

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy to which was referred  
3 Senate Bill No. 148 entitled “An act relating to environmental justice in  
4 Vermont” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and  
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) According to American Journal of Public Health studies published in  
10 2014 and 2018 and affirmed by decades of research, Black, Indigenous, and  
11 Persons of Color (BIPOC) and individuals with low income are  
12 disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards and unsafe housing,  
13 facing higher levels of air and water pollution, mold, lead, and pests.

14 (2) The cumulative impacts of environmental harms disproportionately  
15 and adversely impact the health of BIPOC and communities with low income,  
16 with climate change functioning as a threat multiplier. These disproportionate  
17 adverse impacts are exacerbated by lack of access to affordable energy, healthy  
18 food, green spaces, and other environmental benefits.

19 (3) Since 1994, Executive Order 12898 has required federal agencies to  
20 make achieving environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and  
21 addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental

1 effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and  
2 populations with low incomes in the United States.

3 (4) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
4 30 percent of Vermont towns with high town household poverty have limited  
5 access to grocery stores. In addition, a study conducted at the University of  
6 Vermont showed that in Vermont, BIPOC individuals were twice as likely to  
7 have trouble affording fresh food and to go hungry in a month than white  
8 individuals.

9 (5) Inadequate transportation impedes job access, narrowing the scope  
10 of jobs available to individuals with low income and potentially impacting job  
11 performance.

12 (6) In 2020, the Center for American Progress found that 76 percent of  
13 BIPOC individuals in Vermont live in “nature deprived” census tracts with a  
14 higher proportion of natural areas lost to human activities than the Vermont  
15 median. In contrast, 27 percent of white individuals live in these areas.

16 (7) The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that  
17 systemic health and social inequities disproportionately increases the risk of  
18 racial and ethnic minority groups becoming infected by and dying from  
19 COVID-19.

1           (8) According to the Vermont Department of Health, inequities in access  
2           to and quality of health care, employment, and housing have contributed to  
3           disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 among BIPOC Vermonters.

4           (9) An analysis by University of Vermont researchers found that mobile  
5           homes are more likely than permanent structures to be located in a flood  
6           hazard area. During Tropical Storm Irene, mobile parks and over 561 mobile  
7           homes in Vermont were damaged or destroyed. Mobile homes make up 7.2  
8           percent of all housing units in Vermont and were approximately 40 percent of  
9           sites affected by Tropical Storm Irene.

10          (10) A University of Vermont study reports that BIPOC individuals  
11          were seven times more likely to have gone without heat in the past year, over  
12          two times more likely to have trouble affording electricity, and seven times  
13          less likely to own a solar panel than white Vermonters.

14          (11) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized Vermont's  
15          deficiencies in addressing environmental justice concerns related to legacy  
16          mining and mobile home park habitability, providing grants for these projects  
17          in 1998 and 2005.

18          (12) Vermont State agencies receiving federal funds are subject to the  
19          antidiscrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1           (13) In response to the documented inadequacy of state and federal  
2           environmental and land use laws to protect vulnerable communities, increasing  
3           numbers of states have adopted formal environmental justice laws and policies.

4           (14) At least 17 states have developed mapping tools to identify  
5           environmentally overburdened communities and environmental health  
6           disparities.

7           (15) The State of Vermont does not currently have a State-managed  
8           mapping tool that clearly identifies environmentally overburdened  
9           communities.

10           (16) The 1991 Principles of Environmental Justice adopted by The First  
11           National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit demand the right  
12           of all individuals to participate as equal partners at every level of decision  
13           making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement,  
14           and evaluation.

15           (17) Article VII of the Vermont Constitution establishes the government  
16           as a vehicle for the common benefit, protection, and security of Vermonters  
17           and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single set of persons  
18           who are only a part of that community. This, coupled with Article I's  
19           guarantee of equal rights to enjoying life, liberty, and safety, and Article IV's  
20           assurance of timely justice for all, encourages political officials to identify how

1 particular communities may be unequally burdened or receive unequal  
2 protection under the law due to race, income, or geographic location.

3 (18) On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order  
4 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” that created a  
5 government-wide “Justice40 Initiative” that aims to deliver 40 percent of the  
6 overall benefits of federal investments related to climate, natural disasters,  
7 environment, clean energy, clean transportation, housing, water and  
8 wastewater infrastructure, and legacy pollution reduction to “disadvantaged  
9 communities” that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by  
10 pollution and underinvestment.

11 (19) According to American Community Survey data from 2016–2019,  
12 at least 51 percent of census block groups in Vermont (or 52 percent of  
13 Vermont’s population) meet the Justice40 Initiative federal guidelines of a  
14 disadvantaged community.

15 (20) Lack of a clear environmental justice policy has resulted in a  
16 piecemeal approach to understanding and addressing environmental justice in  
17 Vermont and creates a barrier to establishing clear definitions, metrics, and  
18 strategies to ensure meaningful engagement and more equitable distribution of  
19 environmental benefits and burdens.

20 (21) It is the State of Vermont’s responsibility to pursue environmental  
21 justice for its residents and to ensure that its agencies do not contribute to

1 unfair distribution of environmental benefits to or environmental burdens on  
2 low-income, limited-English proficient, and BIPOC communities.

3 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. chapter 72 is added to read:

4 CHAPTER 72. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

5 § 6001. DEFINITIONS

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) “Environmental benefits” means the assets and services that enhance  
8 the capability of communities and individuals to function and flourish in  
9 society, such as access to a healthy environment and clean natural resources,  
10 including air, water, land, green spaces, constructed playgrounds, and other  
11 outdoor recreational facilities and venues; affordable clean renewable energy  
12 sources; public transportation; fulfilling and dignified green jobs; healthy  
13 homes and buildings; health care; nutritious food, ~~including access to~~  
14 Indigenous food and cultural resources; environmental enforcement, and  
15 training and funding disbursed or administered by governmental agencies.

16 (2) “Environmental burdens” means any significant impact to ~~the~~ clean  
17 air, water, and land, including any destruction, damage, or impairment of  
18 natural resources resulting from intentional or reasonably foreseeable causes.  
19 Examples of environmental burdens include climate change; air and water  
20 pollution; improper sewage disposal; improper handling of solid wastes and  
21 other noxious substances; excessive noise; activities that limit access to green

1 spaces, nutritious food, Indigenous food or cultural resources, or constructed  
2 outdoor playgrounds and other recreational facilities and venues; inadequate  
3 remediation of pollution; reduction of groundwater levels; increased flooding  
4 or stormwater flows; home and building health hazards, including lead paint,  
5 lead plumbing, asbestos, and mold; and damage to inland waterways and  
6 waterbodies, wetlands, forests, green spaces, or constructed playgrounds or  
7 other outdoor recreational facilities and venues from private, industrial,  
8 commercial, and government operations or other activity that contaminates or  
9 alters the quality of the environment and poses a risk to public health.

10 (3) “Environmental justice” means all individuals are afforded equitable  
11 access to and distribution of environmental benefits; equitable distribution of  
12 environmental burdens; fair and equitable treatment and meaningful  
13 participation in decision-making processes; and the development,  
14 implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and  
15 policies. Environmental justice recognizes of the unique needs of individuals  
16 of every race, color, income, class, ability status, gender identity, sexual  
17 orientation, national origin, ethnicity or ancestry, religious belief, or English  
18 language proficiency level. Environmental justice redresses structural and  
19 institutional racism, colonialism, and other systems of oppression that result in  
20 the marginalization, degradation, disinvestment, and neglect of Black,  
21 Indigenous, and Persons of Color. Environmental justice requires prioritizing

1 resources for community revitalization, ecological restoration, resilience  
2 planning, and a just recovery to communities most impacted by environmental  
3 burdens and natural disasters.

4 (4) “Environmental justice population” means any census block group in  
5 which:

6 (A) the annual median household income is not more than 80 percent  
7 of the state median household income;

8 (B) Persons of Color and Indigenous Peoples comprise at least six  
9 percent or more of the population; or

10 (C) at least one percent or more of households have limited English  
11 proficiency.

12 (5) “Limited English proficiency” means that a household does not have  
13 an adult who speaks English “very well” as defined by the U.S. Census  
14 Bureau.

15 (6) “Meaningful participation” means that all individuals have the  
16 opportunity to participate in energy, climate change, and environmental  
17 decision making, including needs assessments, planning, implementation,  
18 permitting, compliance and enforcement, and evaluation. Meaningful  
19 participation also integrates diverse knowledge systems, histories, traditions,  
20 languages, and cultures of Indigenous communities in decision-making  
21 processes. It requires that communities are enabled and administratively



1 assisted to participate fully through education and training. **Meaningful**  
2 **participation requires the State to operate in a transparent manner with regards**  
3 **to opportunities for community input and also encourages the** development of  
4 environmental, energy, and climate change stewardship.

5 § 6002. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STATE POLICY

6 (a) It is the policy of the State of Vermont that no segment of the  
7 population of the State should, because of its racial, cultural, or economic  
8 makeup, bear a disproportionate share of environmental burdens or be denied  
9 an equitable share of environmental benefits. It is further the policy of the  
10 State of Vermont to provide the opportunity for the meaningful participation of  
11 all individuals, with particular attention to environmental justice populations,  
12 in the development, implementation, or enforcement of any law, regulation, or  
13 policy.

14 (b) The following **Vermont** State agencies, **departments, and bodies** shall  
15 consider cumulative environmental burdens, as defined by rule pursuant to  
16 subsection 6003(a) of this title, and access to environmental benefits when  
17 making decisions about environment, energy, climate, and public health  
18 projects, facilities and infrastructure, and associated funding: Agencies of  
19 **Natural Resources, of** Transportation, of Commerce and Community  
20 **Development, of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and of Education; the Public**

1 Utility Commission; the Natural Resources Board; and the Departments of  
2 Health, of Public Safety, and of Public Service.

3 (c) On or before July 1, 2025, every Vermont State agency shall create and  
4 adopt a community engagement plan that describes how the agency will  
5 engage with environmental justice populations as it evaluates new and existing  
6 activities and programs. Community engagement plans shall align with the  
7 core principles developed by the Interagency Environmental Justice  
8 Committee pursuant to subdivision 6004(c)(3)(B) of this title and take into  
9 consideration the recommendations of the Environmental Justice Advisory  
10 Council-on Environmental Justice pursuant to subdivision 6004(c)(2)(B) of  
11 this title. This-Each plan shall describe how the agency plans to facilitate  
12 equitable participation and support meaningful and direct involvement of  
13 environmental justice populations in compliance with Title VI of the Civil  
14 Rights Act of 1964.

15 (d) Every Vermont State agency shall submit annual summaries to the  
16 Environmental Justice Advisory Council-on Environmental Justice established  
17 pursuant to subdivision 6004(a)(1)(A) of this title, detailing all  
18 complaints alleging environmental justice issues or Title VI violations and any  
19 agency action taken to resolve such complaints. Agencies shall consider the  
20 recommendations of the Advisory Council pursuant to subdivision  
21 6004(c)(2)(DE) of this title and substantively respond in writing if an agency

1 chooses not to implement any such recommendations ~~for changes to policies or~~  
2 ~~procedures~~, within 90 days after receipt of the recommendations.

3 (e) The Agency of Natural Resources, in consultation with the  
4 Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the Interagency Environmental  
5 Justice Committee, shall review the definition of “environmental justice  
6 population” every five years and recommend revisions to the General  
7 Assembly to ensure the definition achieves the Environmental Justice State  
8 Policy.

9 (ef) On or before ~~July 1~~~~December 15~~, 2023~~2~~, the Agency~~ies~~ of Natural  
10 Resources, in consultation with the Interagency Environmental Justice  
11 Committee and the Environmental Justice Advisory Council, shall issue  
12 guidance on how ~~agencies~~ all Agencies and ~~departments~~ Departments listed  
13 in subsection (b) of this section must determine which investments provide  
14 environmental benefits to environmental justice populations. A draft version  
15 of the guidance must be released for a 60-day public comment period before  
16 being finalized.

17 (fg)(1) On or before ~~July 1~~January 15, 2024~~3~~, all Agencies and  
18 Departments listed in subsection (b) of this section shall, in accordance with  
19 the Agency of Natural Resources’s guidance document developed pursuant to  
20 subsection (ef) of this section, review the past three years and generate baseline  
21 spending reports that include:

1           (A) where investments were made and which geographic areas, at the  
2           municipal level and census block group, where practicable, ~~incurred-received~~  
3           environmental benefits from those investments; and

4           (B) the percentage of overall ~~environmental~~ benefits from those  
5           investments that ~~resulted in environmental benefits in-went to~~ environmental  
6           justice populations.

7           (2) Agencies and Departments shall publicly post the baseline spending  
8           reports on their respective websites.

9           ~~(g)~~ On or before July 1, 2024, the Agencies and Departments covered  
10          under subsection (b) of this section shall direct investments to environmental  
11          justice populations with a goal that at least 55 percent of the overall benefits  
12          from those investments go to environmental justice populations.

13          ~~(h)~~(1) On or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, all Agencies and  
14          Departments listed in subsection (b) of this section shall issue annual spending  
15          reports that include:

16               (A) where investments were made and which geographic areas, at the  
17               municipal level and census block group, where practicable, ~~incurred-received~~  
18               environmental benefits from those investments; and

19               (B) the percentage of overall ~~environmental~~ benefits from those  
20               investments that ~~resulted in environmental benefits in-went to~~ environmental  
21               justice populations.

1           (2) Agencies and Departments shall publicly post the annual spending  
2           reports on their respective websites.

3           (†) On or before December 15, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources  
4           shall submit a report to the General Assembly describing whether the baseline  
5           spending reports completed pursuant to ~~in~~ subsection (fg) of this section  
6           indicate any municipalities or portions of municipalities that are routinely  
7           underserved with respect to environmental benefits, ~~as determined by a finding~~  
8           ~~that taking into consideration whether~~ those areas receive, averaged across  
9           three years, a significantly lower percentage of environmental benefits from  
10          State investments as compared to other municipalities or portions of  
11          municipalities in the State. This report shall include a recommendation as to  
12          whether a statutory definition of “underserved community” and any other  
13          revisions to this title are necessary to best carry out the Environmental Justice  
14          State Policy.

15          § 6003. RULEMAKING

16          (a)(1) On or before July 1, 2024, the Agency of Natural Resources, in  
17          consultation with the ~~Advisory Council on~~ Environmental Justice ~~Advisory~~  
18          ~~Council~~ and the Interagency Environmental Justice Committee, shall adopt  
19          rules to: define cumulative environmental burdens; ~~and~~ implement  
20          consideration of cumulative environmental burdens within the Agency of  
21          Natural Resources; ~~and inform~~ ~~including~~ how the public and the State

1 agencies, departments, and bodies specified in subsection 6002(b) of this title  
2 implement consideration of cumulative environmental burdens and shall use the  
3 environmental justice mapping tool as required by subsection 6002(ba) and  
4 section 6005 of this title.

5 (2) The Agency of Natural Resources shall also incorporate the  
6 principles of the Environmental Justice State Policy into its policies and  
7 procedures, plans, guidance, and rules rules and guidance where applicable.

8 (b) Not later than one year following the adoption of the rules pursuant to  
9 subdivision (a)(1) of this section and as appropriate thereafter, the Agencies  
10 of Transportation, of Commerce and Community Development, of Agriculture,  
11 Food and Markets, and of Education; the Public Utility Commission; the  
12 Natural Resources Board; and the Departments of Health, of Public Safety, and  
13 of Public Service, in consultation with the ~~Advisory Council on~~ Environmental  
14 Justice Advisory Council and consistent with the rules adopted pursuant to  
15 subdivision (a)(1) of this section, shall adopt or amend policies and procedures,  
16 plans, guidance, and rules, where applicable, to implement this chapter.

17 ~~(c) The Agency of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Advisory~~  
18 ~~Council on Environmental Justice and the Interagency Environmental Justice~~  
19 ~~Committee, shall review the definitions of “environmental justice population”~~  
20 ~~and “overburdened and underserved community” every five years and~~

1 recommend revisions to the General Assembly to ensure the definition  
2 achieves the Environmental Justice State Policy.

3 (dc) Prior to drafting the new rules pursuant to this section, agencies shall  
4 consult with the Environmental Justice Advisory Council to discuss the scope  
5 and proposed content of rules to be developed. The agency Agencies shall also  
6 submit draft rulemaking concepts to the Advisory Council for review and  
7 comment. Any proposed rule and draft Administrative Procedure Act filing  
8 forms shall be provided to the Advisory Council not less than 45 days prior to  
9 submitting the proposed rule or rules to the Interagency Committee on  
10 Administrative Rules (ICAR).

11 § 6004. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND

12 INTERAGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

13 (a) Advisory Council and Interagency Committee.

14 (1) There is created:

15 (A) the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (Advisory Council)  
16 to provide independent advice and recommendations to State agencies and the  
17 General Assembly on matters relating to environmental justice, including the  
18 integration of environmental justice principles into State programs, policies,  
19 regulations, legislation, and activities; and

20 (B) the Interagency Environmental Justice Committee (Interagency  
21 Committee) to guide and coordinate State agency implementation of the

1 Environmental Justice State Policy and provide recommendations to the  
2 General Assembly for amending the definitions and protections set forth in this  
3 chapter.

4 (2) Appointments to the groups created in this subsection shall be made  
5 on or before ~~October 1~~December 15, 2022.

6 (3) Both the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee shall  
7 consider and incorporate the Guiding Principles for a Just Transition developed  
8 by the Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council in their  
9 work.

10 (b) Meetings. The Advisory Council and Interagency Committee shall  
11 each meet at least nine times per year, with at least four meetings occurring  
12 jointly.

13 (c) Duties.

14 (1) The Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee shall jointly:

15 (A) within one year of the effective date of this act, consider and  
16 recommend to the General Assembly amendments to thresholds and criteria of  
17 the definition of environmental justice populations to include populations more  
18 likely to be at higher risk for poor health outcomes in response to  
19 environmental burdens; and

20 (B) examine existing data and studies on environmental justice and  
21 consult with State, federal, and local agencies and affected communities



1 regarding the impact of current statutes, regulations, and policies on the  
2 achievement of environmental justice.

3 (2) The Advisory Council shall:

4 (A) advise State agencies on environmental justice issues and on how  
5 to incorporate environmental justice into agency procedures and decision  
6 making as required under subsections 6002(b) ~~and (d)~~ of this title and evaluate  
7 the potential for environmental burdens or disproportionate impacts on  
8 environmental justice populations as a result of State actions and the potential  
9 for environmental benefits to environmental justice populations;

10 (B) advise State agencies in the development of community  
11 engagement plans;

12 (C) advise State agencies on the use of the environmental justice  
13 mapping tool established pursuant to section 6005 of this title, in the  
14 enhancement of meaningful participation, reduction of environmental burdens,  
15 and equitable distribution of environmental benefits;

16 (D) review and provide feedback to the relevant State agency,  
17 pursuant to subsection 6003(~~d~~c) of this title, on any proposed rules  
18 implementing this chapter; and

19 (E) receive and review annual State agency summaries of complaints  
20 alleging environmental justice issues, including Title VI complaints, and

1 suggest options or alternatives to State agencies for the resolution of systemic  
2 issues raised in or by the complaints.

3 (3) The Interagency Committee shall:

4 (A) consult with the Agency of Natural Resources in the  
5 development of the guidance document on how to determine which  
6 investments provide environmental benefits to environmental justice  
7 populations; and

8 (B) on or before July 1, 2023, develop, in consultation with the  
9 Agency of Natural Resources and the Environmental Justice Advisory Council,  
10 a set of core principles to guide and coordinate the development of the State  
11 agency community engagement plans required under subsection 6002(c) of this  
12 title.

13 (d) Membership.

14 (1) Advisory Council. Each member of the Advisory Council shall be  
15 well informed regarding environmental justice principles and committed to  
16 achieving environmental justice in Vermont and working collaboratively with  
17 other members of the Council. To the greatest extent practicable, Advisory  
18 Council members shall represent diversity in race, ethnicity, age, gender, urban  
19 and rural areas, and different regions of the State. The Advisory Council shall  
20 consist of the following 17 members, with more than 50 percent residing in  
21 environmental justice populations:

1           (A) the Director of Racial Equity or designee;

2           (B) one representative of municipal government, appointed by the  
3 Committee on Committees;

4           (C) two representatives who reside in a census block group that is  
5 designated as an environmental justice population, one appointed by the  
6 Committee on Committees and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7           (D) two representatives of social justice organizations, one appointed  
8 by the Committee on Committees and one appointed by the Speaker of the  
9 House;

10          (E) two representatives of organizations working on food security  
11 issues, one appointed by the Committee on Committees and one appointed by  
12 the Speaker of the House;

13          (F) two representatives of mobile home park issues, one appointed by  
14 the Committee on Committees and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15          (G) two representatives of a State-recognized Native American  
16 Indian tribe, recommended and appointed by the Vermont Commission on  
17 Native American Affairs;

18          (H) two representatives of immigrant communities in Vermont, one  
19 appointed by the Committee on Committees and one appointed by the Speaker  
20 of the House;

1           (I) one representative of a statewide environmental organization,  
2           appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3           (J) the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation  
4           Board or designee; and

5           (K) the Chair of the Natural Resources Conservation Council or  
6           designee.

7           (2) Interagency Committee. The Interagency Committee shall consist of  
8           the following 12 members:

9           (A) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

10          (B) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee;

11          (C) the Secretary of Transportation or designee;

12          (D) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or  
13          designee;

14          (E) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee;

15          (F) the Secretary of Education or designee;

16          (G) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

17          (H) the Director of Emergency Management or designee;

18          (I) the Commissioner of Public Service or designee;

19          (J) the Chair of Public Utility Commission or designee;

20          (K) the Chair of the Natural Resources Board or designee; and

21          (L) the Director of Racial Equity or designee.

1           (3) The Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee may each  
2           elect two co-chairs and may hold public hearings.

3           (4) After initial appointments, all appointed members of the Advisory  
4           Council shall serve six-year terms and serve until a successor is appointed.  
5           The initial terms shall be staggered so that a third of the appointed members  
6           shall serve a two-year term, another third of the appointed members shall serve  
7           a four-year term, and the remaining members shall be appointed to a six-year  
8           term.

9           (5) Vacancies of the Advisory Council shall be appointed in the same  
10          manner as original appointments.

11          (6) The Advisory Council shall have the administrative, technical, and  
12          legal assistance of the Agency of Natural Resources.

13          (7) Members of the Advisory Council who are neither State nor  
14          municipal employees shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
15          reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

16          § 6005. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL

17          (a) In consultation with the ~~Advisory Council on~~ Environmental Justice  
18          ~~Advisory Council~~ and the Interagency Environmental Justice Committee, the  
19          Agency of Natural Resources shall determine indices and criteria to be  
20          included in a State mapping tool to depict environmental justice populations  
21          and measure environmental burdens at the smallest geographic level

1 practicable. The Agency of Natural Resources shall maintain the mapping  
2 tool.

3 (b) The Agency of Natural Resources may cooperate and contract with  
4 other states or private organizations when developing the mapping tool. The  
5 mapping tool may incorporate the federal environmental justice mapping tool,  
6 EJSCREEN, as well as existing State mapping tools such as the Vermont  
7 Social Vulnerability Index.

8 (c) On or before January 1, 2024, the mapping tool shall be available for  
9 use by the public as well as by the State government.

10 Sec. 3. ANNUAL REPORT

11 Beginning on ~~July~~ January 15, 2024<sup>3</sup>, the Vermont state agencies,  
12 ~~departments, and bodies~~ Agencies and Departments listed in 3 V.S.A.  
13 § 6002(b) shall issue and publicly post an annual report summarizing all  
14 actions taken to incorporate environmental justice into the Agency’s or  
15 Department’s policies or determinations, rulemaking, permit proceeding, or  
16 project review.

17 Sec. 4. FUNDING

18 [Placeholder: funding language to be inserted here].

19 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.

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4 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

6

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE