after
5 “working landscape” and before the period by striking out “and the rural
6 character of Vermont” and inserting in lieu thereof “, preserve the rural
7 character of Vermont, and protect the natural ecological systems and natural
8 resources of the forestland of Vermont”

9 Second: By striking out Sec. 3, Department of Forests, Parks and
10 Recreation; Management Standards for Reserve Forestland; Implementation, in
11 its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof two new sections to read as follows:

12 Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS AND RECREATION;
13 REPORT ON ENROLLMENT OF RESERVE FORESTLAND
14 IN USE VALUE APPRAISAL

15 (a) On or before December 31, 2022, the Commissioner of Forests, Parks
16 and Recreation, after consultation with the Division of Property Valuation and
17 Review and the Current Use Advisory Board, shall submit to the House
18 Committees on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Ways and Means
19 and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance a
20 report regarding the enrollment of reserve forestland in the Use Value
21 Appraisal Program. The report shall include the following:

1 (1) The standards for the management of reserve forestland eligible for
2 participation in the Use Value Appraisal Program under 32 V.S.A.
3 § 3752(9)(A)(ii). The standards established by the Commissioner of Forests,
4 Parks and Recreation shall be the same or substantially similar to the standards
5 set forth in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation report on
6 Considerations for a Reserve Forestland Subcategory in Vermont’s Use Value
7 Appraisal Program, dated October 15, 2021.

8 (2) A summary of how a property owner of land already enrolled in the
9 Use Value Appraisal Program as productive forestland would enroll land as
10 reserve forestland and how a property owner of land enrolled in the Use Value
11 Appraisal Program as reserve forestland would transition to enrollment as
12 productive forestland.

13 (b) On or before December 31, 2024, the Commissioner of Taxes, Forests,
14 Parks and Recreation, after consultation with the Commissioner of Forests,
15 Parks and Recreation, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food, And Markets, and
16 the Current Use Advisory Board, shall submit to the House Committees on
17 Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife and on Ways and Means and the Senate
18 Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Finance a report that
19 examines the strategies and rates for the valuation of all land enrolled in the the
20 Use Value Appraisal Program and that recommends how to ensure that the
21 fiscal return to landowners and the State is consistent between use values and
22 uses of the different categories of enrolled land.

1 Sec. 3a. IMPLEMENTATION

2 Beginning on July 1, 2023 and pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3755, managed
3 forestland shall be eligible for enrollment in the Use Value Appraisal Program
4 as reserve forestland in accordance with the minimum acceptable standards
5 and administrative requirements established by the Commissioner of Forests,
6 Parks and Recreation.

7 Third: By striking out Sec. 5, effective dates, in its entirety and inserting in
8 lieu thereof a new Sec. 5 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

10 (a) This section and Secs. 1 (findings), 3 (report on enrollment for reserve
11 forestland), 3a (implementation), and 4 (report on enrollment) shall take effect
12 on passage.

13 (b) Sec. 2 (Use Value Appraisal Program) shall take effect on July 1, 2023.