

1 S.310

2 An act relating to natural disaster government response, recovery, and  
3 resiliency

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

5 \* \* \* Creation of the Community Resilience and Disaster  
6 Mitigation Grant Program and Fund \* \* \*

7 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 48 is added to read:

8 § 48. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DISASTER MITIGATION

9 GRANT PROGRAM

10 (a) Program established. There is established the Community Resilience  
11 and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to award grants to covered  
12 municipalities to provide support for disaster mitigation, adaptation, or repair  
13 activities.

14 (b) Definition. As used in this section, “covered municipality” means a  
15 city, town, fire district or incorporated village, and all other governmental  
16 incorporated units that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program in  
17 accordance with 42 U.S.C. Chapter 50.

18 (c) Administration; implementation.

19 (1) Grant awards. The Department of Public Safety, in coordination  
20 with the Department of Environmental Conservation, shall administer the  
21 Program, which shall award grants for the following:

22 (A) technical assistance for natural disaster mitigation, adaptation, or

1 repair to municipalities;

2 (B) technical assistance for the improvement of municipal  
3 stormwater systems and other municipal infrastructure;

4 (C) projects that implement disaster mitigation measures, adaptation,  
5 or repair, including watershed restoration and similar activities that directly  
6 reduce risks to communities, lives, public collections of historic value, and  
7 property; and

8 (D) projects to adopt and meet the State's model flood hazard  
9 bylaws.

10 (2) Grant Program design. The Department of Public Safety, in  
11 coordination with the Department of Environmental Conservation, shall design  
12 the Program. The Program design shall:

13 (A) establish an equitable system for distributing grants statewide on  
14 the basis of need according to a system of priorities, including the following:

15 (i) projects that meet the standards established by the Department  
16 of Environmental Conservation's Stream Alteration Rule and Flood Hazard  
17 Area and River Corridor Rule.

18 (ii) projects that use funding as a match for other grants, including  
19 grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

20 (iii) projects that are in hazard mitigation plans; and

21 (iv) projects that are geographically located around the State;

1           (B) establish guidelines for disaster mitigation measures and costs  
2           that will be eligible for grant funding; and

3           (C) establish eligibility criteria for covered municipalities, but allow  
4           municipalities to partner with community organizations to apply for grants and  
5           implement projects awarded funding by those grants.

6           (3) Annually, by November 15, the Department of Public Safety shall  
7           submit a report detailing the current Program design and any grants awarded  
8           pursuant to this section during the preceding year to the House Committee on  
9           Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on  
10          Government Operations.

11          Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 49 is added to read:

12          § 49. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND DISASTER MITIGATION

13                 FUND

14                 (a) Creation. There is established the Community Resilience and Disaster  
15                 Mitigation Fund to provide funding to the Community Resilience and Disaster  
16                 Mitigation Grant Program established in section 48 of this title. The Fund  
17                 shall be administered by the Department of Public Safety.

18                 (b) Monies in the Fund. The Fund shall consist of monies appropriated or  
19                 transferred to the Fund.

20                 (c) Fund administration.

21                         (1) The Commissioner of Finance and Management may anticipate

1 receipts to this Fund and issue warrants based thereon.

2 (2) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall maintain accurate and  
3 complete records of all receipts by and expenditures from the Fund.

4 (3) All balances remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be carried  
5 over to the following year.

6 (d) Reports. On or before January 15 each year, the Commissioner of  
7 Public Safety shall submit a report to the House Committees on Environment  
8 and Energy and House Government Operations and Military Affairs and the  
9 Senate Committees on Government Operations and Natural Resources and  
10 Energy with an update on the expenditures from the Fund. For each fiscal  
11 year, the report shall include a summary of each project receiving funding.  
12 The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not  
13 apply to the report to be made under this subsection.

14 Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

15 Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 8557 is amended to read:

16 § 8557. VERMONT FIRE SERVICE TRAINING COUNCIL

17 (a)(1) Sums for the expenses of the operation of training facilities and  
18 curriculum of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council not to exceed  
19 ~~\$1,200,000.00~~ \$1,500,000.00 per year shall be paid to the Fire Safety Special  
20 Fund created by 20 V.S.A. § 3157 by insurance companies, writing fire,  
21 homeowners multiple peril, allied lines, farm owners multiple peril,

1 commercial multiple peril (fire and allied lines), private passenger and  
2 commercial auto, and inland marine policies on property and persons situated  
3 within the State of Vermont within 30 days after notice from the  
4 Commissioner of Financial Regulation of such estimated expenses. Captive  
5 companies shall be excluded from the effect of this section.

6 \* \* \*

7 (4) An amount not less than ~~\$150,000.00~~ \$450,000.00 shall be  
8 specifically allocated to the Emergency Medical Services Special Fund  
9 established under 18 V.S.A. § 908 for the provision of training programs for  
10 certified Vermont EMS first responders and licensed emergency medical  
11 responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical  
12 technicians, and paramedics.

13 \* \* \*

14 \* \* \* Credit Facilities for Local Investments \* \* \*

15 Sec. 4a. 10 V.S.A. § 10 is amended to read:

16 § 10. VERMONT STATE TREASURER; CREDIT FACILITY FOR LOCAL  
17 INVESTMENTS

18 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 433(a) to the contrary,  
19 the Vermont State Treasurer shall have the authority to establish a credit  
20 facility of up to 10 percent of the State's average cash balance on terms  
21 acceptable to the Treasurer and consistent with prudent investment principles

1 and guidelines pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433(b)–(c) and the Uniform Prudent  
2 Investor Act, 14A V.S.A. chapter 9.

3 (b) The Treasurer may use amounts available under subsection (a) of this  
4 section to provide financing for infrastructure projects in Vermont mobile  
5 home parks and may modify the terms of such financing in ~~his or her~~ the  
6 Treasurer’s discretion as is necessary to promote the availability of mobile  
7 home park housing and to protect the interests of the State.

8 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 433(a) to the contrary,  
9 and in addition to the provisions of subsection (a) on this section, the Vermont  
10 State Treasurer shall have the authority to establish a credit facility of up to  
11 two and one-half percent of the State’s average cash balance on terms  
12 acceptable to the Treasurer and consistent with prudent investment principles  
13 and guidelines pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433(b)–(c) and the Uniform Prudent  
14 Investor Act, 14A V.S.A. chapter 9. The Treasurer may use amounts available  
15 under this subsection only to provide financing for climate infrastructure and  
16 resilience projects and may modify the terms of such financing in the  
17 Treasurer’s discretion as is necessary to protect the interest of the State.

18 (d) Annually, on or before November 15, the Treasurer shall submit a  
19 report detailing the activities, financing, and accounting of any credit facilities  
20 created pursuant to subsection (c) of this section during the preceding calendar  
21 year to the Governor; the House Committees on Appropriations, on Commerce

1 and Economic Development, and on Ways and Means; and the Senate  
2 Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing and  
3 General Affairs, and on Finance.

4 Sec. 4b. TREASURER CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING  
5 COORDINATION; REPORT

6 (a) The Treasurer may use funds appropriated in fiscal year 2025 to  
7 coordinate climate infrastructure financing efforts within the State, including  
8 use for administrative costs and third-party consultations. The Treasurer shall  
9 seek to create a framework for effective collaboration among State  
10 organizations, agencies, and financial instrumentalities to maximize the  
11 amount of federal funds the State may receive and to effectively coordinate the  
12 deployment of these funds.

13 (b) On or before December 15, 2024, the Treasurer shall submit a report  
14 detailing the status of coordination efforts described in subsection (a) of this  
15 section and any recommendations regarding legislation for State climate  
16 infrastructure financing to the House Committees on Appropriations, on  
17 Commerce and Economic Development, on Environment and Energy, on  
18 Government Operations and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the  
19 Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing  
20 and General Affairs, on Finance, on Government Operations, and on Natural  
21 Resources and Energy.







1 Armed Forces or other federal agencies are primarily responsible, to prevent,  
2 minimize, or repair injury and damage resulting from or caused by enemy  
3 attack, sabotage, or other hostile action.

4 ~~(11)~~(12) “Radiological incident” means any mishap or occurrence  
5 involving radiological activity that may pose a threat to persons or property.

6 Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

7 Sec. 6a. [Deleted.]

8 \* \* \* Emergency Management \* \* \*

9 Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 6 is amended to read:

10 § 6. LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY  
11 MANAGEMENT

12 (a) Each town and city of this State is ~~hereby authorized and directed to~~  
13 shall establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance  
14 with the State emergency management plan and program. The executive  
15 officer or legislative branch of the town or city is ~~authorized to~~ shall appoint a  
16 town or city emergency management director who shall have direct  
17 responsibility for the organization, administration, and coordination of the  
18 local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and  
19 control of the executive officer or legislative branch. If the town or city ~~that~~  
20 has not adopted the town manager form of government in accordance with 24  
21 V.S.A. chapter 37 and the executive officer or legislative branch of the town or

1 city has not appointed an emergency management director, the executive  
2 officer or legislative branch shall ~~be the~~ appoint a town or city emergency  
3 management director. The town or city emergency management director may  
4 appoint an emergency management coordinator and other staff as necessary to  
5 accomplish the purposes of this chapter. In an instance of a vacancy of the  
6 position of a town or city emergency management director, the executive  
7 officer or the chair or president of the legislative branch shall be the emergency  
8 management director.

9 (b) Each local organization for emergency management shall perform  
10 emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the town or  
11 city within which it is organized ~~and, in~~ which may include coordinating the  
12 utilization of first responders and other emergency management personnel  
13 pursuant to the all-hazards emergency management plan adopted pursuant to  
14 subsection (c) of this section. In addition, each local organization for  
15 emergency management shall conduct such functions outside the territorial  
16 limits as may be required pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and in  
17 accord with rules adopted by the Governor.

18 (c)(1) Each local organization shall develop and maintain an all-hazards  
19 emergency management plan in accordance with the State Emergency  
20 Management Plan and guidance set forth by the Division of Emergency  
21 Management.





1 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program’s Restaurant Meals Program,  
2 including the potential need for additional staff and information technology  
3 changes.

4 Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. § 31 is amended to read:

5 § 31. STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION; DUTIES

6 (a) The Commission shall have authority to:

7 \* \* \*

8 (7) Ensure that ~~a State plan~~ the State Emergency Management Plan will  
9 go into effect when an accident occurs involving the transportation of  
10 hazardous materials. The ~~plan~~ Plan shall be exercised at least once annually  
11 and shall be coordinated with local and State emergency plans.

12 \* \* \*

13 Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 32 is amended to read:

14 § 32. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES; CREATION;  
15 DUTIES

16 (a) One or more local emergency planning committees, created under  
17 EPCRA, shall be appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission.  
18 “EPCRA” means the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-  
19 Know Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11001–11050.

20 (b) All local emergency planning committees shall include representatives  
21 from the following: fire departments; local and regional emergency medical

1 services; local, county, and State law enforcement; other entities providing first  
2 responders or emergency management personnel; media; transportation;  
3 regional planning commissions; hospitals; industry; the Vermont National  
4 Guard; the Department of Health's district office; and an animal rescue  
5 organization, and may include any other interested public or private individual  
6 or organization. Where the local emergency planning committee represents  
7 more than one region of the State, the Commission shall appoint  
8 representatives that are geographically diverse.

9 (c) A local emergency planning committee shall perform all the following  
10 duties:

11 (1) Carry out all the requirements of a committee pursuant to EPCRA,  
12 including preparing a local emergency planning committee plan. The plan  
13 shall be coordinated with the State emergency management plan and may be  
14 expanded to address all-hazards identified in the State emergency management  
15 plan. At a minimum, the local emergency planning committee plan shall  
16 include the following:

17 (A) Identifies facilities and transportation routes of extremely  
18 hazardous substances.

19 (B) Describes the utilization of first responders and other emergency  
20 management personnel and emergency response procedures, including those  
21 identified in facility plans.

1 (C) Designates a local emergency planning committee coordinator  
2 and facility coordinators to implement the plan.

3 (D) Outlines emergency notification procedures.

4 (E) Describes how to determine the probable affected area and  
5 population by releases of hazardous substances.

6 (F) Describes local emergency equipment and facilities and the  
7 persons responsible for them.

8 (G) Outlines evacuation plans.

9 (H) Provides for coordinated local training to ensure integration with  
10 the State emergency management plan.

11 (I) Provides methods and schedules for exercising emergency plans.

12 (2) Upon receipt by the committee or the committee's designated  
13 community emergency coordinator of a notification of a release of a hazardous  
14 chemical or substance, ensure that the local emergency plan has been  
15 implemented.

16 (3) Consult and coordinate with the heads of local government  
17 emergency services, the emergency management director or designee, persons  
18 in charge of local first responders and other local emergency management  
19 personnel, regional planning commissions, and the managers of all facilities  
20 within the jurisdiction regarding the facility plan.

21 (4) Review and evaluate requests for funding and other resources and



1 advise the State Emergency Response Commission concerning disbursement  
2 of funds.

3 (5) Work to support the various emergency services and other entities  
4 providing first responders or emergency management personnel, mutual aid  
5 systems, town governments, regional planning commissions, State agency  
6 district offices, and others in their area in conducting coordinated all-hazards  
7 emergency management activities.

8 Sec. 10. 20 V.S.A. § 41 is added to read.

9 § 41. STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

10 The Department of Public Safety's Vermont Emergency Management  
11 Division shall create, and republish as needed, but not less than every five  
12 years, a comprehensive State Emergency Management Plan. The Plan shall  
13 detail response systems during all-hazards events, including communications,  
14 coordination among State, local, private, and volunteer entities, and the  
15 deployment of State and federal resources. The Plan shall also detail the  
16 State's emergency preparedness measures and goals, including those for the  
17 prevention of, protection against, mitigation of, and recovery from all-hazards  
18 events. The Plan shall include templates and guidance for regional emergency  
19 management and for local emergency plans that support municipalities in their  
20 respective emergency management planning.

1       Sec. 11. VERMONT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2                   DISASTER PREPAREDNESS REVIEW

3           (a) Review. On or before June 30, 2025, the Department of Public Safety's  
4           Division of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) shall conduct an after-  
5           action review of the State's disaster preparedness leading up to, during, and  
6           after the 2023 summer flooding events throughout the State, overseen by the  
7           Director of VEM. The review shall examine all aspects of the State's response  
8           and shall include input from the whole community. In addition to the federal  
9           Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program's requirements, the  
10          review shall include examining the adequacy of early warning and evacuation  
11          orders, designated evacuation routes and emergency shelters, the ability to  
12          provide food and water where it is needed, the present system of local  
13          emergency management directors in wide-spread emergencies and the State's  
14          present emergency communications systems.

15          (b) Report. On or before December 15, 2025, the Director of VEM shall  
16          submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations  
17          and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations  
18          with its findings regarding the disaster preparedness review, and, if the  
19          Director determines there to be inadequacies present in the State's disaster  
20          preparedness, a plan for improving the State's disaster preparedness, which  
21          may include any recommendations for legislative action.

1 Sec. 12. [Deleted.]

2 \* \* \* Municipal Stormwater Utilities \* \* \*

3 Sec. 13. 24 V.S.A. chapter 101 is amended to read:

4 CHAPTER 101. SEWAGE, SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM, AND  
5 STORMWATER SYSTEMS

6 § 3601. DEFINITIONS

7 ~~The definitions established in section 3501 of this title shall establish the~~  
8 ~~meanings of those words as used in this chapter, and the following words and~~  
9 ~~phrases as used in As used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:~~

10 (1) ~~“Necessity” means a reasonable need that considers the greatest~~  
11 ~~public good and the least inconvenience and expense to the condemning party~~  
12 ~~and to the property owner. Necessity shall not be measured merely by expense~~  
13 ~~or convenience to the condemning party. Due consideration shall be given to~~  
14 ~~the adequacy of other property and locations; to the quantity, kind, and extent~~  
15 ~~of property that may be taken or rendered unfit for use by the proposed taking;~~  
16 ~~to the probable term of unfitness for use of the property; to the effect of~~  
17 ~~construction upon scenic and recreational values, upon home and homestead~~  
18 ~~rights and the convenience of the owner of the land; to the effect upon town~~  
19 ~~grand list and revenues.~~

20 (2) ~~“Board” means the board of sewage disposal system commissioners.~~

21 (2) “Domestic sewage” or “house sewage” means sanitary sewage

1 derived principally from dwellings, business buildings, and institutions.

2 (3) “Industrial wastes” or “trade wastes” means liquid wastes from  
3 industrial processes, including suspended solids.

4 (4) “Necessity” means a reasonable need that considers the greatest  
5 public good and the least inconvenience and expense to the condemning party  
6 and to the property owner. Necessity shall not be measured merely by expense  
7 or convenience to the condemning party. Due consideration shall be given to  
8 the adequacy of other property and locations; to the quantity, kind, and extent  
9 of property that may be taken or rendered unfit for use by the proposed taking;  
10 to the probable term of unfitness for use of the property; to the effect of  
11 construction upon scenic and recreational values, upon home and homestead  
12 rights and the convenience of the owner of the land; to the effect upon town  
13 grand list and revenues.

14 (5) “Sanitary sewage” means used water supply commonly containing  
15 human excrement.

16 (6) “Sanitary treatment” means an approved method of treatment of  
17 solids and bacteria in sewage before final discharge.

18 (7) “Sewage” means the used water supply of a community, including  
19 such used water supply or stormwater as may or may not be mixed with these  
20 liquid wastes from the community.

21 (8) “Sewage system” means any equipment, stormwater control system,

1 pipe line system, and facilities as are needed for and appurtenant to the  
2 treatment or disposal of sewage and waters, including a sewage treatment or  
3 disposal plant and separate pipe lines and structural or nonstructural facilities  
4 as are needed for and appurtenant to the treatment or disposal of storm,  
5 surface, and subsurface waters.

6 (9) The phrase “sewage treatment or disposal plant” ~~shall include~~  
7 includes, for the purposes of this chapter, any plant, equipment, system, and  
8 facilities, whether structural or nonstructural, as are necessary for and  
9 appurtenant to the treatment or disposal by approved sanitary methods of  
10 domestic sewage, garbage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or surface water.

11 (10) “Stormwater” has the same meaning as “stormwater runoff” under  
12 10 V.S.A. § 1264.

13 (11) “Stormwater management system” means any structure, or  
14 improvement, whether structural or nonstructural, necessary for collecting,  
15 containing, controlling, treating, or conveying stormwater, including sewers,  
16 curbs, drains, conduits, natural and man-made channels, settling ponds, pipes,  
17 and culverts.

18 § 3602. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; MEMBERSHIP

19 (a) Except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section, the selectboard  
20 of a town, the trustees of a village, the prudential committee of a fire or  
21 lighting district, or the mayor and board of aldermen of a city, shall be the

1 board of commissioners for the sewage system of a municipality.

2 (b) The legislative body of the municipality may vote to constitute a  
3 separate board of sewage system commissioners. The board shall have not less  
4 than three nor more than seven members, who shall be residents of the  
5 municipality. Members shall be appointed, and any vacancy filled, by the  
6 legislative body of the municipality. The term of each member shall be four  
7 years. Any member may be removed by the legislative body of the  
8 municipality for just cause after due notice and hearing.

9 § 3603. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; DUTIES AND AUTHORITY

10 (a) The board shall have the supervision of the municipal sewage system  
11 and shall make and establish all needed rates for rent and rules for control and  
12 operation of the system. The board may require:

13 (1) the owners of buildings, subdivisions, or developments abutting a  
14 public street or highway to have all sewers from those buildings, subdivisions,  
15 or developments connected to the municipal corporations sewer system; and

16 (2) any individual, person, or corporation to connect to the municipal  
17 sewage system for the purposes of abating pollution of the waters of the State.

18 (b) The commissioners may appoint or remove a superintendent at their  
19 pleasure.

20 § ~~3602~~ 3604. SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT, SYSTEM; CONSTRUCTION

21 A municipal corporation may:

1           (1) construct, maintain, operate, and repair a sewage disposal plant and  
2 system, ~~to~~;

3           (2) pursuant to the procedures established in this chapter, take, purchase,  
4 and acquire, ~~in the manner hereinafter mentioned~~, real estate and easements  
5 necessary for its purposes;

6           (3) may enter in and upon any land for the purpose of making surveys;  
7 and

8           (4) may lay and connect pipes, stormwater management systems, and  
9 sewers, ~~and connect the same~~ as may be necessary to convey and treat  
10 stormwater runoff or sewage for the purpose of disposing and dispose of  
11 sewage ~~by such municipal corporation~~.

12       § ~~3603~~ 3605. ENTRY ON LANDS

13       ~~Such~~ A municipal corporation, for the purposes enumerated in section ~~3602~~  
14 3604 of this ~~title~~ chapter, may:

15           (1) enter upon and use any land and enclosures over or through which it  
16 may be necessary for pipes, stormwater management systems, and sewer to  
17 pass, ~~and may thereon~~;

18           (2) at any time, place, lay, and construct ~~such~~ any pipes and sewers,  
19 appurtenances, and connections as may be necessary for the complete  
20 construction and repairing of the ~~same from time to time~~, may the system; and

21           (3) open the ground in any streets, lanes, avenues, highways, and public

1 grounds for the purposes ~~hereof~~; described in this section, provided that ~~such~~  
2 the streets, lanes, avenues, highways, and public grounds shall not be injured,  
3 but shall be left in as good condition as before the laying of ~~such~~ the pipes,  
4 stormwater management systems, and sewers.

5 § ~~3604~~ 3606. PETITION FOR HEARING TO DETERMINE NECESSITY

6 The municipal corporation may agree with all the owners of land or interest  
7 in land affected by ~~the a~~ a survey made under section ~~3602~~ 3604 of this ~~title~~  
8 chapter for the conveyance of ~~their~~ the owners' interest. Where ~~such~~ the  
9 agreement is not made, the board shall petition ~~a Superior judge~~ the Civil  
10 Division of the Superior Court, setting forth ~~therein~~ in the petition that ~~such~~ the  
11 board proposes to take certain land, or rights ~~therein~~ in the land, and describing  
12 ~~such~~ the lands or rights, ~~and the~~. The survey shall be ~~annexed to said~~ included  
13 in the petition ~~and made a part thereof~~. ~~Such~~ The petition shall set forth the  
14 purposes for which ~~such~~ the land or rights are desired; and shall contain a  
15 request that ~~such~~ judge the court fix a time and place when ~~he or she or some~~  
16 ~~other Superior judge~~ the court will hear all parties concerned and determine  
17 whether ~~such~~ the taking is necessary.

18 § ~~3605~~ 3607. HEARING TO DETERMINE NECESSITY

19 The judge to whom ~~such~~ the petition is presented shall fix the time for  
20 hearing, which shall not be more than 60 ~~nor~~ or less than 30 days from the date  
21 the judge signs ~~such~~ the order. Likewise, the judge shall fix the place for



1 hearing, which shall be the county courthouse or any other convenient place  
2 within the county in which the land in question is located. If the Superior  
3 judge to whom ~~such~~ the petition is presented cannot hear the petition at the  
4 time set ~~therefore for the hearing, the Superior judge shall call upon~~ the Chief  
5 Superior Judge ~~to~~ shall assign another Superior judge to hear ~~such~~ the cause at  
6 the time and place assigned in the order.

7 § ~~3606~~ 3608. SERVICE AND PUBLICATION OF PETITION

8 (a) A copy of the petition together with a copy of the court's order fixing  
9 the time and place of hearing shall be published in a newspaper having general  
10 circulation in the town in which the land included in the survey lies once a  
11 week for three consecutive weeks on the same day of the week, ~~the~~. The last  
12 publication to be not less than five days before the hearing date, ~~and a~~.

13 (b) A copy of the petition, together with a copy of the court's order fixing  
14 the time and place of hearing, and a copy of the survey shall be placed on file  
15 in the clerk's office of the town.

16 (c) The petition, together with the court's order fixing the time and place of  
17 hearing, shall be served upon each person owning or having an interest in land  
18 to be purchased or condemned like a summons, or, on absent defendants, in  
19 ~~such~~ the manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide for service of  
20 process in civil actions. If the service on any defendant is impossible, upon  
21 affidavit of the sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable attempting service, ~~therein~~

1 stating that the location of the defendant within or ~~without~~ outside the State is  
2 unknown and that ~~he or she~~ the defendant has no known agent or attorney in  
3 the State of Vermont upon ~~which~~ whom service may be made, the publication  
4 ~~herein provided~~ required by this section shall be deemed sufficient service on  
5 the defendant.

6 (d) Compliance with the provisions ~~hereof~~ of this section shall constitute  
7 sufficient service upon and notice to any person owning or having any interest  
8 in the land proposed to be taken or affected.

9 § ~~3607~~ 3609. HEARING AND ORDER OF NECESSITY

10 (a) At the time and place appointed for the hearing, the court shall hear all  
11 persons interested and wishing to be heard. If any person owning or having an  
12 interest in land to be taken or affected appears and objects to the necessity of  
13 taking the land included within the survey or any part ~~thereof~~ of the survey,  
14 then the court shall require the board to proceed with the introduction of  
15 evidence of the necessity of ~~such~~ the taking.

16 (b) The burden of proof of the necessity of the taking shall be upon the  
17 board.

18 (c) The court may cite in additional parties including other property owners  
19 whose interests may be concerned or affected by any taking of land or interest  
20 ~~therein~~ in land based on any ultimate order of the court.

21 (d) The court shall make findings of fact and file them. The court shall, by

1 its order, determine whether necessity requires the taking of ~~such~~ land and  
2 rights and may modify or alter the proposed taking ~~in such respects as to it~~ the  
3 court may seem deem proper.

4 § ~~3608~~ 3610. APPEAL FROM ORDER OF NECESSITY

5 (a) If the State, municipal corporation, or any owner affected by the order  
6 of the court is aggrieved ~~thereby~~ by the order, an appeal may be taken to the  
7 Supreme Court in ~~such~~ the manner as the Supreme Court may by rule provide  
8 for appeals from the Civil Division of the Superior courts Court.

9 (b) In the event an appeal is taken, all proceedings shall be stayed until  
10 final disposition of the appeal. If no appeals are taken within the time provided  
11 ~~therefor~~ or, if appeal is taken, upon its final disposition, a copy of the order of  
12 the court shall be placed on file within 10 days in the office of the clerk of each  
13 town in which the land affected lies, and ~~thereafter~~ for a period of one year, the  
14 board may institute proceedings for the condemnation of the land included in  
15 the survey as finally approved by the court without further hearing or  
16 consideration of any question of the necessity of the taking.

17 § ~~3609~~ 3611. COMPENSATION; CONDEMNATION

18 (a) When an owner of land or rights ~~therein~~ in land and the board are  
19 unable to agree on the amount of compensation ~~therefor~~ or in case the owner is  
20 an infant, a person who lacks capacity to protect ~~his or her~~ the person's  
21 interests due to a mental condition or psychiatric disability, absent from the

1 State, unknown, or the owner of a contingent or uncertain interest, a Superior  
2 judge may, on the application of either party, cause the notice to be given of  
3 the application as ~~he or she~~ the judge may prescribe, and after proof ~~thereof of~~  
4 the application, the judge may appoint three disinterested persons to examine  
5 the property to be taken, or damaged by the municipal corporation.

6 (b) After being duly sworn, the commissioners shall, upon due notice to all  
7 parties in interest, view the premises, hear the parties in respect to the property,  
8 and shall assess and award to the owners and persons so interested just  
9 damages for any injury sustained and make report in writing to the judge.

10 (c) In determining damages resulting from the taking or use of property  
11 under the provisions of this chapter, the added value, if any, to the remaining  
12 property or right ~~therein~~ in property that inures directly to the owner ~~thereof~~ as  
13 a result of the taking or use as distinguished from the general public benefit,  
14 shall be considered.

15 (d) The judge may ~~thereupon~~ accept the report, unless just cause is shown  
16 to the contrary, and order the municipal corporation to pay the same in the time  
17 and manner as the judge may prescribe, in full compensation for the property  
18 taken, or the injury done by the municipal corporation, or the judge may reject  
19 or recommit the report if the ends of justice so require. On compliance with  
20 the order, the municipal corporation may proceed with the construction of its  
21 work without liability for further claim for damages. In ~~his or her~~ the judge's

1 discretion, the judge may award costs in the proceeding. Appeals from the  
2 order may be taken to the Supreme Court under 12 V.S.A. chapter 102.

3 § ~~3610~~ 3612. RECORD

4 Within 60 days after the taking of any property, franchise, easement, or  
5 right under the provisions of this chapter, ~~such~~ the municipal corporation shall  
6 file a description ~~thereof~~ of the property in the office of the clerk ~~wherein~~  
7 where the land records are required by law to be kept.

8 § ~~3614~~ 3613. CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL

9 (a) ~~Such~~ A municipal corporation may contract with the State, the federal  
10 government, or any appropriate agency ~~thereof~~, of the State or federal  
11 government; any town, city, or village; any corporation; and any individuals to  
12 make disposal of sewage or stormwater for ~~such~~ the other town, city, village,  
13 corporation, or individuals. ~~Such~~ When consistent with State or federal law,  
14 the municipal corporation may make sale of sludge or fertilizer byproducts  
15 incident to sewage disposal, and the proceeds from the sale ~~thereof~~ shall be  
16 turned over to the treasury of ~~such~~ the sewage ~~disposal district~~ system and  
17 credited ~~therein~~ as is other income derived under the authority of this chapter.

18 \* \* \*

19 § ~~3612~~ 3614. CHARGES; ENFORCEMENT

20 (a) ~~The owner of any tenement, house, building, or lot shall be liable for~~  
21 ~~the sewage disposal charge as hereinafter defined. Such sewage disposal~~

1 ~~charge~~ A property owner or group of property owners using the sewage system  
2 shall be liable for the rent fixed by the board pursuant to this chapter. The  
3 charges, rates, or rents for the sewage system shall be a lien upon the real  
4 estate furnished with such service in the same manner and to the same effect as  
5 taxes are a lien upon real estate under 32 V.S.A. § 5061 and shall be an  
6 assessment enforceable under the procedures in ~~subsections~~ subsection (b), (c),  
7 or (d) of this section, or a combination of these procedures.

8 \* \* \*

9 § ~~3613~~ 3615. TAXES, BONDS

10 For the purpose of adequately making disposal of sewage within its  
11 boundaries; successfully organizing, establishing, and operating its sewage  
12 plant, sewage disposal plant, or some form of sewage treatment plant; and  
13 making ~~such~~ improvements as may be necessary, a municipal corporation may  
14 ~~from time to time~~:

15 (1) purchase, take, and hold real and personal estate;

16 (2) borrow money;

17 (3) levy; and collect taxes upon the ratable estate of the municipal  
18 corporation necessary for the payment of municipal corporation sewage and  
19 sewage disposal expenses and indebtedness;

20 (4) issue for the purposes ~~hereof~~ of this section evidences of  
21 indebtedness pursuant to chapter 53, subchapter 2 of this title or its negotiable

1 bonds pursuant to chapter 53, subchapter 1 of this title; provided, however,  
2 that bonds so issued;

3 ~~(1)~~(A) shall not be considered as indebtedness of ~~such~~ the municipal  
4 corporation limited by the provisions of section 1762 of this title;

5 ~~(2)~~(B) may be paid in not more than 30 years from the date of issue  
6 notwithstanding the limitation of section 1759 of this title;

7 ~~(3)~~(C) may be authorized by a majority of all the voters present and  
8 voting on the question at a meeting of ~~such~~ the municipal corporation held for  
9 ~~the~~ this purpose pursuant to chapter 53, subchapter 1 of this title  
10 notwithstanding any provisions of general or special law ~~which~~ that may  
11 require a greater vote, and may be so arranged that beginning with the first  
12 year in which principal is payable, the amount of principal and interest in any  
13 year shall be as nearly equal as is practicable according to the denomination in  
14 which ~~such~~ the bonds or other evidences of indebtedness are issued  
15 notwithstanding other permissible payment schedules authorized by section  
16 1759 of this title.

17 ~~§ 3614. BOARD OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL COMMISSIONERS~~

18 ~~The selectboard of a town, the trustees of a village, the prudential~~  
19 ~~committee of a fire or lighting district, or the mayor and board of aldermen of a~~  
20 ~~city, shall constitute a board of sewage disposal commissioners.~~

21 § ~~3615~~ 3616. RENTS; RATES

1           (a) ~~Such~~ A municipal corporation, through its board of sewage disposal  
2 ~~commissioners~~, may establish rates, rents, or charges ~~to be called "sewage~~  
3 ~~disposal charges,"~~ to be paid ~~at such times and in such manner~~ as the  
4 ~~commissioners~~ board may prescribe. The ~~commissioners~~ board may establish  
5 annual charges separately for bond repayment, fixed operations and  
6 maintenance costs (~~not dependent on actual use~~), and variable operations and  
7 maintenance costs dependent on flow.

8           (b) ~~Such~~ The rates, rents, or charges may be based upon:

9           (1) the metered consumption of water on premises connected with the  
10 sewer system, however, the ~~commissioners~~ board may determine no user will  
11 be billed for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment less  
12 than the average ~~single-family~~ single-family charge;

13           (2) the number of equivalent units connected with or served by the  
14 sewage system based upon their estimated flows compared to the estimated  
15 flows from a ~~single-family~~ single-family dwelling, however, the  
16 ~~commissioners~~ board may determine no user will be billed less than the  
17 minimum charge determined for the ~~single-family~~ single-family dwelling  
18 charge for fixed operations and maintenance costs and bond payment;

19           (3) the strength and flow where wastes stronger than household wastes  
20 are involved;

21           (4) the appraised value of premises, in the event that the commissioners



1 shall determine the sewage disposal plant to be of general benefit to the  
2 municipality regardless of actual connection with the same;

3 (5) the commissioners' determination developed using any other  
4 equitable basis such as the number and kind of plumbing fixtures; the number  
5 of persons residing on or frequenting the premises served by those sewers; and  
6 the topography, size, type of use, or impervious area of any premises;

7 (6) for groundwater, surface, or stormwater an equivalent residential  
8 unit based on an average area of impervious surface on residential property  
9 within the municipality; or

10 (7) any combination of these bases, ~~so long as~~ provided the combination  
11 is equitable.

12 ~~(b)(c)~~ The basis for establishing ~~sewer disposal rates, rents, or charges~~ shall  
13 be reviewed annually by ~~sewage disposal commissioners~~ the board. No  
14 premises otherwise exempt from taxation, including premises owned by the  
15 State of Vermont, shall, by virtue of any ~~such~~ the exemption, be exempt from  
16 charges established ~~hereunder~~ under this section. The commissioners may  
17 change the rates ~~of such, rents, or charges from time to time~~ as may be  
18 reasonably required.

19 (d) Where one of the bases of ~~such~~ a rent, rate, or charge is the appraised  
20 value and the premises to be appraised are tax exempt, the ~~commissioners~~  
21 board may cause the listers to appraise ~~such~~ the property, including State

1 property, for the purpose of determining the ~~sewage disposal~~ the rates, rents, or  
2 charges. The right of appeal from ~~such~~ the appraisal shall be the same as  
3 provided in 32 V.S.A. chapter 131. The Commissioner of Finance and  
4 Management is authorized to issue ~~his or her~~ warrants for ~~sewage disposal~~  
5 rates, rents, or charges against State property and transmit to the State  
6 Treasurer who shall draw a voucher in payment ~~thereof~~ of the rates, rents, or  
7 charges. No charge so established and no tax levied under the provisions of  
8 section ~~3613~~ 3615 of this title shall be considered to be a part of any tax  
9 authorized to be assessed by the legislative body of any municipality for  
10 general purposes; but shall be in addition to any such tax so authorized to be  
11 assessed.

12 (e) ~~Sewage disposal~~ Rates, rents, or charges established in accord with this  
13 section may be assessed by the board ~~of sewage disposal commissioners as~~  
14 ~~provided in section 3614 of this title~~ to derive the revenue required to pay  
15 pollution charges assessed against a municipal corporation under 10 V.S.A.  
16 § ~~1265~~ 1263.

17 (e)(f) When a ~~sewage disposal~~ rate, rent, or charge established under this  
18 section for the management of stormwater is applied to property owned,  
19 controlled, or managed by the Agency of Transportation, the charge shall not  
20 exceed the highest rate category applicable to other properties in the  
21 municipality, and the Agency of Transportation shall receive a 35 percent

1 credit on the charge. The Agency of Transportation shall receive no other  
2 credit on the charge from the municipal corporation.

3 § ~~3616~~ 3617. DUTIES; USE OF PROCEEDS

4 ~~(a) Such sewage disposal commissioners shall have the supervision of such~~  
5 ~~municipal sewage disposal department, and shall make and establish all~~  
6 ~~needful rates for charges, rules, and regulations for its control and operation~~  
7 ~~including the right to require any individual, person, or corporation to connect~~  
8 ~~to such the municipal system for the purposes of abating pollution of the~~  
9 ~~waters of the State. Such commissioners may appoint or remove a~~  
10 ~~superintendent at their pleasure. The charges and receipts of such the~~  
11 ~~department shall only be used and applied to pay the interest and principal of~~  
12 ~~the sewage disposal bonds of such the municipal corporation as well as, the~~  
13 ~~expense of maintenance and operation of the sewage disposal department~~  
14 ~~system, or other expenses of the sewage system.~~

15 ~~(b) These~~ The charges and receipts also may be used to develop a dedicated  
16 fund that may be created by the ~~commissioners~~ board to finance major  
17 rehabilitation, major maintenance, and upgrade costs for the sewer system.  
18 This fund may be established by an annual set-aside of up to 15 percent of the  
19 normal operations, maintenance, and bond payment costs, except that with  
20 respect to subsurface leachfield systems, the annual set-aside may equal up to  
21 100 percent of these costs. The fund shall not exceed the estimated future

1 major rehabilitation, major maintenance, or upgrade costs for the sewer  
2 system. Any dedicated fund shall be insured at least to the level provided by  
3 FDIC and withdrawals shall be made only for the purposes for which the fund  
4 was established. Any ~~such~~ dedicated fund may be established and controlled  
5 in accord with section 2804 of this title or may be established by act of the  
6 legislative body of the municipality. Funds so established shall meet the  
7 requirements of subdivision 4756(a)(4) of this title.

8 (c) Where the municipal legislative body establishes ~~such~~ a dedicated fund  
9 pursuant to this section, it shall first adopt a municipal ordinance authorizing  
10 and controlling ~~such the~~ funds. ~~Such~~ The ordinance and any local policies  
11 governing the funds must conform to the requirements of this section.

12 (d) The charges, receipts, and revenue may also be used for stormwater  
13 management, control, and treatment; flood resiliency; floodplain restoration;  
14 and other similar measures.

15 § ~~3617~~ 3618. ORDINANCES

16 ~~Such~~ The municipal corporation shall have the power to make, establish,  
17 alter, amend, or repeal ordinances, regulations, and bylaws relating to the  
18 matters contained in this chapter, consistent with law, and to impose penalties  
19 for the breach ~~thereof~~, of an ordinance and enforce ~~the same~~ those penalties.

20 § ~~3618~~ 3619. MEETINGS; VOTE

21 Any action taken by ~~such~~ a municipal corporation under the provisions of

1 this chapter or relating to the matters ~~therein set forth~~ contained in this chapter,  
2 may be taken by vote of the legislative body of ~~such~~ the municipal corporation,  
3 excepting the issuance of bonds and, in municipalities wherein ~~such~~ the  
4 legislative body is not otherwise given the power to levy taxes, the levying of a  
5 tax under section ~~3613~~ 3615 of this title; provided, however, that no action  
6 shall be taken hereunder unless the construction of a sewage disposal plant  
7 shall have first been authorized by majority vote of the legal voters of ~~such~~ the  
8 municipal corporation attending a meeting ~~duly warned and holden~~ warned for  
9 that purpose.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 14. 24 V.S.A. § 3679 is amended to read:

12 § 3679. FINANCES—SEWER RATES; APPLICATION OF REVENUE

13 (a) The board of sewer commissioners of a consolidated sewer district shall  
14 establish rates for the sewer service and all individuals, firms, and corporations  
15 whether private, public, or municipal shall pay to the treasurer of the district  
16 the rates established by the board. The manner of establishment of the rates  
17 shall be in accord with section ~~3615~~ 3616 of this title. The rates shall be so  
18 established as to provide revenue for the following purposes:

19 \* \* \*

20 Sec. 15. REPEAL

21 24 V.S.A. chapter 97 (sewage system) is repealed.

1                   \* \* \* Creation of the Urban Search and Rescue Team \* \* \*

2           Sec. 16. 20 V.S.A. § 50 is added to read:

3           § 50. URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

4           (a) The Department of Public Safety is authorized to create the Urban  
5           Search and Rescue (USAR) Team to provide for the rapid response of trained  
6           professionals to emergencies and other hazards occurring in the State. The  
7           Commissioner shall appoint a USAR Team program manager to carry out the  
8           duties and responsibilities of the USAR Team.

9           (b) The USAR Team program manager shall perform all the following  
10          duties:

11           (1) organize the State USAR Team to assist local first responders in  
12          response to emergencies and other hazards;

13           (2) hire persons for the USAR Team from fire, police, and emergency  
14          medical services and persons with specialty backgrounds in emergency  
15          response or search and rescue;

16           (3) coordinate the acquisition and maintenance of adequate vehicles and  
17          equipment for the USAR Team;

18           (4) ensure that USAR Team personnel are organized, trained, and  
19          exercised in accordance with the appropriate search and rescue standards or  
20          certifications;

1           (5) negotiate and enter into agreements with municipalities, municipal  
2           agencies that maintain swiftwater rescue teams, State-recognized swiftwater  
3           rescue teams, or other technical rescue teams to provide expert assistance and  
4           services to the USAR Team when necessary; and

5           (6) coordinate USAR Team participation in search and rescue operations  
6           under chapter 112 of this title.

7           (c) The Department of Public Safety may employ as many USAR Team  
8           responders as the Commissioner deems necessary as temporary State  
9           employees, who shall be compensated as such when authorized to respond to  
10           an emergency or hazard incident or to attend USAR Team training. State  
11           USAR Team responders, whenever acting as State agents in accordance with  
12           this section, shall be afforded all of the protections and immunities of State  
13           employees.

14                           \* \* \* Vermont-211 Information Privacy \* \* \*

15           Sec. 17. PUBLIC RECORDS ACT; VERMONT 211; CONFIDENTIALITY

16           Pursuant to Vermont's Public Records Act, personal information and lists of  
17           names within records created or acquired by Vermont 211 shall be exempt  
18           from public inspection or copying. Vermont 211 shall keep confidential any  
19           personal information acquired from victims of a natural disaster or all-hazard,  
20           as defined by 20 V.S.A. § 2. This section shall not be construed to prevent the  
21           limited disclosure of personal information for the purposes of coordinating

1 relief work for individuals affected by a natural disaster or all-hazard.

2 \* \* \* Emergency Communications \* \* \*

3 Sec. 18. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION POLICY DURING EMERGENCY

4 The Department of Public Safety's Division of Vermont Emergency  
5 Management (VEM), in consultation with the Enhanced 911 Board, shall  
6 develop a policy for the use of E-911 databases that maintain callback numbers  
7 of subscribers to provide VT-Alerts more effectively and expeditiously during  
8 emergencies in order to reduce the risk of harm to persons and property. The  
9 Division shall issue its policy on or before July 1, 2025.

10 Sec. 19. 30 V.S.A. § 7055 is amended to read:

11 § 7055. TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY ORIGINATING

12 CARRIER COORDINATION

13 (a) Every ~~telecommunications company under the jurisdiction of the Public~~  
14 ~~Utility Commission~~ originating carrier offering access to the public switched  
15 telephone network shall make available, in accordance with ~~rules adopted by~~  
16 ~~the Public Utility Commission~~ requirements established by the Federal  
17 Communications Commission, the universal emergency telephone number 911  
18 for use by the public in seeking assistance from fire, police, medical, and other  
19 emergency service providers through a public safety answering point and shall  
20 deliver their customers' 911 calls to the point of interconnection defined by the  
21 Board.



1       (b) Every ~~local exchange telecommunications provider~~ originating carrier  
2       shall provide the ANI, if applicable, and any other information required by  
3       rules adopted under section 7053 of this title to the Board, or to any  
4       administrator of ~~the Enhanced 911 database~~ databases, solely for purposes of  
5       maintaining the ~~Enhanced 911 database~~ databases and for purposes outlined in  
6       subdivisions 7059(a)(1)(B) and (D) of this title, unless such information is  
7       provided by submission to the Vermont 911 ALI database, in which case the  
8       information may also be used for the purposes outlined in subdivision  
9       7059(a)(1)(A) of this title. Each such provider shall be responsible for  
10      updating the information at a frequency specified by such rules. All persons  
11      receiving confidential information under this ~~section~~ subsection, as defined by  
12      ~~the Public Utility Commission~~ section 7059 of this title, shall use it solely for  
13      the purposes of ~~providing emergency 911 services~~, specified in subdivision  
14      7059(a)(1) of this title and shall not disclose such confidential information for  
15      any other purpose.

16      (c) Each ~~local exchange telecommunications company, cellular company,~~  
17      ~~and mobile or personal communications service company~~ originating carrier  
18      providing services within the State shall designate a person to coordinate with  
19      and provide all relevant information to the Enhanced 911 Board ~~and Public~~  
20      ~~Utility Commission~~ in carrying out the purposes of the chapter.

1       (d) ~~Wire line and nonwire cellular~~ Originating carriers certificated to  
2       provide service in the State shall ~~provide ANI signaling which identifies~~  
3       ~~geographical location as well as cell site address for cellular 911 calls.~~  
4       ~~Personal communications networks and any future mobile or personal~~  
5       ~~communications systems shall also be required to identify the location of the~~  
6       ~~caller. The telephone company shall provide ANI signaling which identifies~~  
7       ~~the name of the carrier and identify the type of service as cellular, mobile, or~~  
8       ~~personal communications as part of the ALI along with a screen message that~~  
9       ~~advises the call answerer to verify the location of the reported emergency.~~  
10      ~~Telecommunication providers of mobile wireless, IP-enabled, and other~~  
11      ~~communication services which have systems with the capability to send data~~  
12      ~~related to the location of the caller with the call or transmission instead of~~  
13      ~~relying on location data otherwise contained in the ALI database shall provide~~  
14      ~~this data with calls or transmissions for the sole purpose of enabling the~~  
15      ~~emergency 911 system to locate an individual seeking emergency services.~~  
16      ~~Location data shall be provided in accordance with relevant national standards~~  
17      ~~for next generation 9-1-1 technology~~ transmit with each 911 call available ANI  
18      or pseudo-Automatic Number Identification (p-ANI) that can be used to query  
19      the Enhanced 911 or third-party databases to provide the Automatic Location  
20      Identification as defined by standards approved by the National Emergency  
21      Number Association (NENA). Originating carriers with the capability to

1 provide location and caller data with the call shall do so in accordance with the  
2 approved i3 Standards for Next Generation 9-1-1.

3 (e) Each local exchange telecommunications provider in the State shall file  
4 with the Public Utility Commission tariffs for each service element necessary  
5 for the provision of Enhanced 911 services. The Public Utility Commission  
6 shall review each company's proposed tariff, and shall ensure that tariffs for  
7 each necessary basic service element are effective within six months ~~of~~ after  
8 filing. The Department of Public Service, by rule or emergency rule, may  
9 establish the basic service elements that each company must provide for in  
10 tariffs. Such tariffs must be filed with the Public Utility Commission within 60  
11 days after the basic service elements are established by the Department of  
12 Public Service.

13 (f) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Incumbent local exchange carrier" has the same meaning as in  
15 47 U.S.C. § 251(h) and includes rural local exchange carriers.

16 (2) "Originating carrier" or "originating service provider" means an  
17 entity that provides voice services to a subscriber and includes incumbent local  
18 exchange carriers operating in Vermont.

19 Sec. 20. ENHANCED 911 BOARD TARIFFS; REPORT

20 On or before January 15, 2025, the Enhanced 911 Board shall report to the  
21 House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the

1 Senate Committee on Government Operations on current local exchange  
2 telecommunications tariffs, and, in particular, evaluating existing tariffs  
3 permitted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 7055, determining actual costs for the  
4 provision of the service elements, and comparing those tariffs to similar cost  
5 recovery mechanisms in other states.

6 \* \* \* Language Assistance Services for State Emergency

7 Communications \* \* \*

8 Sec. 21. 20 V.S.A. § 4 is added to read:

9 § 4. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR STATE EMERGENCY

10 COMMUNICATIONS

11 (a) If an all-hazards event occurs, the Vermont Emergency Management  
12 Division shall ensure that language assistance services are available for all  
13 State communications regarding the all-hazards event, including relevant press  
14 conferences and emergency alerts, as soon as practicable. Language assistance  
15 services shall be provided for:

16 (1) individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind; and

17 (2) individuals with limited English proficiency.

18 (b) As used in this section, an “individual with limited English proficiency”  
19 means a person who does not speak English as the person’s primary language  
20 and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

21 (c) Annually, the Vermont Emergency Management Division shall hold a

1 public meeting with members of the Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and  
2 DeafBlind Advisory Council; the Office of Racial Equity; the Vermont  
3 Association of Broadcasters; and other relevant stakeholders to review the  
4 adequacy and efficacy of the provision and distribution of language assistance  
5 services of emergency communications over mass communication platforms to  
6 individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind as well as  
7 individuals with limited English language proficiency.

8 Sec. 22. [Deleted.]

9 Sec. 23. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR EMERGENCY

10 COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP; REPORT

11 (a) Creation. There is created the Language Assistance Services for  
12 Emergency Communications Working Group, consisting of staff at the  
13 Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Division and the Office of Racial  
14 Equity, who will collaborate with the Vermont Association of Broadcasters;  
15 the Vermont Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Advisory Council;  
16 organizations that represent language service providers; and other relevant  
17 stakeholders.

18 (b) Duties. The Working Group shall:

19 (1) develop best practices for the provision of language assistance  
20 services in emergency communications during and after all-hazards events, as  
21 defined in 2 V.S.A. § 2;

1           (2) identify geographical areas within the State with the greatest needs  
2           for language assistance services during and after all-hazards events; and

3           (3) analyze and make recommendations on the appropriate uses of  
4           technologies for providing these services, including tools such as  
5           Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and Picture-in-Picture  
6           (PIP) techniques and automated language translation services or machine  
7           translation.

8           (c) Report. On or before December 15, 2024, the Working Group shall  
9           submit a written report to the House Committee on Government Operations  
10           and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations  
11           with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

12           (d) Prospective repeal. The Working Group shall cease to exist on June 30,  
13           2025.

14                   \* \* \* Post-Secondary Disaster Management Programs \* \* \*

15           Sec. 24. POST-SECONDARY DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

16                   REPORT

17           On or before February 15, 2025, the President or designee for the Vermont  
18           State University and the President or designee for the University of Vermont  
19           shall each submit a written report to the House Committee on Government  
20           Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government  
21           Operations examining the creation of post-secondary disaster management

1 programs, including the associated costs, projected enrollments, and aspects of  
2 curricula.

3 \* \* \* Emergency Powers of the Governor and Emergency Management \* \* \*

4 Sec. 25. 20 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

5 § 1. PURPOSE AND POLICY

6 (a) Because of the increasing possibility of the occurrence of disasters or  
7 emergencies of unprecedented size and destructiveness resulting from all-  
8 hazards and in order to ensure that preparation of this State will be adequate to  
9 deal with such disasters or emergencies; to provide for the common defense; to  
10 protect the public peace, health, and safety; and to preserve the lives and  
11 property of the people of the State, it is found and declared to be necessary:

12 (1) to create a State emergency management agency; and to authorize  
13 the creation of local and regional organizations for emergency management;

14 (2) to confer upon the Governor and upon the executive heads or  
15 legislative branches of the towns and cities of the State the emergency powers  
16 provided pursuant to this chapter;

17 (3) to provide for the rendering of mutual aid among the towns and  
18 cities of the State; with other states and Canada; and with the federal  
19 government with respect to the carrying out of emergency management  
20 functions; and

21 (4) to authorize the establishment of organizations and ~~the taking of~~

1 ~~steps as necessary and appropriate~~ to carry out the provisions of this chapter as  
2 necessary and appropriate.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 26. 20 V.S.A. § 8 is amended to read:

5 § 8. GENERAL POWERS OF GOVERNOR

6 \* \* \*

7 (b) In performing the duties under this chapter, the Governor is further  
8 authorized and empowered:

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) Inventories, training, mobilization. In accordance with the plan and  
11 program for the emergency management of the State:

12 (A) to ascertain the requirements of the State or the municipalities for  
13 food ~~or~~, water, fuel, clothing, or other necessities of life in any all-hazards  
14 event and to plan for and procure supplies, medicines, materials, and  
15 equipment for the purposes set forth in this chapter;

16 \* \* \*

17 (C) to institute training programs and public information programs,  
18 and to take all other preparatory steps, including the partial or full mobilization  
19 of emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to  
20 ensure the furnishing of adequately trained and equipped forces of first  
21 responders and other emergency management personnel in time of need.



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(8) Mutual aid agreements with other states. On behalf of this State, to enter into reciprocal aid agreements under this chapter and pursuant to compacts with other states and the federal government or a province of a foreign country under such terms as the Congress of the United States may prescribe. These mutual aid arrangements shall be limited to the furnishing or exchange of food, water, fuel, clothing, medicine, and other supplies; engineering services; emergency housing; police services; National Guard ~~or State Guard~~ units while under the control of the State; health; medical and related services; fire fighting, rescue, transportation, and construction services and equipment; personnel necessary to provide or conduct these services; and other supplies, equipment, facilities, personnel, and services as needed; and the reimbursement of costs and expenses for equipment, supplies, personnel, and similar items for mobile support units, ~~fire fighting~~ firefighting, and police units and health units. The mutual aid agreements shall be made on such terms and conditions as the Governor deems necessary.

\* \* \*

Sec. 27. 20 V.S.A. § 9 is amended to read:

§ 9. EMERGENCY POWERS OF GOVERNOR

Subject to the provisions of this chapter, in the event of an all-hazards event in or directed upon the United States or Canada that causes or may cause

1 substantial damage or injury to persons or property within the State in any  
2 manner, the Governor may ~~proclaim~~ declare a state of emergency within the  
3 entire State or any portion or portions of the State. Thereafter, the Governor  
4 shall have and may exercise for as long as the Governor determines the  
5 emergency to exist the following additional powers within such area or areas:

6 (1) To enforce all laws and rules relating to emergency management and  
7 to assume direct operational control of all first responders, other emergency  
8 management personnel, and ~~helpers~~ volunteers in the affected area or areas.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 28. 20 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

11 § 11. ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY POWERS

12 In the event of an all-hazards event, the Governor may exercise any or all of  
13 the following additional powers:

14 (1) To authorize any department or agency of the State to lease or lend,  
15 on such terms and conditions and for ~~such a~~ a period as ~~he or she deems~~  
16 ~~necessary~~ related to the declaration of emergency to promote the public  
17 welfare and protect the interests of the State, any real or personal property of  
18 the State government, ~~or authorize the temporary transfer or employment of~~  
19 ~~personnel of the State government to or by the U.S. Armed Forces.~~

20 (2) To enter into a contract on behalf of the State for the lease or loan,  
21 on such terms and conditions and for such period as ~~he or she~~ the Governor

1 deems necessary to promote the public welfare and protect the interests of the  
2 State, of any real or personal property of the State government, or the  
3 temporary transfer or employment of personnel thereof to any town or city of  
4 the State. The chief executive ~~or, the chair or president of the~~ legislative  
5 branch, or the emergency management director of the town or city is  
6 authorized for and in the name of the town or city to enter into the contract  
7 with the Governor for the leasing or lending of the property and personnel, and  
8 the chief executive ~~or, the chair or president of the~~ legislative branch, or the  
9 emergency management director of the town or city may equip, maintain,  
10 utilize, and operate such property except ~~newspapers and other publications~~  
11 news outlets, radio stations, places of worship and assembly, and other  
12 facilities for the exercise of constitutional freedom, and employ necessary  
13 personnel in accordance with the purposes for which such contract is executed;  
14 ~~and may do all things and perform all acts necessary to effectuate the purpose~~  
15 ~~for which the contract was entered into.~~

16 \* \* \*

17 (5) To make compensation for the property seized, taken, or condemned  
18 on the following basis:

19 (A) ~~In case~~ Whenever the Governor deems it advisable for the State  
20 to take property is taken for temporary use or to take property permanently, the  
21 Governor, at the time of the taking, shall fix the amount of compensation to be

1 paid for the property, ~~and in.~~ In case the property is taken for temporary use  
2 and returned to the owner in a damaged condition or shall not be returned to  
3 ~~the owner,~~ the Governor shall fix the amount of compensation to be paid for  
4 the damage ~~or failure to return.~~

5 (B) Whenever the Governor deems it advisable for the State to  
6 temporarily or permanently take title to property taken under this section, the  
7 Governor shall ~~forthwith cause~~ notify the owner of the property ~~to be notified~~  
8 of the taking in writing by registered mail or in person, ~~postage prepaid,~~ and  
9 ~~forthwith cause to be filed~~ shall file a copy of the notice with the Secretary of  
10 State.

11 (B)(C) Any owner of property of which possession has been either  
12 temporarily or permanently taken under the provisions of this chapter to whom  
13 no award has been made or who is dissatisfied with the amount awarded ~~him~~  
14 ~~or her~~ by the Governor may file a petition in the Superior Court within the  
15 county wherein the property was situated at the time of taking to have the  
16 amount to which ~~he or she~~ the owner is entitled by way of damages or  
17 compensation determined, and either the petitioner or the State shall have the  
18 right to have the amount of such damages or compensation fixed after hearing  
19 by three disinterested appraisers appointed by the court, and who shall operate  
20 under substantive and administrative procedure to be established by the  
21 Superior judges. If the ~~petitioner~~ owner of the property is dissatisfied with the

1 award of the appraisers, ~~he or she~~ the owner may appeal the award to the  
2 Superior Court and thereafter have a trial by jury to determine the amount of  
3 the damages or compensation. The court costs of a proceeding brought under  
4 this section by the owner of the property shall be paid by the State, and the fees  
5 and expenses of any attorney for the owner shall also be paid by the State after  
6 allowances by the court in which the petition is brought in an amount  
7 determined by the court. The statute of limitations shall not apply to  
8 proceedings brought by owners of property under this section for and during  
9 the time that any court having jurisdiction over the proceedings is prevented  
10 from holding its usual and stated sessions due to conditions resulting from  
11 emergencies described in this chapter.

12 (6) To perform and exercise other functions, powers, and duties as  
13 necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian  
14 population.

15 Sec. 29. 20 V.S.A. § 13 is amended to read:

16 § 13. TERMINATION OF EMERGENCIES

17 The Governor:

18 (1) May terminate by ~~proclamation~~ declaration the emergencies  
19 provided for in sections 9 and 11 of this title; provided, however, that no  
20 emergencies shall be terminated prior to the termination of such emergency as  
21 provided in federal law.

1           (2) May declare the state of emergency terminated in any area affected  
2 by an all-hazards event.

3           (3) Upon receiving notice that a majority of the legislative body of a  
4 municipality affected by a natural disaster no longer desires that the state of  
5 emergency continue within its municipality, ~~shall~~ may declare the state of  
6 emergency terminated within that particular municipality. Upon the  
7 termination of the state of emergency, the functions as set forth in section 9 of  
8 this title shall cease, and the local authorities shall resume control.

9           Sec. 30. 20 V.S.A. § 17 is amended to read:

10          § 17. GIFT, GRANT, OR LOAN

11           (a) Federal. ~~Whenever~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
12 section, whenever the federal government or any agency or officer of the  
13 federal government offers to the State, or through the State to any town or city  
14 within Vermont, services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of  
15 gift, grant, or loan for purposes of emergency management, the State, acting  
16 through the Governor in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, or  
17 such town or city acting with the consent of the Governor and through its  
18 executive officer or legislative branch, may accept the offer, and upon such  
19 acceptance, the Governor or the executive officer or legislative branch of the  
20 political subdivision may authorize any officer of the State or of the political  
21 subdivision, as the case may be, to receive the services, equipment, supplies,

1 materials, or funds on behalf of the State or the political subdivisions, and  
2 subject to the terms of the offer and rules, if any, of the agency making the  
3 offer. Whenever a federal grant is contingent upon a State or local  
4 contribution, or both, the Department of Public Safety and the political  
5 subdivision shall determine whether the grant shall be accepted and, if  
6 accepted, the respective shares to be contributed by the State and town or city  
7 concerned.

8 (b) Private. ~~Whenever~~ Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
9 section, whenever any person, firm, or corporation offers to the State or to any  
10 town or city in Vermont services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by  
11 way of gift, grant, or loan, for purposes of emergency management, the State,  
12 acting through the Governor, or the political subdivision, acting through its  
13 executive officer or legislative branch, may accept the offer, and upon such  
14 acceptance, the Governor or executive officer or legislative branch of the  
15 political subdivision may authorize any officer of the State or the political  
16 subdivision, as the case may be, to receive the services, equipment, supplies,  
17 materials, or funds on behalf of the State or the political subdivision; and  
18 subject to the terms of the offer.

19 (c)(1) Any services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift,  
20 grant, or loan for purposes of emergency management, accepted by the  
21 Governor pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be accepted

1 in accordance with the provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 5.

2 (2)(A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
3 subsection, the Governor shall have the sole authority to accept services,  
4 equipment, supplies, materials, or funds by way of gift, grant, or loan for  
5 purposes of emergency management pursuant to subsections (a) or (b) of this  
6 section, or both, if there exists a reasonable expectation that without the  
7 acceptance the all-hazards event will imminently cause bodily harm, loss of  
8 life, or significant property damage within the State.

9 (B) As soon as practicable after an acceptance pursuant to subsection  
10 (A) of this subsection (2), the Department of Finance and Management shall  
11 provide the Joint Fiscal Committee and Legislative Joint Fiscal Office a report  
12 detailing the acceptance and shall include information with respect to the  
13 following items:

14 (i) the circumstances leading the Governor to reasonably expect  
15 that without the acceptance the all-hazards event would have imminently  
16 caused bodily harm, loss of life, or significant property damage within the  
17 State;

18 (ii) the source and value;

19 (iii) the legal and referenced title, in the case of a grant;

20 (iv) the costs, direct and indirect, for the present and future years;

21 (v) the receiving department or program, or both; and



1                    (vi) a brief statement of purpose.

2            Sec. 31. 20 V.S.A. § 26 is amended to read:

3            § 26. CHANGE OF VENUE BECAUSE OF ~~ENEMY ATTACK~~ AN ALL-  
4                    HAZARDS EVENT

5            In the event that the place where a civil action or a criminal prosecution is  
6            required by law to be brought has become and remains unsafe because of an  
7            attack upon the United States or Canada or an all-hazards event, such action or  
8            prosecution may be brought in or, if already pending, may be transferred to the  
9            Superior Court in an unaffected unit and there tried in the place provided by  
10           law for such court.

11           Sec. 32. 20 V.S.A. § 30 is amended to read:

12           § 30. STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION; CREATION

13           (a) The State Emergency Response Commission is created within the  
14           Department of Public Safety. The Commission shall consist of ~~17~~ 18  
15           members: eight ex officio members, including the Commissioner of Public  
16           Safety, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Transportation, the  
17           Commissioner of Health, the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the  
18           Commissioner of Labor, the Director of Fire Safety, and the Director of  
19           Emergency Management, or designees; and ~~nine~~ ten public members,  
20           including a representative from each of the following: local government, the  
21           local emergency planning committee, a regional planning commission, the fire

1 service, law enforcement, public works, emergency medical service, a hospital,  
2 a transportation entity required under EPCRA to report chemicals to the State  
3 Emergency Response Commission, and another entity required to report  
4 extremely hazardous substances under EPCRA.

5 (b) The ~~nine~~ ten public members shall be appointed ~~by the Governor~~ for  
6 staggered three-year terms as described in this subsection.

7 (1) Three public members, appointed by the Speaker of the House.

8 (2) Three public members, appointed by the Senate Committee on  
9 Committees.

10 (3) Four public members, appointed by the Governor.

11 (4) When the seat of a public member is vacated, the replacement  
12 member shall be appointed on a rotating basis starting with the Speaker of the  
13 House, with the next appointment to be made by the Senate Committee on  
14 Committees, and then the next appointment to be made by the Governor, and  
15 then beginning again.

16 (c) The Governor shall appoint the Chair of the Commission.

17 ~~(e)~~(d) Members of the Commission, except State employees who are not  
18 otherwise compensated as part of their employment and who attend meetings,  
19 shall be entitled to a per diem and expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

20 Sec. 33. 20 V.S.A. § 34 is amended to read:

21 § 34. TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

1 (a) Whenever the Governor ~~has proclaimed a disaster~~ declares an  
2 emergency under the laws of this State, or the President has declared an  
3 emergency or ~~a major disaster~~ an all-hazards event to exist in this State, the  
4 Governor is authorized:

5 (1) To enter into purchase, lease, or other arrangements with any agency  
6 of the United States for temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster  
7 victims and to make such units available to any political subdivision of the  
8 State.

9 (2) To assist any political subdivision of this State that is the locus of  
10 temporary housing for disaster victims to acquire sites necessary for the  
11 temporary housing and ~~to do all things required~~ to prepare the site to receive  
12 and utilize temporary housing units by:

13 (A) advancing or lending funds available to the Governor from any  
14 appropriation made by the General Assembly or from any other source;

15 (B) “passing through” funds made available by any agency, public or  
16 private; or

17 (C) becoming a co-partner with the political subdivision for the  
18 execution and performance of any temporary housing for disaster victims  
19 project and for such purposes to pledge the credit of the State on such terms as  
20 the Governor deems appropriate having due regard for current debt  
21 transactions of the State.

1           (b) ~~Under rules adopted by the Governor, to~~ During a declared state of  
2           emergency, the Governor may, by order or rule, temporarily suspend or modify  
3           for not more than 60 days any law or rule pertaining to public health, safety,  
4           zoning, or transportation ~~(within or across the State), or other requirement of~~  
5           ~~law or rules within Vermont when by proclamation~~ if, the Governor deems the  
6           suspension or modification essential to provide temporary housing for disaster  
7           victims.

8           (c) Any political subdivision of this State is expressly authorized to  
9           acquire, temporarily or permanently, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, sites  
10          required for installation of temporary housing units for disaster victims, and to  
11          enter into whatever arrangements are necessary to prepare or equip such sites  
12          to utilize the housing units, including the purchase of temporary housing units  
13          and payment of transportation charges.

14          (d) ~~The Governor is authorized to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the~~  
15          ~~purposes of this chapter.~~ [Repealed.]

16          (e) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the Governor's  
17          authority to apply for, administer, and expend any grants, gifts, or payments in  
18          aid of disaster prevention, preparedness, response, or recovery.

19          (f) ~~As used in this chapter, "major disaster," "emergency," and "temporary~~  
20          ~~housing" have the same meaning as in the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, P.L. 93-~~  
21          ~~288.~~ [Repealed.]

1 Sec. 34. 20 V.S.A. § 39 is amended to read:

2 § 39. FEES TO THE HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES FUND

3 (a) Every person required to report the use or storage of hazardous  
4 chemicals or substances pursuant to EPCRA shall pay the following annual  
5 fees for each hazardous chemical or substance, as defined by the State  
6 Emergency Response Commission, that is present at the facility:

7 (1) \$40.00 for quantities between 100 and 999 pounds.

8 (2) \$60.00 for quantities between 1,000 and 9,999 pounds.

9 (3) \$100.00 for quantities between 10,000 and 99,999 pounds.

10 (4) \$290.00 for quantities between 100,000 and 999,999 pounds.

11 (5) \$880.00 for quantities exceeding 999,999 pounds.

12 (6) An additional fee of \$250.00 will be assessed for each extremely  
13 hazardous chemical or substance as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 11002.

14 (b) The fee shall be paid to the Commissioner of Public Safety and shall be  
15 deposited into the Hazardous Chemical and Substance Emergency Response  
16 Fund.

17 (c) The following are exempted from paying the fees required by this  
18 section but shall comply with the reporting requirements of this chapter:

19 (1) municipalities and other political subdivisions;

20 (2) State agencies;

21 (3) persons engaged in farming as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001; and

1           (4) nonprofit corporations.

2           (d) No person shall be required to pay a fee for a chemical or substance that  
3           has been determined to be an economic poison as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 911 or  
4           for a fertilizer or agricultural lime as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 363 and for which a  
5           registration or tonnage fee has been paid to the Agency of Agriculture, Food  
6           and Markets pursuant to 6 V.S.A. chapter 28 or 81.

7           (e) The State or any political subdivision, including any municipality, fire  
8           district, emergency medical service, or incorporated village, is authorized to  
9           recover any and all reasonable direct expenses incurred as a result of the  
10          response to and recovery of a hazardous chemical or substance incident from  
11          the person or persons responsible for the incident. All funds collected by the  
12          State under this subsection shall be deposited into the Hazardous Chemical and  
13          Substance Emergency Response Fund created pursuant to subsection 38(b) of  
14          this chapter. The Attorney General shall act on behalf of the State to recover  
15          these expenses. The State or political subdivision shall be awarded costs and  
16          reasonable attorney's fees that are incurred as a result of exercising the  
17          provisions of this subsection.

18          (f)(1) The Department of Public Safety shall have authority to inspect the  
19          premises and records of any employer to ensure compliance with the  
20          provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

21          (2) A person who violates any provision of this chapter or any rule

1 adopted under this chapter shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 for each  
2 violation. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed to be a separate  
3 violation.

4 (3) The Attorney General may bring an action for injunctive relief in the  
5 Superior Court of the county in which a violation occurs to compel compliance  
6 with the provisions of this chapter.

7 Sec. 35. REPEAL

8 20 V.S.A. § 40 (enforcement) is repealed.

9 Sec. 36. [Deleted.]

10 Sec. 37. [Deleted.]

11 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

12 Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATES

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except that Sec. 21 (20 V.S.A.  
14 § 4) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.