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H.389

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Anthony of Barre City,  
Bongartz of Manchester, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Goldman  
of Rockingham, McCann of Montpelier, Patt of Worcester, and  
Priestley of Bradford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; solid waste; expanded polystyrene  
foam; densifier; siting assessment

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
Secretary of Natural Resources to conduct an assessment of the feasibility of  
siting an EPS foam densifier in the State to serve as a location to transport  
waste EPS foam for recycling or reuse.

An act relating to the siting of an expanded polystyrene foam densifier in  
the State

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

Sec. 1. ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF SITING AN

EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM DENSIFIER IN THE STATE

(a) As used in this section:

1           (1) “EPS foam densifier” means a machine that shears, compresses, and  
2           heats waste EPS foam into a uniform melt that can be formed into blocks or  
3           other shapes for transport and ultimate reuse.

4           (2) “Expanded polystyrene foam” or “EPS foam” means a  
5           thermoplastic petrochemical material utilizing the styrene monomer that is  
6           processed according to multiple techniques, including fusion of polymer  
7           spheres, injection molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding.

8           (b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall assess the feasibility of siting  
9           an EPS foam densifier in the State to serve as a site to transport waste EPS  
10           foam for recycling or reuse. The Secretary shall coordinate with interested  
11           parties in conducting the assessment, including solid waste management  
12           entities, solid waste haulers, and representative of businesses that generate  
13           waste EPS foam through manufacturing or shipping. On or before January 15,  
14           2024, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committee  
15           on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
16           and Energy a report with the results of the site assessment. The report shall  
17           include:

18           (1) a recommendation of whether an EPS foam densifier should be sited  
19           in Vermont, where it should be sited, and what entity would run the densifier;

20           (2) an estimate of the cost of the EPS foam densifier to purchase and  
21           operate;

1           (3) a recommendation of whether EPS foam should be banned from  
2           landfill disposal if an EPS foam densifier is located in the State; and

3           (4) a proposal of how solid waste haulers, businesses, and the public  
4           would access an EPS foam densifier for disposition of waste EPS foam.

5           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.