

Sec. E.100 EXECUTIVE BRANCH POSITIONS

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(b) The conversion of 49 limited service positions to classified permanent status is authorized in fiscal year 2024 as follows:

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(7) Agency of Natural Resources – Central Office:

(A) one Environmental Justice and Civil Rights Director; and

(B) two Environmental Justice Coordinators.

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Sec. E.700 3 V.S.A. § 6006 is amended to read:

\* \* \*

(d) Membership.

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(7) Members of the Advisory Council who are not State employees shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for each day spent in the performance of their duties, as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources.

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Sec. E.124.1 COUNCIL ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS; INTENT

(a) It is the intent of the Vermont General Assembly to support the work of the Governor's Council on Housing and Homelessness, focusing on strategies for affordability and solving homelessness. The Council is encouraged to review and inventory the affordable housing that has been developed since January 2020, including the various public and private financing sources that have been utilized. ~~Based on this review and analysis of the need for affordable housing construction, the Council is asked to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.~~ The Council is also encouraged to review and inventory available housing assistance programs and funding levels. ~~Based on this review and analysis of the need for housing assistance for vulnerable and low income Vermonters, the Council is asked to provide recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly, including the potential to maximize supported housing programs within the State's Medicaid Global Commitment program.~~

Sec. C.123 10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) is added to read:

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(y) No permit or permit amendment is required for a retail electric distribution utility’s rebuilding of existing electrical distribution lines and related facilities to improve reliability and service to existing customers, through overhead or underground lines in an existing corridor, road, or State or town road right-of-way. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to exempt projects under this subsection from other required permits or the conditions on lands subject to existing permits required by this section.

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Sec. C.124 EXEMPTION REPEAL

10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) is repealed on January 1, 2026.

Sec. C.125 ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITY PROJECT REPORT

(a) On or before January 15, 2024, and annually until 2026, any distribution utility that takes an action exempt under 10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) shall report to the House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Natural Resources and Energy on the projects completed pursuant to that exemption in the preceding year. The report shall address: the location of the projects, including whether it is located in a “1-acre town” or a “10-acre town”; how many customers are affected by the project; whether the project involved lines being hardened in place, buried underground, or relocated to the right-of-way; how many poles were removed and how many poles were set; and what permits the projects were required to receive.