

**\* \* \* Electric Distribution Utility Line Rebuild \* \* \***

*(Sec. 19b effective on passage)*

Sec. 19b. 10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) is added to read:

(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.

Sec. 19c. EXEMPTION REPEAL

10 V.S.A. § 6081(y) is repealed on January 1, 2026.

Sec. 19d. ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITY PROJECT REPORT

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.