

1 H.280

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Higley of Lowell,

3 Mrowicki of Putney, and Olson of Starksboro

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Conservation and development; solid waste; expanded polystyrene

7 foam; densifier; siting assessment

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

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

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

15 Sec. 1. ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF SITING AN

16 EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM DENSIFIER IN THE STATE

17 (a) As used in this section:

18 (1) "EPS foam densifier" means a machine that shears, compresses, and
19 heats waste EPS foam into a uniform melt that can be formed into blocks or
20 other shapes for transport and ultimate reuse.

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

5 (b) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall assess the feasibility of siting
6 an EPS foam densifier in the State to serve as a site to transport waste EPS
7 foam for recycling or reuse. The Secretary shall coordinate with interested
8 parties in conducting the assessment, including solid waste management
9 entities, solid waste haulers, and representative of businesses that generate
10 waste EPS foam through manufacturing or shipping. On or before January 15,
11 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall submit to the House Committee
12 on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources
13 and Energy a report with the results of the site assessment. The report shall
14 include:

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

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

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

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

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.