1	Introduced by Senate Committee on Economic Development and Housing and
2	General Affairs
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Conservation and development; land use; housing; Act 250
6	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to <purpose></purpose>
7	An act relating to bringing everyone home
8	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
9	Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE
10	This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Be Home Act."
11	* * * STUDY PLACEHOLDER * * *
12	Sec. 2. BUILDING CODE STUDY
13	(a) On or before January 15, 2025, the BLANK shall submit a report to the
14	Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs
15	and the House Committees on Environment and Energy and on General and
16	Housing on the identifying rate of adoption of the Federal Emergency
17	Management Agency's flood resistant building code by Vermont
18	municipalities. The report shall recommend strategies to increase the adoption
19	of code.

1	(b) The sum of \$50,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2	BLANK for the purpose of subsection (a) of this section.
3	* * * Parking effective date * * *
4	Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 81, Sec. 10 is amended to read:
5	Sec. 10. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 47 is amended to read:
6	Sec. 47. EFFECTIVE DATES
7	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, except that:
8	(1) Sec. 1 (24 V.S.A. § 4414) shall take effect on December July 1,
9	2024.
10	* * *
11	* * * Wastewater Connection Permits * * *
12	Please note: in S.100- Sec. 25 directed ANR to review their permits for
13	duplication and report back on 1/31/25
14	Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 1974 is amended to read:
15	§ 1974. EXEMPTIONS
16	Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter, the following
17	projects and actions are exempt:
18	* * *
19	(9) A project completed by a person who receives an authorization from
20	a municipality that administers a program registered with the Secretary
21	pursuant to section 1983 of this title.

1	Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1983 is added to read:
2	§ 1983. AUTHORIZATION FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM
3	AND POTABLE WATER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS
4	(a) A municipality may issue an authorization for a connection or an
5	existing connection with a change in use to the municipal sanitary sewer
6	collection line via a sanitary sewer service line or a connection to a water main
7	via a new water service line in lieu of permits issued under this chapter,
8	provided that the municipality documents the following in a form prescribed
9	by the Secretary:
10	(1) The municipality owns or has legal control over connections to a
11	public community water system permitted pursuant to chapter 56 of this title
12	and over connections to a wastewater treatment facility permitted pursuant to
13	chapter 47 of this title.
14	(2) The municipality shall only issue authorizations for:
15	(A) a sanitary sewer service line that connects to the sanitary sewer
16	collection line; and
17	(B) a water service line that connects to the water main.
18	(3) The building or structure authorized under this section connects to
19	both the sanitary sewer collection line and public community water system.

1	(4) The authorizations from the municipality comply with the technical
2	standards for sanitary sewer service lines and water service lines in the
3	Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.
4	(5) The municipality requires documentation issued by a professional
5	engineer or licensed designer that is filed in the land records that the
6	connection authorized by the municipality was installed in accordance with the
7	technical standards.
8	(6) The municipality requires the authorization to be filed in the land
9	records.
10	(7) The municipality requires the retention of plans that show the
11	location and design of authorized connections.
12	(b) The municipality shall notify the Secretary 30 days in advance of
13	terminating any authorization. The municipality shall provide all
14	authorizations and plans to the Secretary as a part of this termination notice.
15	(c) A municipality issuing an authorization under this section shall require
16	the person to whom the authorization is issued to post notice of the
17	authorization as part of the notice required for a permit issued under 24 V.S.A
18	§ 4449 or other bylaw authorized under this chapter.
19	Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 6085a is added to read:
20	§ 6085a. RECORDED HEARINGS

1	(a) Any appeal under section 6089 of this title shall be a review of the
2	record of the proceeding before the District Commission in accordance with
3	subdivision 8504(h)(3) of this title.
4	(b) Within 10 calendar days of receipt of a complete application under
5	section 6084 of this title, the District Commission shall provide notice of the
6	recorded hearings in accordance with the procedures of subdivision 6084(b)(1)
7	of this title.
8	(c) Each of the following shall apply to the review of an application under
9	this section:
10	(1) The District Commission shall extend the hearing schedule or take
11	other appropriate action as necessary to provide a fair and reasonable
12	opportunity for parties to prepare, present, and respond to evidence without
13	creating undue delay in the review of the application.
14	(2) The District Commission may require parties to submit prefiled
15	testimony and exhibits. If the District Commission requires submission of
16	prefiled evidence, the applicant and any parties supporting the application shall
17	submit their prefiled direct evidence first, and then other parties shall be given
18	a reasonable opportunity to submit their prefiled direct evidence. The District
19	Commission may then allow the submission or presentation of rebuttal
20	testimony and exhibits in the sequence and form that it determines to be
21	appropriate.

1	(3) Unless the parties agree otherwise, the District Commission in a
2	prehearing order shall establish the type, sequence, and amount of discovery
3	available under Rules 26-37 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure, limiting
4	the discovery permitted to that necessary for a full and fair determination of the
5	proceeding.
6	(d) On receipt of a request from the District Commission for assistance
7	with regard to an application heard under this section, the Board shall provide
8	assistance to the District Commission as necessary or the District Commission
9	may hire personnel pursuant to section 6022 of this title.
10	(e) At the expense of the applicant, the District Commission shall record by
11	video any hearing on an application. In the event that appeal is taken from a
12	District Commission act or decision on such an application, the District
13	Commission shall provide the Environmental Division with the original
14	recording of the hearing and a copy of the complete written record and shall
15	make and preserve a copy of the original recording for its own records.
16	Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:
17	§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
18	* * *
19	(h) De novo hearing. The Environmental Division, applying the
20	substantive standards that were applicable before the tribunal appealed from,

1	shall hold a de novo hearing on those issues which have been appealed, except
2	in the case of:
3	(1) a decision being appealed on the record pursuant to 24 V.S.A.
4	chapter 117;
5	(2) a decision of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation
6	under section 2625 of this title being appealed on the record, in which case the
7	court shall affirm the decision, unless it finds that the Commissioner did not
8	have reasonable grounds on which to base the decision-; and
9	(3) a permit decision from a District Commission under chapter 151,
10	which shall be on the record.
11	Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:
12	§ 6001. DEFINITIONS
13	As used in this chapter:
14	* * *
15	(3)(A) "Development" means each of the following:
16	* * *
17	(iv)(I) The construction of housing projects such as cooperatives,
18	condominiums, or dwellings, or construction or maintenance of mobile homes
19	or mobile home parks, with 10 30 or more units, constructed or maintained on
20	a tract or tracts of land not located within a designated center, but in a
21	municipality that may be feasibly served by water and sewer infrastructure,

1	owned or controlled by a person, within a radius of five miles of any point on
2	any involved land and within any continuous period of five two years.
3	However:
4	(I) A priority housing project shall constitute a development
5	under this subdivision (iv) only if the number of housing units in the project is:
6	(aa) [Repealed.]
7	(bb) [Repealed.]
8	(cc) 75 or more, in a municipality with a population of 6,000
9	or more but less than 10,000.
10	(dd) 50 or more, in a municipality with a population of less
11	than 6,000.
12	(ee) [Repealed.]
13	(ff) Notwithstanding subdivisions (cc) through (ee) of this
14	subdivision (3)(A)(iv)(I), 10 or more if the construction involves the
15	demolition of one or more buildings that are listed on or eligible to be listed on
16	the State or National Register of Historic Places. However, demolition shall
17	not be considered to create jurisdiction under this subdivision (ff) if the
18	Division for Historic Preservation has determined that the proposed demolition
19	will have no adverse effect, will have no adverse effect if specified conditions
20	are met, or will have an adverse effect that will be adequately mitigated. Any

im	posed o	conditior	is shall t	e enforc	eable	through	a grant	condition,	deed
co'	venant,	or other	legally	binding	docun	nent.			

(II) The determination of jurisdiction over a priority housing project shall count only the housing units included in that discrete project. The construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, or dwellings, or construction or maintenance of mobile homes or mobile home parks, with 10 or more units, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land owned or controlled by a person, within a radius of five miles of any point on any involved land and within any continuous period of two years.

(III) Housing units in a priority housing project shall not count toward determining jurisdiction over any other project.

12 **

(xi) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, until July 1, 2026, the construction of housing projects such as cooperatives, condominiums, dwellings, or mobile homes, with 25 or more units, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land, located entirely within a designated downtown development district, a designated neighborhood development area, a designated village center with permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws, or a designated growth center, owned or controlled by a person, within a radius of five miles of any point on any involved land and within any continuous period of five years. For purposes of this subsection, the construction of four units or

1	fewer of housing in an existing structure shall only count as one unit towards
2	the total number of units.
3	* * *
4	(D) The word "development" does not include:
5	* * *
6	(iii) The construction of housing projects such as cooperatives,
7	condominiums, or dwellings, or construction or maintenance of mobile homes
8	or mobile home parks, constructed or maintained on a tract or tracts of land,
9	owned or controlled by a person, within a designated center and within a radius
10	of one-half mile of the boundary of a designated center.
11	* * *
12	(viii)(I) The construction of a priority housing project in a
13	municipality with a population of 10,000 or more.
14	(II) If the construction of a priority housing project in this
15	
	subdivision (3)(D)(viii) involves demolition of one or more buildings that are
16	subdivision (3)(D)(viii) involves demolition of one or more buildings that are listed or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic
16	listed or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic
16 17	listed or eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places, this exemption shall not apply unless the Division for Historic

1	(III) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
2	contrary, until July 1, 2026, the construction of a priority housing project
3	located entirely within a designated downtown development district,
4	designated neighborhood development area, or a designated growth center.
5	(ix) Hotels and motels converted to permanently affordable
6	housing developments as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303(2).
7	* * *
8	(35) "Priority housing project" means a discrete project located on a
9	single tract or multiple contiguous tracts of land that consists exclusively of
10	mixed income housing or mixed use, or any combination thereof, and is
11	located entirely within a designated downtown development district,
12	designated new town center, designated growth center, or designated
13	neighborhood development area under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A. [Repealed.]
14	* * *
15	Sec. 9. 10 V.S.A. § 6086(h) is added to read:
16	(h) A District Commission may issue a permit contingent upon the
17	applicant receiving permits from the Agency of Natural Resources or other
18	State agency.
19	Sec. 10. REPEALS
20	(a) 10 V.S.A. § 6081(o) and (p) are repealed.
21	(b) 30 V.S.A. § 55 (priority housing projects; stretch code) is repealed.

1	(c) 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 16 (10 V.S.A. § 6001) is repealed.
2	(d) 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 16a (Act 250 exemption
3	requirements) is repealed.
4	(e) 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Secs. 19c (exemption repeal) and 19d
5	(electric distribution utility project report) are repealed.
6	Sec. 11. 10 V.S.A. § 6032 is added to read:
7	§ 6032. DELEGATION OF REVIEW AUTHORITY TO MUNICIPALITIES
8	(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, the
9	Natural Resources Board shall establish a process by which a municipality is
10	delegated authority to review development and subdivisions in lieu of the
11	process established under the rest of this chapter.
12	(b) In any municipality that has been delegated authority under this section,
13	any development or subdivision shall be exempt from needing a permit or
14	permit amendment from the District Commission.
15	(c) Delegation of review authority under this section shall require a
16	municipality to have adopted high-quality zoning bylaws that are functionally
17	equivalent to the criteria established in subsection 6086(a) of this title. The
18	Board shall review a municipality's bylaws for conformance with this standard
19	and any other requirements it establishes.
20	(d) On or before July 1, 2025, the Natural Resources Board, in consultation
21	with the regional planning commissions and the Agency of Commerce and

1 Community Development, shall issue guidance establishing the requirements 2 for municipalities seeking delegation under this section. 3 Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 6093 is amended to read: 4 § 6093. MITIGATION OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SOILS 5 (a) Mitigation for loss of primary agricultural soils. Suitable mitigation for 6 the conversion of primary agricultural soils necessary to satisfy subdivision 7 6086(a)(9)(B)(iv) of this title shall depend on where the project tract is located. 8 (1) Project located in certain designated areas. This subdivision applies 9 to projects located in the following areas designated under 24 V.S.A. chapter 10 76A: a downtown development district, a growth center, a new town center 11 designated on or before January 1, 2014, and a neighborhood development area 12 associated with a designated downtown development district. If the project 13 tract is located in one of these designated areas, an applicant who complies 14 with subdivision 6086(a)(9)(B)(iv) of this title shall deposit an offsite 15 mitigation fee into the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund 16 established under section 312 of this title for the purpose of preserving primary 17 agricultural soils of equal or greater value with the highest priority given to 18 preserving prime agricultural soils as defined by the U.S. Department of 19 Agriculture. Any required offsite mitigation fee shall be derived by: 20 (A) Determining the number of acres of primary agricultural soils 21 affected by the proposed development or subdivision.

1	(B) Multiplying the number of affected acres of primary agricultural
2	soils by a factor resulting in a ratio established as follows:
3	(i) For development or subdivision within a designated area
4	described in this subdivision (a)(1), the ratio shall be 1:1.
5	(ii) For residential construction that has a density of at least eight
6	units of housing per acre, of which at least eight units per acre or at least
7	40 percent of the units, on average, in the entire development or subdivision,
8	whichever is greater, meets the definition of affordable housing established in
9	this chapter, no mitigation shall be required, regardless of location in or outside
10	a designated area described in this subdivision (a)(1). However, all affordable
11	housing units shall be subject to housing subsidy covenants, as defined in
12	27 V.S.A. § 610, that preserve their affordability for a period of 99 years or
13	longer. As used in this section, housing that is rented shall be considered
14	affordable housing when its inhabitants have a gross annual household income
15	that does not exceed 60 percent of the county median income or 60 percent of
16	the standard metropolitan statistical area income if the municipality is located
17	in such an area.
18	(iii) For an alternative or community wastewater system that will
19	serve development within a designated area, no mitigation shall be required.
20	* * *
21	Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 6090 is amended to read:

1	§ 6090. RECORDING; DURATION AND REVOCATION OF PERMITS
2	* * *
3	(c) Change to nonjurisdictional use; release from permit.
4	(1) On an application signed by each permittee, the District Commission
5	may release land subject to a permit under this chapter from the obligations of
6	that permit and the obligation to obtain amendments to the permit and from
7	jurisdiction under this chapter on finding that the use of the land as of the date
8	of the application was for a commercial purpose and use of the land as of the
9	date of the application is for housing and would not require a permit or permit
10	amendment but for the fact that the land is already subject to a permit under
11	this chapter.
12	(2) It shall be a condition of each affirmative decision under this
13	subsection that a subsequent proposal of a development or subdivision on the
14	land to which the decision applies shall be subject to this chapter as if the land
15	had never previously received a permit under the chapter.
16	(3) An application for a decision under this subsection shall be made on
17	a form prescribed by the Board. The form shall require evidence
18	demonstrating that the application complies with subdivisions (1)(A) through
19	(C) of this subsection. The application shall be processed in the manner
20	described in section 6084 of this title and may be treated as a minor application
21	under that section. In addition to those required to be notified under section

1	6084, the District Commission shall send notice at the same time to all other
2	parties to the permit and to all current adjacent landowners.
3	Sec. 14. 10 V.S.A. § 6081 is amended to read:
4	§ 6081. PERMITS REQUIRED; EXEMPTIONS
5	* * *
6	(z) No permit or permit amendment is required for a development or
7	subdivision located within a transportation corridor.
8	* * * Municipal Zoning * * *
9	Sec. 15. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:
10	§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
11	* * *
12	(b) As used in this chapter, an "interested person" means any one of the
13	following:
14	* * *
15	(4) Any 10 persons equal to a minimum of 10 percent of the most recent
16	U.S. Census Bureau population estimate of the municipality who may be any
17	combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality
18	listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection who, by signed petition to the
19	appropriate municipal panel of a municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is
20	at issue in any appeal brought under this title, allege that any relief requested
21	by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies,

1	purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to
2	the appropriate municipal panel must designate one person to serve as the
3	representative of the petitioners regarding all matters related to the appeal. For
4	purposes of this subdivision, an appeal shall not include the character of the
5	area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable
6	housing.
7	* * *
8	(d) For the purposes of this section, an appeal shall not include the
9	following:
10	(1) Any residential and mixed-use development containing up to 25
11	dwelling units within areas served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure.
12	(2) Any permitted residential and mixed-use development that does not
13	require conditional use review. Development requiring conditional use review
14	may be appealed.
15	(3) Any housing or mixed-use development located within a designated
16	center in a zoning district that allows residential development.
17	Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 8507 is added to read:
18	§ 8507. APPEAL; BOND
19	(a) If an aggrieved person elects to appeal the judgment of the appropriate
20	municipal panel on an application for a housing project to the court under this
21	chapter, the court shall require that person give security by posting a bond to

1	the State, in a sufficient sum, as the court directs, to compensate the permit
2	applicant for:
3	(1) At least half of reasonable associated costs incurred by the permit
4	applicant as a direct result of the appeal if the appeal is denied but found to be
5	nonfrivolous. As used in this subdivision, a "frivolous appeal" means an
6	appeal that would not have a reasonable chance of success, such as an appeal
7	that is unsupported.
8	(2) All reasonable associated costs incurred by the permit applicant as a
9	direct result of the appeal as well as additional injury if the appeal is denied
10	and found to be frivolous,
11	or returned to the appealing party if the appeal is successful.
12	(b) A motion to waive the appeal bond will be allowed if the party is
13	indigent and has nonfrivolous grounds for appeal.
14	(c) As used in this section, "denied" means that the court's decision
15	affirmed the appropriate municipal panel's decision.
16	Sec. 17. 24 V.S.A. § 4464 is amended to read:
17	§ 4464. HEARING AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS; DECISIONS AND
18	CONDITIONS; ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW; ROLE OF
19	ADVISORY COMMISSIONS IN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
20	* * *
21	(b) Decisions.

(1) The appropriate municipal panel may recess the proceedings on any	
application pending submission of additional information. The panel should	
close the evidence promptly after all parties have submitted the requested	
information. The panel shall adjourn the hearing and issue a decision within	
45 60 days after the adjournment of the hearing application was submitted, and	
failure of the panel to issue a decision within this period shall be deemed	
approval and shall be effective on the 46th 61st day. The application shall be	
deemed approved regardless of if the panel was unable to reach a quorum	
during the 60 days. Decisions shall be issued in writing and shall include a	
statement of the factual bases on which the appropriate municipal panel has	
made its conclusions and a statement of the conclusions. The minutes of the	
meeting may suffice, provided the factual bases and conclusions relating to the	
review standards are provided in conformance with this subsection.	
* * *	
Sec. 18. 24 V.S.A. § 4428 is added to read:	
§ 4428. PARKING BYLAWS	
(a) Parking regulation. Consistent with section 4414 of this title and with	
this section, a municipality may regulate parking.	
(b) Tandem parking. Tandem parking shall count toward residential	

parking space requirements. As used in this subsection, "tandem parking"

1	means a narrow parking space that can accommodate two or more vehicles
2	parked in a single-file line.
3	(c) Parking space size standards. For the purpose of residential parking, a
4	municipality shall define a parking space as not larger than eight feet by
5	<u>16 feet.</u>
6	(d) Existing nonconforming parking. A municipality shall allow an
7	existing nonconforming parking space to count toward the parking requirement
8	of an existing residential building if new residential units are added to the
9	building.
10	(e) Adjacent lots. A municipality shall allow excess parking spaces in an
11	adjacent lot to count toward the parking requirement of a residential building.
12	Sec. 19. APPROPRIATION
13	The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
14	municipal portion of the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund established in
15	24 V.S.A. § 4306 to assist municipalities in adjusting their zoning bylaws to
16	align with 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, updates to the State Designation
17	Program under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A, and Act 250 reform.
18	Sec. 20. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:
19	§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS
20	Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development
21	provisions shall apply in every municipality:

1	(1) Equal treatment of housing and required provisions for affordable
2	housing.
3	* * *
4	(D) Bylaws shall designate appropriate districts and reasonable
5	regulations for multiunit or multifamily dwellings. No bylaw shall have the
6	effect of excluding these multiunit or multifamily dwellings from the
7	municipality. In any district that allows year-round residential development,
8	duplexes shall be an allowed use with the same dimensional standards as a
9	single-unit dwelling. In any district that is served by municipal sewer and
10	water infrastructure that allows residential development, multiunit dwellings
11	with four or fewer units shall be:
12	(i) a permitted use, unless that district specifically requires
13	multiunit structures to have more than four dwelling units; and
14	(ii) a permitted use on a lot that is least one-fifth of an acre in size.
15	* * *
16	(12) In any area served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure that
17	allows residential development, bylaws shall establish lot and building
18	dimensional standards that allow five or more dwelling units per acre for each
19	allowed residential use, and density with that standard being applied on a
20	proportional basis, allowing one unit for every one-fifth of an acre. Any lot
21	that is smaller than one acre but granted a variance of not more than 10 percent

1	shall be treated as one acre for the purposes of this subsection. Density and
2	minimum lot size standards for multiunit dwellings shall not be more
3	restrictive than those required for single-family dwellings.
4	(13) In any area served by municipal sewer and water infrastructure that
5	allows residential development, bylaws shall permit any affordable housing
6	development, as defined in subdivision 4303(2) of this title, including mixed-
7	use development, to exceed density limitations for residential developments by
8	an additional 40 percent, rounded up to the nearest whole unit, which shall
9	include exceeding maximum height limitations by one floor, provided that the
10	structure complies with the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code.
11	Sec. 21. 24 V.S.A. § 4413 is amended to read:
12	§ 4413. LIMITATIONS ON MUNICIPAL BYLAWS
13	(a)(1) The following uses may be regulated only with respect to location,
14	size, height, building bulk, yards, courts, setbacks, density of buildings, off-
15	street parking, loading facilities, traffic, noise, lighting, landscaping, and
16	screening requirements, and only to the extent that regulations do not have the
17	effect of interfering with the intended functional use:
18	(A) State- or community-owned, and -operated, or -funded
19	institutions and or facilities, or institutions or facilities that may be privately
20	held, but serve a public function;

1	(B) public and private schools and other educational institutions
2	certified by the Agency of Education;
3	(C) churches and other places of worship, convents, and parish
4	houses;
5	(D) public and private hospitals;
6	(E) regional solid waste management facilities certified under
7	10 V.S.A. chapter 159;
8	(F) hazardous waste management facilities for which a notice of
9	intent to construct has been received under 10 V.S.A. § 6606a; and
10	(G) emergency shelters; and
11	(H) hotels and motels converted to permanently affordable housing
12	developments.
13	* * *
14	Sec. 22. 24 V.S.A. § 4429 is added to read:
15	§ 4429. LOT COVERAGE BYLAWS
16	(a) A municipality shall allow for lot coverage of at least 50 percent in
17	areas served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure.
18	(b) A municipality shall allow for a lot coverage bonus of 20 percent on
19	lots that allow access to new or subdivided lots without road frontage.

1	(c) A municipality shall approve a lot that does not comply with required
2	lot coverage if lots for new housing are created through subdivision in areas
3	served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure.
4	Sec. 23. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 (14) is added to read:
5	(14) Any permanently affordable housing development located on land
6	owned by a religious non-profit shall be a permitted use.
7	Sec. 24. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:
8	§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
9	* * *
10	(k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
11	section:
12	(1) there shall be no appeal from a District Commission decision when
13	the Commission has issued a permit and no hearing was requested or held, or
14	no motion to alter was filed following the issuance of an administrative
15	amendment;
16	(2) a municipal decision regarding whether a particular application
17	qualifies for a recorded hearing under 24 V.S.A. § 4471(b) shall not be subject
18	to appeal;
19	(3) if a District Commission issues a partial decision under subsection
20	6086(b) of this title, any appeal of that decision must be taken within 30 days
21	of the date of that decision; and

(4) the Environmental Division shall hear a case regarding appeals of an
appropriate municipal panel under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 60 days
following the case being filed with the Division. The Environmental Division
shall issue a decision on a case regarding appeals of an appropriate municipal
panel under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 90 days following the close of the
hearing on the case.
* * *
Sec. 25. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:
§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
* * *

- (b) Planning and zoning chapter appeals.
- (1) Within 30 days of the date of the act or decision, an interested person, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4465, who has participated as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4471 in the municipal regulatory proceeding under that chapter and who alleges an injury-in-fact may appeal to the Environmental Division an act or decision made under that chapter by a board of adjustment, a planning commission, or a development review board; provided, however, that decisions of a development review board under 24 V.S.A. § 4420 with respect to local Act 250 review of municipal impacts are not subject to appeal but shall serve as presumptions under chapter 151 of this title.

1	(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, an interested
2	person may appeal an act or decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 if the
3	Environmental judge determines that:
4	(A) there was a procedural defect that prevented the person from
5	obtaining interested person status or participating in the proceeding;
6	(B) the decision being appealed is the grant or denial of interested
7	person status; or
8	(C) some other condition exists that would result in manifest injustice
9	if the person's right to appeal was disallowed.
10	* * *
11	Sec. 26. SUPERIOR COURT; POSITION; APPROPRIATION
12	(a) There is established one permanent judge in the Superior Court in fiscal
13	<u>year 2025.</u>
14	(b) In fiscal year 2025, the sum of \$168,000.00 from the General Fund is
15	appropriated to the Superior Court for the new judge created in subsection (a).
16	* * * Downtown Tax Credits * * *
17	Sec. 27. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ee is amended to read:
18	§ 5930ee. LIMITATIONS
19	Beginning in fiscal year 2010 and thereafter, the State Board may award tax
20	credits to all qualified applicants under this subchapter, provided that:

1	(1) the total amount of tax credits awarded annually, together with sales
2	tax reallocated under section 9819 of this title, does not exceed \$3,000,000.00;
3	[Repealed.]
4	* * *
5	* * * New Act 250 Tiers * * *
6	Sec. 28. 10 V.S.A. § 6001 is amended to read:
7	§ 6001. DEFINITIONS
8	As used in this chapter:
9	* * *
10	(3)(A) "Development" means each of the following:
11	* * *
12	(vi) The construction of improvements for commercial, industrial,
13	or residential use at or above the elevation of 2,500 feet or in or within a Tier 3
14	<u>area</u> .
15	* * *
16	(xii) The construction of a road, roads, driveway, or driveways,
17	which in combination is greater than 2,000 feet, to provide access to or within
18	a tract or tracts of land of more than one acre owned or controlled by a person.
19	(I) For the purposes of determining jurisdiction under this
20	subdivision (x), any tract or tracts of land that will be provided access by the
21	road or driveway is involved land.

1	(II) As used in this subdivision (x), "road" shall include any
2	new road or upgrade of a Class 4 highway by a person other than a
3	municipality, including a road that will be transferred to or maintained by a
4	municipality after its construction or upgrade. For the purposes of this
5	subdivision (II), routine maintenance of a Class 4 highway or stormwater
6	improvement required pursuant to section 1264 of this title shall not constitute
7	an "upgrade."
8	(aa) Routine maintenance shall include replacing a culvert
9	or ditch, applying new stone, grading, or making repairs after adverse weather.
10	(bb) Routine maintenance shall not include changing the
11	size of the road, changing the location or layout of the road, or adding
12	pavement.
13	(III) For the purpose of determining the length under this
14	subdivision, the length of all roads and driveways within the tract or tracts of
15	land constructed within any continuous period of 10 years after October 1,
16	2024 shall be included.
17	(IV) This subdivision (x) shall not apply to
18	(aa) a road constructed for a municipal, county, or State
19	purpose; a utility corridor of an electric transmission or distribution company;
20	or a road located entirely within in a designated downtown or neighborhood
21	development area.

1	(bb) a road used primarily for farming or forestry purposes
2	unless used for residential purpose.
3	* * *
4	(50) "Tier 1A" means an area as defined by the Board and mapped by
5	the regional land use maps, that
6	(51) "Tier 1B" means an area as defined by the Board and mapped by
7	the regional land use maps, that
8	(52) "Tier 2" means an area that is in Tier 1A, 1B, or 3.
9	(53) "Tier 3" means an area as defined by the Board and mapped by the
10	regional land use maps, that contains ecologically important natural resources.
11	The definition may include features such as river corridors, significant
12	wetlands as defined under section 902 of this title, land at or above 2,000 feet,
13	land characterized by slopes greater than 15 percent and shallow depth to
14	bedrock, and areas with any amount of prime agricultural soil.
15	Sec. 29. 10 V.S.A. § 6032 is added to read:
16	§ 6032. DESIGNATION OF TIERS 1A, 1B, AND 3
17	(a) On or before October 1, 2025, the Board shall adopt rules establishing
18	the process for designating Tier 1A and Tier 1B areas. The rules shall at a
19	minimum include provisions for the following:
20	(1) Municipalities develop the application for designation under either
21	Tier and submit it to the Regional Planning Commission for comment and

1	approval. The Regional Planning Commission shall then review the proposal
2	to ensure it is consistent with the regional plan, and provide additional
3	technical input and advice as needed to improve the application.
4	(2) If the Regional Planning Commission concurs with the
5	municipality's application, the municipality would submit the application to
6	the Board for approval. During this review, the Regional Planning
7	Commission's concurrence would create a presumption that the application is
8	consistent with the regional plan
9	(3) If the Regional Planning Commission raises objections to the
10	municipality's application, the municipality may choose to rework the
11	application and resubmit it to the Regional Planning Commission or go ahead
12	and submit the application for review by the Board without Regional Planning
13	Commission approval. In the later instance, the municipality would have to
14	demonstrate to the Board that the application is consistent with the regional
15	plan and explain why it chose not to re-work its application.
16	(4) The Board would oversee a public review process, provide
17	opportunities for comment, and then issue a determination on the application.
18	(5) There shall be a process for challenging and appealing designation
19	decisions at the time of the certification or re- certification.
20	(6) Municipalities that apply for Tier 1 designated areas, but do not
21	succeed, may subsequently re-apply.

1	(7) Municipalities that have designated areas approved for Tier 1B
2	status can later apply for designating the areas Tier 1A. Municipalities can
3	modify their approved plans and re-apply.
4	(8) Tier 1A or 1B area designation must be reviewed and re-certified
5	every 8 years.
6	(b) The Board's rules shall establish qualifications for Tier 1A and Tier 1B,
7	which shall at a minimum include:
8	(1) A municipal plan that is approved in accordance with 24 V.S.A.
9	<u>§ 4350.</u>
10	(2) Municipal flood hazard planning, applicable to the entire
11	municipality, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. V.S.A. § 4382(12) and the
12	guidelines issued by the Department pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2792(d).
13	(3) Flood hazard and river corridor bylaws, applicable to the entire
14	municipality, that are consistent with the standards established pursuant to
15	subsection 755(b) of this title (flood hazard) and subsection 1428(b) of this
16	title (river corridor).
17	(4) Permanent zoning and subdivision bylaws that do not include broad
18	exemptions that exclude significant private or public land development from
19	requiring a municipal land use permit.
20	(5) Permitted water and wastewater systems with the capacity to support
21	additional development within the planned growth area. The municipality

1	shall have adopted consistent policies, by municipal plan and ordinance, on the
2	allocation, connection, and extension of water and wastewater lines that
3	include a defined service area to support the planned growth area.
4	(6) Municipal staff adequate to support coordinated comprehensive and
5	capital planning, development review, and zoning administration in the
6	planned growth area.
7	(7) The applicable regional plan has been approved by the Board.
8	(8) Tier 1A shall additional requirements.
9	(c) On or before October 1, 2025, the Board shall adopt rules establishing
10	the process for designating Tier 3 areas. The rules shall at a minimum include
11	provisions for the following:
12	(1) Each respective Regional Planning Commission would recommend a
13	mapping process for identifying Tier 3 areas. This shall include a process for
14	reviewing existing maps, such as Vermont Conservation Design and other
15	available science-based resources, a process for public comment, and
16	authorization of a statewide board to review and approve Tier 3 designations.
17	(2) Each Regional Planning Commission would be primarily responsible
18	for conducting the mapping, in consultation with municipalities, based on
19	consistent and robust standards, and with additional resources and technical
20	support from the state. The Regional Planning Commissions would submit
21	their maps to the Board for approval through a public process, with

1	opportunities for public comment and appeal. Municipalities shall have an
2	opportunity to oppose or appeal the Regional Planning Commission's
3	proposed maps if they disagree with the Regional Planning Commission's
4	determinations.
5	Sec. 30. 24 V.S.A. § 4382 is amended to read:
6	§ 4382. THE PLAN FOR A MUNICIPALITY
7	(a) A plan for a municipality shall be consistent with the goals established
8	in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other
9	municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the
10	following:
11	* * *
12	(2) A land use plan, which shall consist of a map and statement of
13	present and prospective land uses, that:
14	* * *
15	(C) Identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation under
16	chapter 76A of this title or 10 V.S.A. § 6032, together with, for each area
17	proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further
18	the plan's goals and the goals of section 4302 of this title, and how the area
19	meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought.
20	* * *

- 1 Sec. 31. 10 V.S.A. § 6081 is amended to read:
- 2 § 6081. PERMITS REQUIRED; EXEMPTIONS

3 ***

- 4 (z) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, no 5 permit or permit amendment is required for any subdivision, development, or 6 change to an existing project that is located entirely within a Tier 1A planned 7 growth area designated under section 6032 of this chapter. Notwithstanding 8 any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, no permit or permit 9 amendment is required for 50 units or fewer of housing located entirely within 10 a Tier 1B 1A planned growth area designated under section 6032 of this chapter. Upon receiving notice and a copy of the permit issued by an 11 12 appropriate municipal panel pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4460(f), a previously 13 issued permit for a development or subdivision located in a planned growth 14 area shall remain attached to the property. However, neither the Board nor the 15 Agency of Natural Resources shall enforce the permit or assert amendment 16 jurisdiction on the tract or tracts of land unless the designation is revoked or 17 the municipality has not taken any action to enforce the conditions of the 18 permit.
- * * * Taxes * * *
- 20 Sec. 32. 32 V.S.A. § 3800(q) is added to read:

1	(q) The statutory purpose of the exemption under 32 V.S.A. chapter 125,
2	subchapter 3 for new construction or rehabilitation is to lower the cost of new
3	construction or rehabilitation of residential properties in this State.
4	Sec. 33. 32 V.S.A. chapter 125, subchapter 3 is added to read:
5	Subchapter 3. New Construction or Rehabilitation Exemption
6	§ 3870. DEFINITIONS
7	As used in this subchapter:
8	(1) "Agency" means the Agency of Commerce and Community
9	Development as established under 3 V.S.A. § 2402.
10	(2) "Appraisal value" has the same meaning as in subdivision
11	3481(1)(A) of this title.
12	(3) "Exemption period" has the same meaning as in subsection 3871(d)
13	of this subchapter.
14	(4) "New construction" means the building of new dwellings.
15	(5) "Principal residence" means the dwelling occupied by a resident
16	individual as the individual's domicile during the taxable year and for a
17	property owner, owned, or for a renter, rented under a rental agreement other
18	than a short-term rental as defined under 18 V.S.A. § 4301(a)(14).
19	(6)(A) "Qualifying improvement" means new construction or a physical
20	change to an existing dwelling or other structure beyond normal and ordinary
21	maintenance, painting, repairs, or replacements, provided the change:

1	(i) results in new or rehabilitated dwellings that are designed to be
2	occupied as principal residences and not as short-term rentals as defined under
3	18 V.S.A. § 4301(a)(14); and
4	(ii) occurred through new construction, rehabilitation, or both
5	during the 12 months immediately preceding or immediately following
6	submission of an exemption application under this subchapter.
7	(B) "Qualifying improvement" does not mean new construction or a
8	physical change to any portion of a mixed-use building as defined under
9	10 V.S.A. § 6001(28) that is not used as a principal residence.
10	(7)(A) "Qualifying property" means a structure that is:
11	(i) located within a designated downtown district, village center,
12	or neighborhood development area determined pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter
13	76A or a new market tax credit area determined pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 45D,
14	or both;
15	(ii) composed of one or more dwellings designed to be occupied
16	as principal residences, provided:
17	(I) none of the dwellings shall be occupied as short-term rentals
18	as defined under 18 V.S.A. § 4301(a)(14) before the exemption period ends;
19	<u>and</u>

1	(II) a structure with more than one dwelling shall only qualify
2	if it meets the definition of mixed-income housing under 10 V.S.A.
3	§ 6001(27);
4	(iii) undergoing, has undergone, or will undergo qualifying
5	improvements; and
6	(iv) in compliance with all relevant permitting requirements.
7	(B) "Qualifying property" may have a mixed use as defined under
8	10 V.S.A. § 6001(28).
9	(C) "Qualifying property" does not mean property located within a
10	tax increment financing district established under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53,
11	subchapter 5.
12	(8) "Rehabilitation" means extensive repair, reconstruction, or
13	renovation of an existing dwelling or other structure, with or without
14	demolition, new construction, or enlargement, provided the repair,
15	reconstruction, or renovation:
16	(A) is for the purpose of eliminating substandard structural, housing,
17	or unsanitary conditions or stopping significant deterioration of the existing
18	structure; and
19	(B) equals or exceeds a total cost of 15 percent of the grand list value
20	prior to repair, reconstruction, or renovation or \$75,000.00, whichever is less.

1	(9) "Taxable value" means the value of qualifying property that is taxed
2	during the exemption period.
3	§ 3871. EXEMPTION
4	(a) Value increase exemption. An increase in the appraisal value of a
5	qualifying property due to qualifying improvements shall be exempted from
6	property taxation pursuant to this subchapter by fixing and maintaining the
7	taxable value of the qualifying property at the property's grand list value in the
8	year immediately preceding any qualifying improvements. A decrease in
9	appraisal value of a qualifying property due to damage or destruction from fire
10	or act of nature may reduce the qualifying property's taxable value below the
11	value fixed under this subsection.
12	(b) State education property tax exemption. The appraisal value of
13	qualifying improvements to qualifying property shall be exempt from the State
14	education property tax imposed under chapter 135 of this title as provided
15	under this subchapter. The appraisal value exempt under this subsection shall
16	not be exempt from municipal property taxation unless the qualifying property
17	is located in a municipality that has voted to approve an exemption under
18	subsection (c) of this section.
19	(c) Municipal property tax exemption. If the legislative body of a
20	municipality by a majority vote recommends, the voters of a municipality may,
21	at an annual or special meeting warned for that purpose, adopt by a majority

vote of those present and voting an exemption from municipal property tax for
the value of qualifying improvements to qualifying property exempt from State
property taxation under subsection (b) of this section. The municipal
exemption shall remain in effect until rescinded in the same manner the
exemption was adopted. Not later than 30 days after the adjournment of a
meeting at which a municipal exemption is adopted or rescinded under this
subsection, the town clerk shall report to the Director of Property Valuation
and Review and the Agency the date on which the exemption was adopted or
rescinded.
(d) Exemption period.
(1) An exemption under this subchapter shall start in the first property
tax year immediately following the year in which an application for exemption
under section 3872 of this title is approved and one of the following occurs:
(A) issuance of a certificate of occupancy by the municipal governing
body for the qualifying property; or
(B) the property owner's declaration of ownership of the qualifying
property as a homestead pursuant to section 5410 of this title.
(2) An exemption under this subchapter shall remain in effect for five
years, provided the property continues to comply with the requirements of this
subchapter. When the exemption period ends, the property shall be taxed at its
most recently appraised grand list value.

1	(3) The municipal exemption period for a qualifying property shall start
2	and end at the same time as the State exemption period; provided that, if a
3	municipality first votes to approve a municipal exemption after the State
4	exemption period has already started for a qualifying property, the municipal
5	exemption shall only apply after the vote and notice requirements have been
6	met under subsection (c) of this section and shall only continue until the State
7	exemption period ends.
8	§ 3872. ADMINISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION
9	(a) To be eligible for exemption under this subchapter, a property owner
10	shall:
11	(1) submit an application to the Agency of Commerce and Community
12	Development in the form and manner determined by the Agency, including
13	certification by the property owner that the property and improvements qualify
14	for exemption at the time of application and annually thereafter until the
15	exemption period ends; and
16	(2) the certification shall include an attestation under the pains and
17	penalties of perjury that the property will be used in the manner provided under
18	this subchapter during the exemption period, including occupancy of dwellings
19	as principal residences and not as short-term rentals as defined under 18 V.S.A.
20	§ 4301(a)(14), and that the property owner will either provide alternative
21	housing for tenants at the same rent or that the property has been unoccupied

I	either by a tenant's choice or for 60 days prior to the application. A
2	certification by the property owner granted under this subdivision shall:
3	(A) be coextensive with the exemption period;
4	(B) require notice to the Agency of the transfer or assignment of the
5	property prior to transfer, which shall include the transferee's or assignee's full
6	names, phone numbers, and e-mail and mailing addresses;
7	(C) require notice to any prospective transferees or assignees of the
8	property of the requirements of the exemption under this subchapter; and
9	(D) require a new certification to be signed by the transferees or
10	assignees of the property.
11	(b) The Agency shall establish and make available application forms and
12	procedures necessary to verify initial and ongoing eligibility for exemption
13	under this subchapter. Not later than 60 days after receipt of a completed
14	application, the Agency shall determine whether the property and any proposed
15	improvements qualify for exemption and shall issue a written decision
16	approving or denying the exemption. The Agency shall notify the property
17	owner, the municipality where the property is located, and the Commissioner
18	of Taxes of its decision.
19	(c) If the property owner fails to use the property according to the terms of
20	the certification, the Agency shall, after notifying the property owner,
21	determine whether to revoke the exemption. If the exemption is revoked, the

1	Agency shall notify the property owner, the municipality where the property is
2	located, and the Commissioner of Taxes. Upon notification of revocation, the
3	Commissioner shall assess to the property owner:
4	(1) all State and municipal property taxes as though no exemption had
5	been approved, including for any exemption period that had already begun;
6	<u>and</u>
7	(2) interest pursuant to section 3202 of this title on previously exempt
8	taxes.
9	(d) No new applications for exemption shall be approved pursuant to this
10	subchapter after December 31, 2027.
11	Sec. 34. 32 V.S.A. § 4152(a) is amended to read:
12	(a) When completed, the grand list of a town shall be in such form as the
13	Director prescribes and shall contain such information as the Director
14	prescribes, including:
15	* * *
16	(6) For those parcels that are exempt, the insurance replacement value
17	reported to the local assessing officials by the owner under section 3802a of
18	this title or what the full listed value of the property would be absent the
19	exemption and the statutory authority for granting such exemption and, for
20	properties exempt pursuant to a vote, the year in which the exemption became
21	effective and the year in which the exemption ends; provided that, for parcels

1	exempt under chapter 125, subchapter 3 of this title, the insurance replacement
2	value shall not be substituted for the full listed value of the property absent the
3	exemption and the grand list shall indicate whether the exemption applies to
4	the State property tax or both the State and municipal property taxes.
5	* * *
6	Sec. 35. REPEALS; NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REHABILITATION
7	EXEMPTION
8	The following are repealed on July 1, 2037:
9	(1) 32 V.S.A. § 3800(q) (statutory purpose); and
10	(2) 32 V.S.A. chapter 125, subchapter 3 (new construction or
11	rehabilitation exemption).
12	Sec. 36. 32 V.S.A. § 4152(a) is amended to read:
13	(a) When completed, the grand list of a town shall be in such form as the
14	Director prescribes and shall contain such information as the Director
15	prescribes, including:
16	* * *
17	(6) For those parcels that are exempt, the insurance replacement value
18	reported to the local assessing officials by the owner under section 3802a of
19	this title or what the full listed value of the property would be absent the
20	exemption and the statutory authority for granting such exemption and, for
21	properties exempt pursuant to a vote, the year in which the exemption became

effe	ctive and the year in which the exemption ends; provided that, for parcels
exei	mpt under chapter 125, subchapter 3 of this title, the insurance replacement
valu	ne shall not be substituted for the full listed value of the property absent the
exei	mption and the grand list shall indicate whether the exemption applies to
the	State property tax or both the State and municipal property taxes.
Sec.	. 37. 32 V.S.A. § 9603 is amended to read:
§ 9 <i>6</i>	603. EXEMPTIONS
Т	The following transfers are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter:
	* * *
	(27)(A) Transfers of blighted dwellings that the transferee certifies will
<u>be r</u>	ehabilitated for occupancy as principal residences and not as short-term
rent	als as defined under 18 V.S.A. § 4301(a)(14), provided the rehabilitation is
com	apleted and occupied not later than three years after the date of the transfer.
If, the	hree years after the date of transfer, the rehabilitation has not been
com	apleted and occupied, then the tax imposed by this chapter shall become
due	<u>.</u>
	(B) As used in this subdivision (27):
	(i) "Blighted" means substandard structural or housing conditions,
incl	uding unsanitary and unsafe dwellings and deterioration sufficient to
cons	stitute a threat to human health, safety, and public welfare.

1	(ii) "Completed" means rehabilitation of a dwelling to be fit for
2	occupancy as a principal residence.
3	(iii) "Principal residence" means a dwelling occupied by a resident
4	individual as the individual's domicile during the taxable year and for a
5	property owner, owned, or for a renter, rented under a rental agreement other
6	than a short-term rental as defined under 18 V.S.A. § 4301(a)(14).
7	(iv) "Rehabilitation" means extensive repair, reconstruction, or
8	renovation of an existing dwelling beyond normal and ordinary maintenance,
9	painting, repairs, or replacements, with or without demolition, new
10	construction, or enlargement.
11	* * * H.166 * * *
12	Sec. 38. 32 V.S.A. § 5811(21)(C) is amended to read:
13	(C) decreased by the following exemptions and deductions:
14	* * *
15	(iv) an amount equal to the itemized deduction for medical
16	expenses taken at the federal level by the taxpayer, under 26 U.S.C. § 213÷
17	(I) minus the amount of the Vermont standard deduction and
18	Vermont personal exemptions taken by the taxpayer under this subdivision
19	(C) ; and
20	(II) minus any amount deducted at the federal level that is
21	attributable to the payment of an entrance fee or recurring monthly payment

1	made to a continuing care retirement community regulated under 8 V.S.A.
2	chapter 151, which exceeds the deductibility limits for premiums paid during
3	the taxable year on qualified long term care insurance contracts under 26
4	U.S.C. 213(d)(10)(A).
5	* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *
6	Sec. 39. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:
7	§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
8	(a) Creation of Program.
9	(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall
10	design and implement the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program,
11	through which the Department shall award funding to statewide or regional
12	nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide competitive grants and
13	forgivable loans to private landlords for the rehabilitation, including
14	weatherization and accessibility improvements, of eligible rental housing units.
15	(2) The Department shall develop statewide standards for the Program,
16	including factors that partner organizations shall use to evaluate applications
17	and award grants and forgivable loans.
18	(3) A landlord shall not offer a unit created through the Program as a
19	short-term rental, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4301, for the period a grant or loan
20	agreement is in effect.

1	(4) The Department may utilize a reasonable percentage of
2	appropriations made to the Department for the Program to administer the
3	Program.
4	(5) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State
5	agencies and political subdivisions and public and private organizations in
6	order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.
7	(b) Eligible rental housing units. The following units are eligible for a
8	grant or forgivable loan through the Program:
9	(1) Non-code compliant.
10	(A) The unit is an existing unit, whether or not occupied, that does
11	not comply with the requirements of applicable building, housing, or health
12	laws.
13	(B) If the unit is occupied, the grant or forgivable loan agreement
14	shall include terms:
15	* * *
16	(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.
17	(1) A grant or loan shall not exceed \$50,000.00 \$70,000.00 per unit. In
18	determining the amount of a grant or loan, a housing organization shall
19	consider the number of bedrooms in the unit and whether the unit is being
20	rehabilitated or newly created.
21	* * *

1	(e) Program requirements applicable to grants <u>and five-year forgivable</u>
2	loans. For a grant awarded through the Program, the following requirements
3	apply for a minimum period of five years:
4	* * *
5	(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon
6	approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the
7	grant.
8	(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive
9	a 10-percent prorated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the
10	landlord participates in the grant program.
11	(f) Requirements applicable to <u>10-year</u> forgivable loans. For a <u>10-year</u>
12	forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements
13	apply for a minimum period of 10 years:
14	* * *
15	Sec. 40. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT
16	APPROPRIATION
17	The sum of \$6,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18	Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for
19	the Vermont Housing Improvement Program established in 10 V.S.A. § 699.

1	* * * Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program * * *
2	Sec. 26. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, as amended by 2023 Acts
3	and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 75 and 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. C.119,
4	is further amended to read:
5	Sec. 3. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
6	REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
7	(a) Of the amounts available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
8	recovery funds, \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the Department of Housing and
9	Community Development for the purposes specified:
10	* * *
11	(b) The Department administers the Manufactured Home Improvement and
12	Repair Program and may utilize a reasonable percentage of appropriations
13	made to the Department for the Program to administer the Program. The
14	Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and
15	political subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out
16	the purposes of subsection (a) of this section.
17	Sec. 41. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR
18	PROGRAM APPROPRIATION
19	The sum of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
20	Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for

1	the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program established by
2	2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, and amended from time to time.
3	* * * Healthy Homes Initiative * * *
4	Sec. 42. HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE APPROPRIATION
5	The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
6	Department of Environmental Conservation in fiscal year 2025 for the Healthy
7	Homes Initiative.
8	* * * Housing Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund * * *
9	Sec. 43. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM
10	(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall
11	design and implement a Housing Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program and
12	shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide low- to no-interest
13	loans to developers of residential units and municipalities of jurisdiction for
14	investments in infrastructure to support the construction of housing and mixed-
15	use developments. The Agency may utilize a reasonable percentage of
16	appropriations made to the Agency for the Program to administer the Program.
17	The Agency may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State agencies and
18	political subdivisions and public and private organizations in order to carry out
19	the purposes of this section.

1	(b) Loans; maximum interest rate. The Agency shall determine the term
2	and interest rate of a loan. In no case shall the interest rate of a loan offered
3	under the Program exceed one and a half percent per annum.
4	(c) Program design. When designing and implementing the Program, the
5	Agency shall consult stakeholders and experts in the field.
6	(d) Revolving funds. The Agency shall retain payments of principal,
7	interest, and any fees in a revolving loan fund, the amounts of which it shall
8	use to issue future loans through the Program.
9	Sec. 44. HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLVING LOAN FUND
10	APPROPRIATION
11	The sum of \$8,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
12	Vermont Housing Finance Agency in fiscal year 2025 for the Housing
13	Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund.
14	* * * Vermont State University Housing Development * * *
15	Sec. 45. VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
16	APPROPRIATION
17	The sum of \$2,500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
18	Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services in fiscal year 2025 for
19	the rehabilitation of 50 units on the Vermont State University Johnson campus
20	to be made available to rent to the general public at HUD Fair Market Rent.

1	* * * Vermont Affordable Home Development Program * * *
2	Sec. 46. 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 182, Sec. 11, as amended by 2023 Acts
3	and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 104, is further amended to read:
4	Sec. 11. MISSING MIDDLE-INCOME HOMEOWNERSHIP
5	DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM VERMONT
6	AFFORDABLE HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
7	(a) The following amounts are appropriated to the Department of Housing
8	and Community Development to grant to the Vermont Housing Finance
9	Agency to establish the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development
10	Pilot Program Vermont Affordable Home Development Program:
11	* * *
12	(d) The total amount of subsidies for a project shall not exceed 35 percent
13	of eligible development costs, as determined by the Agency, which the Agency
14	may allocate consistent with the following:
15	* * *
16	(2) Affordability subsidy. Of any remaining amounts available for the
17	project after the developer subsidy, the Agency may provide a subsidy for the
18	benefit of the homebuyer to reduce the cost of purchasing the home, provided
19	that:
20	(A) the Agency includes conditions in the subsidy, or uses another
21	legal mechanism, to ensure that, to the extent the home value has risen, the

1	amount of the subsidy remains with the home to offset the cost to future
2	income-eligible homebuyers; or
3	(B) the Agency recaptures the subsidy upon sale of the home and
4	uses it for future awards under this Program; or
5	(C) the subsidy is subject to a housing subsidy covenant, as defined
6	in 27 V.S.A. § 610, that preserves the affordability of the home for a period of
7	99 years or longer.
8	(3) The Agency shall allocate not less than 33 percent of the funds
9	available through the Program to projects that include a housing subsidy
10	covenant consistent with subdivision $(2)(B)(C)$ of this subsection.
11	* * *
12	Sec. 47. VERMONT AFFORDABLE HOME DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
13	APPROPRIATION
14	The sum of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
15	Vermont Housing Finance Agency in fiscal year 2025 for the Vermont
16	Affordable Home Development Program established by 2022 Acts and
17	Resolves No. 182, Sec. 11, as amended from time to time.
18	
19	* * *Land Bank Study * * *

1	(a) Creation. There is created a Municipal and Regional Land Bank Study
2	Committee to review and consider models for creating municipal or regional
3	land banks, the purpose of which are to acquire and transfer for the purpose of
4	revitalizing blighted properties and underperforming real estate assets in
5	Vermont communities.
6	(b) Membership. The Committee is composed of the following members:
7	(1) [#] current members of the House of Representatives, not all from
8	the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
9	(2) [#] current members of the Senate, not all from the same political
10	party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;
11	(3) three municipal leaders with geographic diversity [appointed by
12	{whomever}];
13	(4) realtors [appointed by {whomever}];
14	(5) a representative of Habitat for Humanity [appointed by]
15	(6) a representative of the Vermont Regional Planning Commissions
16	(appointed by)
17	(7) a representative of an affordable housing nonprofit [appointed by]
18	(c) Powers and duties. The [Committee/Working Group/Task Force] shall
19	study [topic], including the following [questions/issues]:
20	<u>(1)</u> ;
21	(2) ; and

1	<u>(3)</u> .
2	(d) Assistance. The [Committee/Working Group/Task Force] shall have
3	the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of [named entity]. [Or, if
4	appropriate: For purposes of scheduling meetings and preparing
5	recommended legislation, the {Committee/Working Group/Task Force} shall
6	have the assistance of the Office of Legislative Operations and the Office of
7	<u>Legislative Counsel {and the Joint Fiscal Office}.</u>]
8	(e) Report. On or before [date], the [Committee/Working Group/Task
9	Force] shall [submit a written] report to [the General Assembly/the House
10	Committee on and the Senate Committee on] with its
11	findings and any recommendations for legislative action.
12	(f) Meetings.
13	(1) [Person] shall call the first meeting of the [Committee/Working
14	Group/Task Force] to occur on or before [date].
15	(2) [Person] shall be the chair [OR describe how chair is selected - e.g.,
16	The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first
17	meeting].
18	(3) A majority {or an exact number, or other proportion} of the
19	membership shall constitute a quorum.
20	Optional: The default laws (or, in the case of all-legislator committees,
21	the default customs) regarding (1) whether a member's physical presence is

1	required in order to count toward a quorum, (2) whether a member may vote to
2	take action without being physically present, and (3) the number of votes
3	required for an action to carry, are listed on pp.1-2 of doc # 301157. For
4	suggested language to override these defaults, see pp.3–4 of doc # 301157.
5	(4) The [Committee/Working Group/Task Force] shall cease to exist on
6	[date].
7	(g) Compensation and reimbursement.
8	(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
9	Assembly, a legislative member of the [Committee/Working Group/Task
10	Force] [serving in his or her capacity as a legislator] shall be entitled to per
11	diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23
12	for not more than [#] meetings. These payments shall be made from monies
13	appropriated to the General Assembly [or use subdiv. (3) if all members will be
14	paid from one source].
15	(2) Optional Other members of the [Committee/Working Group/Task
16	Force] shall be entitled to [per diem compensation/reimbursement of
17	expenses/both] as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than [#]
18	meetings [or Other members of the [Committee/Working Group/Task Force]
19	shall not be entitled to per diem compensation or reimbursement of expenses.].
20	These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to [which State
21	entity] [or use subdiv. (3) if all members will be paid from one source].

1	(3) Payments to members of the [Committee/Working Group/Task]
2	Force] authorized under this subsection shall be made from monies
3	appropriated to [which State entity].
4	(h) Optional Appropriation. The sum of [\$.00] is appropriated to [which
5	State entity] from the [General Fund/other source] in fiscal year [year] for [per
6	diem compensation] [and reimbursement of expenses] for members of the
7	Committee/Working Group/Task Force [and add in any other expenses that
8	the section authorizes/directs the Committee/Working Group/Task Force to
9	incur].
10	* * * Middle-Income Homeownership * * *
11	Sec. 49. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 36 is amended to read:
12	MIDDLE-INCOME HOMEOWNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
13	* * *
14	(d) The total amount of subsidies for a project shall not exceed 35 percent
15	of eligible development costs, as determined by the Agency, which the Agency
16	may allocate consistent with the following:
17	(1) Developer subsidy. The Agency may provide a direct subsidy to the
18	developer, which shall not exceed the difference between the cost of
19	development and the market value of the home as completed.
20	(2) Affordability subsidy. Of any remaining amounts available for the
21	project after the developer subsidy, the Agency may provide a subsidy for the

1	benefit of the homebuyer to reduce the cost of purchasing the home, provided
2	that:
3	(A) the Agency includes conditions in the subsidy, <u>agreement</u> or uses
4	another legal mechanism, to ensure that, to the extent the home value has risen,
5	the amount of the subsidy upon sale of the home, to the extent proceeds are
6	available, the amount of the affordability subsidy either:
7	(i) remains with the home to offset the cost to future homebuyers;
8	or
9	(ii) is recaptured by the Agency upon sale of the home for use in a
10	similar program to support affordable homeownership development; or
11	(B) the subsidy is subject to a housing subsidy covenant, as defined
12	in 27 V.S.A. § 610, that preserves the affordability of the home for a period of
13	99 years or longer.
14	(3) The Agency shall allocate not less than 33 percent of the funds
15	available through the Program to projects that include a housing subsidy
16	covenant consistent with subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection.
17	* * *
18	(f)(1) When implementing the Program, the Agency shall consult
19	stakeholders and experts in the field.
20	(2) The Program shall include:
21	(A) a streamlined and appropriately scaled application process;

1	(B) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to reach
2	and support eligible applicants, especially those from underserved regions or
3	sectors;
4	(C) an equitable system for distributing investments statewide on the
5	basis of need according to a system of priorities that includes consideration of:
6	(i) geographic distribution;
7	(ii) community size;
8	(iii) community economic need; and
9	(iv) whether an application has already received an investment or
10	is from an applicant in a community that has already received Program
11	funding.
12	(3) The Agency shall use its best efforts to ensure:
13	(A) that investments awarded are targeted to the geographic
14	communities or regions with the most pressing economic and employment
15	needs; and
16	(B) that the allocation of investments provides equitable access to the
17	benefits to all eligible geographical areas.
18	* * *
19	Sec. 50. REPEAL
20	2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Sec. 37 is repealed.

1	* * * Rental Registry * * *
2	Sec. 51. 3 V.S.A. § 2478 is added to read:
3	§ 2478. STATE RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRY; HOUSING DATA
4	(a) The Department of Housing and Community Development, in
5	coordination with the Division of Fire Safety, the Department of Health, the
6	Enhanced 911 Board, and the Department of Taxes, shall create and maintain a
7	registry of the rental housing in this State, which includes a "dwelling unit" as
8	defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4451 and a "short-term rental" as defined in 18 V.S.A.
9	<u>§ 4301.</u>
10	(b) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall require
11	for each unit that is registered the following data:
12	(1) the name of the owner or landlord;
13	(2) phone number, electronic mail, and mailing address of the landlord,
14	as available;
15	(3) location of the unit;
16	(4) year built;
17	(5) type of rental unit;
18	(6) number of units in the building;
19	(7) school property account number;
20	(8) accessibility of the unit; and
21	(9) any other information the Department deems appropriate.

1	(c) Upon request of the Department of Housing and Community
2	Development, and at least annually, a municipal, district, or other local
3	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program that
4	requires registration of a rental housing unit and a fee for inclusion on the
5	registry shall provide to the Department the data for each unit that is required
6	pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
7	(d) The registry, and data collected by the registry, shall be protected
8	pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317 (c)(2) and may only be released to specifically
9	designated persons who, in the discretion of the Department, shall use such
10	data to further the public good. Registry data may not be disclosed to entities
11	for the purposes of solicitation campaigns without express authority granted by
12	the Department. Data about a specific unit may be disclosed to the owner or
13	operator of the rental unit regulated by the registry for the purpose of
14	informing the owner or operator of its registry status.
15	Sec. 52. 3 V.S.A. § 2479 is added to read:
16	§ 2479. RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRATION
17	(a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an owner of rental
18	housing that is subject to 9 V.S.A. chapter 137 shall:
19	(1) file with the Department of Taxes the landlord certificate required
20	for the renter's rebate or the renter credit program; and

1	(2) within 30 days after filing the certificate, register, provide the
2	information required by subsection 2478(b) of this title, and pay to the
3	Department of Housing and Community Development an annual registration
4	fee of \$35.00 per rental unit unless the owner has within the preceding
5	12 months:
6	(A) registered the unit pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; or
7	(B) registered the unit with a municipal, district, or other local
8	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program
9	with a rental registry that complies with subsection 2478(b) of this title.
10	(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an owner of a
11	short-term rental, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4301, shall, annually, within
12	30 days after renting a unit, register with and pay to the Department of
13	Housing and Community Development an annual registration fee of \$35.00 per
14	rental unit unless the owner has within the preceding 12 months:
15	(1) registered the unit pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; or
16	(2) registered the unit with a municipal, district, or other local
17	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program
18	with a rental registry that complies with subsection 2478(b) of this title.
19	(c)(1) An owner of a mobile home lot within a mobile home park who has
20	registered the lot with the Department of Housing and Community

1	Development and who does not own a mobile home on the lot is exempt from
2	registering the lot pursuant to this section.
3	(2) An owner of a mobile home lot within a mobile home park who has
4	registered the lot with the Department and who owns a mobile home on the lot
5	that is available for rent or rented shall register the property with the
6	Department and pay a fee equal to the fee required by subdivision (a)(2) of this
7	section less any fee paid within the previous 12 months pursuant to 10 V.S.A.
8	§ 6254(c).
9	(3) An owner of a mobile home who rents the mobile home, whether
10	located in a mobile home park, shall register pursuant to this section.
11	(d) An owner of rental housing who fails to register pursuant to this section
12	shall pay a late registration fee of \$150.00 and may be subject to administrative
13	penalties not to exceed \$5,000.00 for each violation.
14	(e) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall
15	maintain the registration fees collected pursuant to this section in a special
16	fund entitled the Rental Housing Safety Special Fund, the proceeds of which
17	the Department shall use:
18	(1) to hire authorized staff to administer the registry and registration
19	requirements imposed in this section and in section 2478 of this title; and

1	(2) to provide funding to the Department of Public Safety to staff
2	positions authorized to conduct rental housing health and safety inspections
3	and enforcement pursuant to 20 V.S.A. chapter 172.
4	Sec. 53. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
5	DEVELOPMENT; POSITIONS
6	(a) The Department of Housing and Community Development is
7	authorized to create one full-time classified position and one half-time
8	classified position to administer and enforce the registry requirements created
9	<u>in 3 V.S.A. § 2478.</u>
10	(b) In fiscal year 2025, the amount of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the
11	General Fund to the Department of Housing and Community Development as
12	one-time startup funding to hire one or more of the positions authorized
13	pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
14	(c) The Department may hire additional staff authorized by this section to
15	the extent funds become available from the Rental Housing Safety Special
16	Fund created and maintained pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2479.
17	* * * Short-Term Rental Safety Regulation * * *
18	Sec. 54. 18 V.S.A. § 4303 is amended to read:
19	§ 4303. RULEMAKING
20	(a) The Commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to
21	establish minimum standards for the safe and sanitary operation of food or

1	lodging establishments, or children's camps, short-term rentals, or any
2	combination thereof and for their administration and enforcement. The rules
3	shall require that an establishment or short-term rental be constructed,
4	maintained, and operated with strict regard for the health of the employees and
5	the public pursuant to the following general requirements:
6	* * *
7	(6) There shall be proper operation and maintenance of pools, recreation
8	water facilities, spas, and related facilities within lodging establishments and
9	short-term rentals.
10	(7) The Commissioner may adopt any other minimum conditions
11	deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of a food or lodging
12	establishment or short-term rental in a safe and sanitary manner.
13	* * *
14	* * * Flood Risk Disclosure * * *
15	Sec. 55. 27 V.S.A. § 380 is added to read:
16	§ 380. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION; CONVEYANCE OF REAL
17	<u>ESTATE</u>
18	(a) Prior to or as part of a contract for the conveyance of real property, the
19	seller shall provide the buyer with the following information:

1	(1) whether the real property is located in a Federal Emergency
2	Management Agency mapped flood hazard area or whether the property is
3	located in a fluvial erosion hazard area mapped by a municipality;
4	(2) whether the real property was ever subject to flooding; and
5	(3) the flood insurance rates for the real property, if applicable.
6	(b) The failure of the seller to provide the buyer with the information
7	required under subsection (a) of this section is grounds for the buyer to
8	terminate the contract prior to transfer of title or occupancy, whichever occurs
9	earlier.
10	(c) A buyer of real estate who fails to receive the information required to be
11	disclosed by a seller under subsection (a) of this section may bring an action to
12	recover from the seller the amount of the buyer's damages and reasonable
13	attorney's fees. The buyer may also seek punitive damages when the seller
14	knowingly failed to provide the required information.
15	(d) A seller shall not be liable for damages under this section for any error,
16	inaccuracy, or omission of any information required to be disclosed to the
17	buyer under subsection (a) of this section when the error, inaccuracy, or
18	omission was based on information provided by a public body or a by another
19	person with a professional license or special knowledge who provided a
20	written report that the seller reasonably believed to be correct and that was
21	provided by the seller to the buyer.

1	(e) Noncompliance with the requirements of this section shall not affect the
2	marketability of title of a real property.
3	Sec. 56. 9 V.S.A. § 4466 is added to read:
4	§ 4466. REQUIRED DISCLOSURE
5	A landlord shall disclose in advance of entering a rental agreement with a
6	tenant whether any portion of the premises offered for rent is located in a
7	Federal Emergency Management Agency mapped flood hazard area. This
8	notice shall be provided in a separate written document given to the tenant at
9	or before execution of the lease.
10	Sec. 57. 10 V.S.A. § 6236(e) is amended to read:
11	(e) All mobile home lot leases shall contain the following:
12	* * *
13	(8) Notice that the mobile home park is in a flood hazard area if any lot
14	within the mobile home park is wholly or partially located in a flood hazard
15	area according to the flood insurance rate map effective for the mobile home
16	park at the time the proposed lease is furnished to a prospective leaseholder.
17	This notice shall be provided in a clear and conspicuous manner in a separate
18	written document attached as an addendum to the proposed lease.
19	Sec. 58. 10 V.S.A. § 6201 is amended to read:
20	§ 6201. DEFINITIONS
21	As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

1	(1) "Mobile home" means:
2	(A) a structure or type of manufactured home, including the
3	plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained in the
4	structure, that is:
5	(i) built on a permanent chassis;
6	(ii) designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent
7	foundation when connected to the required utilities;
8	(iii) transportable in one or more sections; and
9	(iv)(I) at least eight feet wide, 40 feet long, or when erected has at
10	least 320 square feet; or
11	(II) if the structure was constructed prior to June 15, 1976, at
12	least eight feet wide or 32 feet long; or
13	(B) any structure that meets all the requirements of this
14	subdivision (1) except the size requirements, and for which the manufacturer
15	voluntarily files a certification required by the U.S. Department of Housing
16	and Urban Development and complies with the construction and safety
17	standards established under Title 42 of the U.S. Code.
18	(C) [Repealed.]
19	(2) "Mobile home park" means any parcel of land under single or
20	common ownership or control that contains, or is designed, laid out, or adapted
21	to accommodate, more than two mobile homes. "Mobile home park" does not

1	mean premises used solely for storage or display of mobile homes. Mobile
2	home park does not mean any parcel of land under the ownership of an
3	agricultural employer who may provide up to four mobile homes used by full-
4	time workers or employees of the agricultural employer as a benefit or
5	condition of employment or any parcel of land used solely on a seasonal basis
6	for vacation or recreational mobile homes.
7	* * *
8	(13) "Flood hazard area" has the same meaning as in section 752 of this
9	<u>title.</u>
10	(14) "Flood insurance rate map" means, for any mobile home park, the
11	official flood insurance rate map describing that park published by the Federal
12	Emergency Management Agency on its website.
13	* * * Disaster Resiliency Investment Areas * * *
14	Sec. 59. DISASTER RESILIENCY INVESTMENT AREAS; TAX
15	INCREMENT FINANCING
16	(a) Definitions. As used in this section:
17	(1) "Committed" means pledged and appropriated for the purpose of the
18	current and future payment of tax increment financing and related costs as
19	defined in this section.
20	(2) "Coordinating agency" means any public or private entity from
21	outside the municipality's departments or offices and not employing the

1	municipality's staff, which has been designated by a municipality to administer
2	and coordinate a DRIA during creation, public hearing process, approval
3	process, or administration and operation during the life of the project,
4	including overseeing infrastructure development, real property development
5	and redevelopment, assisting with reporting, and ensuring compliance with
6	statute.
7	(3) "Disaster Resiliency Investment Area" or "DRIA" means the
8	developed parcel or combined parcels which are impacted by disasters or other
9	disaster events, as well as the parcel or combined parcels needed to allow for
10	replacement development.
11	(4) "Financing" means debt incurred, including principal, interest, and
12	any fees or charges directly related to that debt, or other instruments or
13	borrowing used by a municipality to pay for improvements and related costs
14	for the approved DRIA, only if authorized by the legal voters of the
15	municipality [in accordance with subsection (f)]. Payment for eligible related
16	costs may also include direct payment by the municipality using the tax
17	increment. If interfund loans within the municipality are used as the method of
18	financing, no interest shall be charged.
19	(5) "Improvements" means the installation, new construction, or
20	reconstruction of infrastructure that will serve a public purpose and support
21	disaster resiliency, including utilities, transportation, public facilities and

1	amenities, land and property acquisition and demolition, brownfield
2	remediation, site preparation, and any disaster resiliency improvements
3	whether on public or private property. "Improvements" also means the
4	funding of debt service interest payments.
5	(6) "Legislative body" means the mayor and alderboard, the city
6	council, the selectboard, and the president and trustees of an incorporated
7	village, as appropriate.
8	(7) "Municipality" means a city, town, or incorporated village.
9	(8) "Original taxable value" means the total valuation as determined in
10	accordance with 32 V.S.A chapter 129 of all taxable real property located
11	within the DRIA as of the creation date, provided that:
12	(A) no parcel within the project shall be divided or bisected; and
13	(B) the value of any parcel that transitions to municipal ownership
14	after the creation of a DRIA to provide disaster resiliency meeting or
15	exceeding current State laws and rules and is sold to private owners for
16	commercial or residential use shall be deemed to be \$0.00 in the property tax
17	year of municipal purchase.
18	(9) "Related costs" means expenses incurred and paid by the
19	municipality, exclusive of the actual cost of constructing and financing
20	improvements, that are directly related to the creation and implementation of
21	the project, including reimbursement of sums previously advanced by the

1	municipality for those purposes and use of a coordinating agency. Related
2	costs may not include direct municipal expenses such as departmental or
3	personnel costs.
4	(10) "Conserved parcel increment credit" means credit for last collection
5	of municipal and education taxes projected over the life of the project using the
6	listed value prior to the disaster that resulted in participation in this program.
7	This is a tax calculation on the listed value of the parcel or parcels prior to the
8	disaster to continue to provide that amount in municipal and education
9	property tax to the DRIA. The municipal taxes associated with a conserved
10	parcel increment credit will be taken from the aggregate municipal property
11	taxes collected and deposited in the special DRIA account each fiscal year.
12	This credit will be applied after the parcel in question has been purchased by
13	the municipality and permanently conserved for disaster resiliency purposes.
14	(b) [Pilot program.]
15	(c) General authority. Under the program established in subsection (b) of
16	this section, a municipality, upon approval of its legislative body, may apply to
17	the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to the process set forth in
18	subsection (e) of this section [to use tax increment financing] to encourage
19	disaster resiliency that will allow for redevelopment of damaged property and
20	relocation or development of privately-owned structures.
21	(d) Eligibility.

1	(1) A municipality is only authorized to apply for a project under this
2	section if:
3	(A) the Governor has declared a disaster [covering the municipality];
4	<u>or</u>
5	(B) Vermont Emergency Management, in consultation with the
6	Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Transportation, determines
7	the municipality is vulnerable to elevated disaster risks as reported in the State
8	Hazard Mitigation Plan.
9	(2) The municipality must demonstrate that:
10	(A) infrastructure improvements are needed to allow for community
11	development in an area that is disaster resilient;
12	(B) the proposed infrastructure improvements and the projected
13	development or redevelopment are compatible with confirmed municipal and
14	regional development plans;
15	(C) the proposed improvements will reduce or eliminate long-term
16	risk to people and property from future hazards, as approved by Vermont
17	Emergency Management; and
18	(D) it has the ability to manage the project with requisite experience
19	and a plan for fiscal viability.

1	(3) A municipality with an approved tax increment financing district is
2	authorized to apply for a DRIA under this section. Any parcel approved under
3	this section will be removed from its existing tax increment financing district.
4	(e) Approval process. The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall do
5	all of the following to approve an application submitted pursuant to subsection
6	(c) of this section:
7	(1) Review each application in coordination with the Agency of Natural
8	Resources, Vermont Emergency Management, and the Agency of
9	<u>Transportation to determine that:</u>
10	(A) the project will provide for disaster resiliency and the
11	infrastructure improvements proposed will serve the proposed development;
12	(B) there will be community development which replaces the
13	property lost as a result of the disaster that will increase grand list values; and
14	(C) [the amount of tax revenue expected to be generated as a result of
15	the proposed project]
16	(2) Determine that each application meets all of the following
17	requirements:
18	(A) the municipality held public hearings and established a project;
19	(B) the municipality has developed a Disaster Resiliency Investment
20	Area plan, including a project description; a development financing plan; a pro
21	forma projection of expected costs; a projection of revenues; and a

1	development schedule that includes a list, a cost estimate, and a schedule for
2	public improvements and projected private development to occur as a result of
3	the improvements; and
4	(C) the municipality has approved or pledged the utilization of
5	incremental municipal tax revenues for the purposes of the DRIA; and
6	(3) Determine there is a relationship between the improvements and the
7	expected development and redevelopment for the project and expected
8	outcomes in the DRIA.
9	(f) Incurring indebtedness.
10	(1) A municipality approved under the process set forth in subsection (e)
11	of this section may incur indebtedness against revenues to provide funding to
12	pay for improvements and related costs for the DRIA.
13	(2) The municipality shall be authorized to incur indebtedness only after
14	the legal voters of the municipality, by a majority vote of all voters present and
15	voting on the question at a special or annual municipal meeting duly warned
16	for the purpose, authorize the legislative body to pledge the credit of the
17	municipality, borrow, or otherwise secure the debt for the specific purposes so
18	warned. The creation of the project shall occur at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 of the
19	calendar year the Vermont Economic Progress Council approves the DRIA].
20	(3) A municipality approved under the process set forth in subsection (e)
21	of this section may incur indebtedness against revenues of the DRIA at any

1	time during a period of up to five years following Vermont Economic Progress
2	Council approval of the DRIA. Any indebtedness incurred under this
3	subsection may be retired over any period authorized by the legislative body of
4	the municipality. The DRIA shall continue until the date and hour the
5	indebtedness is retired or, if no debt is incurred, five years following Vermont
6	Economic Progress Council approval of the DRIA.
7	(g) Original taxable value. As of the date the project is approved by the
8	legislative body of the municipality, the lister or assessor for the municipality
9	shall work with the Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Vermont
10	Department of Taxes to certify the original taxable value and shall report to
11	Vermont Economic Progress Council in each year thereafter during the life of
12	the DRIA the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance
13	with 32 V.S.A. chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within the
14	DRIA has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value.
15	(h) Tax increments and credits.
16	(1) In each year following the approval of the DRIA, the lister or
17	assessor shall include not more than the original taxable value of the real
18	property in the assessed valuation upon which the treasurer computes the rates
19	of all taxes levied by the municipality and every other taxing district in which
20	the DRIA is situated, but the treasurer shall extend all rates so determined
21	against the entire assessed valuation of real property for that year. In each

1	year, the municipality shall hold apart, rather than remit to the taxing districts,
2	that proportion of all taxes paid that year on the real property within the project
3	that the excess valuation bears to the total assessed valuation. The amount
4	held apart each year is the "tax increment" for that year. Revenues shall be
5	segregated by the municipality in a special DRIA account and in its official
6	books and records until all capital indebtedness of the project has been fully
7	paid. The final payment shall be reported to the treasurer, who shall thereafter
8	include the entire assessed valuation of the project in the assessed valuations
9	upon which municipal and other tax rates are computed and extended and
10	thereafter no taxes from the project shall be deposited in the project's DRIA
11	account.
12	(2) In each year, a municipality shall remit not less than the education
13	taxes collected on the aggregate original taxable value to the Education Fund
14	for those parcels which remain in private ownership after the formation of the
15	DRIA less any conserved parcel increment credit.
16	(3) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all
17	property taxes assessed within a DRIA shall be subject to the provisions of
18	subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. Special assessments levied under
19	24 V.S.A. chapters 76A or 87 or under a municipal charter shall not be
20	considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are
21	used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the project

1	and not for improvements within the district, as defined in subdivision (a)(5) of
2	this section.
3	(4) Amounts held apart under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall
4	only be used for financing and related costs as defined in subsection (a) of this
5	section.
6	(i) Use of tax increment.
7	(1) Education property tax increment. For only debt incurred within the
8	period permitted under subdivision (f)(3) of this section after approval of the
9	DRIA, all education tax increment may be retained to service the debt and
10	related costs, beginning the first year in which the DRIA is approved by the
11	Vermont Economic Progress Council. Upon approval of the DRIA, the
12	Vermont Economic Progress Council shall notify the Department of Taxes and
13	establish the beginning of the retention period of the education tax increment.
14	(2) Use of the municipal property tax increment. For only debt incurred
15	within the period permitted under subdivision $(f)(3)$ of this section after
16	approval of the project, all municipal tax increment shall be retained to service
17	the debt and related costs, beginning the first year in which the DRIA is
18	approved by Vermont Economic Progress Council.
19	(3) Retention of tax increment shall continue until all debt is retired.
20	(j) Distribution. Of the municipal and education tax increments received in
21	any tax year that exceed the amounts committed for the payment of the

<u>tına</u>	ancing for improvements and related costs for the DRIA, equal portions of
eac	h increment may be retained for the following purposes: prepayment of
<u>prii</u>	ncipal and interest on the financing, placed in a special account required by
sub	division (h)(1) of this section and used for future financing payments, or
use	d for defeasance of the financing. Any remaining portion of the excess
<u>mu</u>	nicipal tax increment shall be distributed to the city, town, or village
buc	lget, in the proportion that each budget bears to the combined total of the
buc	lgets, unless otherwise negotiated by the city, town, or village, and any
<u>ren</u>	naining portion of the excess education tax increment shall be distributed to
the	Education Fund.
<u>.</u>	(k) Information reporting. Every municipality with an approved project
pur	suant to this section shall:
	(1) Develop a system, segregated for the project, to identify, collect, and
ma	intain all data and information necessary to fulfill the reporting
<u>req</u>	uirements of this section, including performance measures.
	(2) Provide, as required by events, notification to the Vermont
Eco	onomic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes regarding any DRIA
deb	ot obligations, public votes, or votes by the municipal legislative body
<u>imr</u>	mediately following such obligation or vote on a form prescribed by the
Coi	uncil, including copies of public notices, agendas, minutes, vote tally, and a

1	copy of the information provided to the public in accordance with 24 V.S.A.
2	<u>§ 1894(i).</u>
3	(3) Annually:
4	(A) Ensure that the DRIA account required by subdivision (h)(1) of
5	this section is subject to an annual independent audit. Procedures for the audit
6	must include verification of the original taxable value and annual and total
7	municipal and education tax increments generated, expenditures for debt and
8	related costs, and current balance.
9	(B) On or before October 15 of each year, on a form prescribed by
10	the Vermont Economic Progress Council, submit an annual report to the
11	Vermont Economic Progress Council and the Department of Taxes, including
12	the information required by subdivision (k)(2) of this section if not already
13	submitted during the year, all information required by subdivision (A) of this
14	subdivision (3), and any other information required by the Vermont Economic
15	Progress Council or the Department of Taxes.
16	(l) The Vermont Economic Progress Council may adopt rules pursuant to
17	3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to carry out the purposes of this section.
18	Sec. 60. 24 V.S.A. § 1895(b) is amended to read:
19	(b)(1) Boundary of the district. Except as provided in subdivision (2) of
20	this subsection (b), No no adjustments to the physical boundary lines of a

1	district shall be made after the approval of a tax increment financing district
2	plan.
3	(2) For any parcel located within both a disaster resiliency investment
4	area and a distinct district, the portion of the district's original taxable value
5	attributable to the parcel shall be subtracted from the district's original taxable
6	value upon approval of the disaster resiliency investment area.
7	* * * Floodplains Management * * *
8	Sec. 61. [In order to protect Vermonters from the impacts of climate change
9	and increase statewide flood resiliency, it is the intent of the General
10	Assembly to establish a process for purchasing residential real estate located in
11	floodplains by life estate deed.]
12	* * * Housing Retention Funding * * *
13	Sec. 62. APPROPRIATION; RENT ARREARS ASSISTANCE FUND
14	The sum of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
15	Vermont State Housing Authority in fiscal year 2025 for the Rent Arrears
16	Assistance Fund.
17	Sec. 63. APPROPRIATION; LANDLORD RELIEF PROGRAM
18	The sum of \$5,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19	Vermont State Housing Authority in fiscal year 2025 for the Landlord Relief
20	Program.
21	* * * Mobile Homes * * *

1	Sec. 64. 10 V.S.A. § 6201 is amended to read:
2	§ 6201. DEFINITIONS
3	As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:
4	* * *
5	(2)(A) "Mobile home park" means any parcel of land under single or
6	common ownership or control that contains, or is designed, laid out, or adapted
7	to accommodate, more than two mobile homes, together with all improvements
8	on the land, if held as:
9	(i) a parcel under single or common ownership or control; or
10	(ii) parcels managed together by a common interest community.
11	(B) "Mobile home park" does not mean premises used solely for
12	storage or display of mobile homes. Mobile home park does not mean any
13	parcel of land under the ownership of an agricultural employer who may
14	provide up to four mobile homes used by full-time workers or employees of
15	the agricultural employer as a benefit or condition of employment or any
16	parcel of land used solely on a seasonal basis for vacation or recreational
17	mobile homes.
18	Sec. 65. MOBILE HOME PARK INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS
19	ASSESSMENT
20	(a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Department of Housing and
21	Community Development shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on

1	Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs on the near- and long-
2	term infrastructure needs of each mobile home park in the State. The report
3	shall recommend plans to address those needs.
4	(b) The sum of \$50,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
5	Department of Housing and Community Development for the purpose of
6	subsection (a) of this section.
7	Sec. 66. MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR
8	PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS; INFRASTRUCTURE; MOBILE
9	HOME REPAIR
10	(a) The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
11	Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for
12	improvements to mobile home park infrastructure under the Manufactured
13	Home Improvement and Repair Program established by 2022 Acts and
14	Resolves No. 182, Sec. 3, and amended from time to time.
15	(b) The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
16	Department of Housing and Community Development in fiscal year 2025 for
17	expanding the Home Repair Awards program under the Manufactured Home
18	Improvement and Repair Program established by 2022 Acts and Resolves No.
19	182, Sec. 3, and amended from time to time.
20	Sec. 67. MOBILE HOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION

1	The sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2	Office of Economic Opportunity within the Department for Children and
3	Families for a subgrant to the Champlain Valley Office of Economic
4	Opportunity in fiscal year 2025 to fund technical assistance programs under the
5	Mobile Home Program.
6	* * * Rent Reporting for Credit * * *
7	Sec. 68. RENT PAYMENT REPORTING TASK FORCE; REPORT
8	(a) Creation. There is created the Rent Payment Reporting Task Force to
9	develop a pilot program for housing providers to report tenant rent payments
10	for inclusion in consumer credit reports.
11	(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
12	members:
13	(1) 1 current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the
14	Speaker of the House;
15	(2) 1 current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on
16	Committees;
17	(3) the State Treasurer or designee;
18	(4) one representative of the Champlain Housing Trust, appointed by
19	[whomever]; and
20	(5) one representative of the Vermont Landlord Association, appointed
21	by [whomever].

1	(c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study rent payment reporting
2	programs and shall consider the following:
3	(1) existing programs, including those provided by the Champlain
4	Housing Trust, Fannie Mae, and other states;
5	(2) positive-only and full-file reporting;
6	(3) opt-in, opt-out, and mandatory reporting;
7	(4) methods for developing resident trust in rent payment reporting; and
8	(5) best practices for raising awareness of a State pilot program among
9	housing providers and renters.
10	(d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
11	and legal assistance of the Office of the State Treasurer.
12	(e) Report. On or before December 15, 2024, the Task Force shall report to
13	the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General
14	Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action, which
15	may be in the form of proposed legislation.
16	(f) Meetings.
17	(1) The chair shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or
18	<u>before</u> July 31, 2024.
19	(2) The State Treasurer or designee shall be the chair.
20	(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

1	(4) The Task Force shall cease to exist upon submission of its findings
2	and any recommendations for legislative action.
3	(g) Compensation and reimbursement.
4	(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
5	Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
6	compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for
7	not more than 6 meetings.
8	(2) Other members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
9	compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
10	§ 1010 for not more than 6 meetings.
11	(3) Payments to members of the Task Force authorized under this
12	subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.
13	* * * Eviction Study * * *
14	Sec. 69. [PLACEHOLDER FOR EVICTION STUDY]
15	* * * Effective Dates * * *
16	Sec. 70. EFFECTIVE DATES
17	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except Sec. 22 (grand list
18	contents, 32 V.S.A. § 4152(a)) shall take effect on July 1, 2037.
19	Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. Z (medical expenses deduction) shall
20	take effect retroactively on January 1, 2023 and shall apply to taxable years
21	beginning on and after January 1, 2023.