

Agenda

Finish Pupil Weighting Discussion from 8/20 Meeting

- Rep. Laura Sibia emphasizes importance in remembering lives have been changed because of this program
 - o Asks how do we know farm districts will use this program in the correct way
 - o Comes off as out of touch to these small communities
- Rep. Kathleen James reports back from serving on taskforce
 - o Takes comments to heart and sees need for this

Act 250 Legislation Update

- Sen. Bray
 - o How do we help them succeed?
 - o Towns need to see this as worthy investment
 - o Facilitate development for affordable housing
 - o To receive ARPA funding – must make commitments by Dec. 2024
- Questions
 - o Rep. Tom Bock
 - The time the decision is sensitive
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 - o Rep. Sims
 - Let's bring some lagers and foresters in committee
 - Rep. Bray will follow up
 - o Rep. Lucy Rogers
 - Happy to see one acre clarification
 - Curious to hear about affordable housing part of the bill
 - Rep. Bray - General well accepted concept of “smart growth” while also keeping pressure off green landscape
 - More affordable housing using incentive instruments

Bill Tracker Update

- Keeping this up to date
 - o Color-coded
- Rep. Sims asks for members to reach out to her

VCRD Update on Working Lands Enterprise Fund Request

- Brian Lowe, VCRD from working lands coalition
- \$15 million grant spent over the next 4 year
- Significant unmet need
 - o FY 2022 - Even with over \$7.5 millions of allocation, significant unmet need
- Focus on climate change and working lands
- Charlie – what do you think annual funding from state budget should be?
 - o Baseline \$3 million at least year
 - o Hoping for a \$15 million grant to help backlog lead

VT Creative Network Presentation

- Karen Mittelman
 - o Creative district is foundational to VT economy?
- Pandemic impact on creative sector – lost 8000 jobs
- Most concerned with smaller arts businesses/organizations
- Grants
 - o \$10 M for operating support and recovery
 - o \$4M for facility adaptations – COVID safe
 - o \$2M transitional costs requiring implementing safe public programming
- Creative Spaces Grants
 - o \$750K to restore vitality to vacant buildings in downtown and villages
 - o \$500K support state and regional marketing of arts and cultural events
 - o \$250 to implement CreateVT act
- Questions
 - o Rep. Sims – cultural opportunities in community were essential
 - o What is the status of this bill?
 - Rep. Jerome – we have not done a deep dive on this bill
 - Example – Brandon - Town of 4,000 people – opera house, for-profit music center, artist galleries