

1 H.400

2 Introduced by Representatives Galfetti of Barre Town and Waszazak of Barre

3 City

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Conservation and development; judiciary; Environmental Division of

7 the Superior Court; Act 250; housing

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the

9 Environmental Division of the Superior Court to hear an appeal related to

10 housing within 30 days following the appeal being filed and issue a decision on

11 the case within 120 days after hearing the case. The bill would also add one

12 new Judge and one new law clerk to the Environmental Division of the

13 Superior Court.

14 An act relating to housing appeals

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

16 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:

17 § 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

18 * * *

19 (k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this

20 section:

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(4) ~~it shall be the goal of the Environmental Division to~~ shall hear a case regarding an appeal of a permit for housing within 30 days following the appeal being filed and issue a decision on a the case regarding an appeal of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 within 90 120 days following the close of the hearing.

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Sec. 2. COURT POSITIONS; APPROPRIATIONS

(a) In fiscal year 2026, in the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, the following full-time permanent positions are created:

(1) one Superior Court Judge; and

(2) one law clerk.

(b) In fiscal year 2026, \$300,000.00 is appropriated to the Judiciary for the purpose of hiring the positions created in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.