Introduced by Representatives Sims of Craftsbury, Boyden of Cambridge, Buss of Woodstock, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Demrow of Corinth, Elder of Starksboro, Harrison of Chittenden, Jerome of Brandon, Leavitt of Grand Isle, Lipsky of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, Morris of Springfield, Priestley of Bradford, Surprenant of Barnard, and Torre of Moretown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; recreational trails

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the Green Mountain Recreation Fund as a sustainable source of funding for organizational capacity and recreation related development and stewardship. The Fund would be funded from five percent of the existing tax on the gallonage sale of malt and vinous beverages. The Fund would be used to fund:

(1) one full-time staff position at the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VTGC) whose duties would be to:

(A) administer membership to the VTGC;

(B) manage VTGC meetings, activities, operations, and budget;
(C) routinely assess the needs of the Vermont trail stewardship community;

(D) develop, manage, and deploy technical assistance resources for VTGC members; and

(E) execute the VTGC’s advisory role to the Agency of Natural Resources, as defined in statute;

(2) one full-time staff position at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation whose duties would be to:

(A) administer membership to the Vermont Trail System (VTS);

(B) ensure members comply with VTS program requirements;

(C) provide support to the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council;

(D) provide technical assistance to VTS members; and

(E) facilitate the development of tools and resources in the resource library;

(3) one full-time staff position at the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to lead program administration of the Green Mountain Recreation Fund whose duties would be to:

(A) develop and maintain information about grant opportunities;

(B) host trainings and other events to support applicants and grantees;

(C) develop and maintain a regular grant cycle; and

(D) manage a grant selection process;
(4) the creation of grants for nonprofit trail organizations for organizational capacity; and

(5) the creation of grants to be used by nonprofits and municipalities to advance the purposes of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative.

An act relating to the creation of the Green Mountain Recreation Fund

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

(TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)