

1 H.434

2 Introduced by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Coffin of Cavendish,  
3 Galfetti of Barre Town, Higley of Lowell, Keyser of Rutland  
4 City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Morgan, L. of Milton,  
5 Pritchard of Pawlet, and Tagliavia of Corinth

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Conservation and development; land; Vermont Housing and  
9 Conservation Board; conserved land; covenants

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require  
11 conservation lands funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to  
12 have covenants that would allow hunting, trapping, and fishing and  
13 recreational trails.

14 An act relating to requiring covenants on conservation lands funded by the  
15 Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

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

17 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 321 is amended to read:

18 § 321. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

19 \* \* \*

1           (e) The Board shall inform all grant applicants and recipients of funds  
2 derived from the annual capital appropriations and State bonding act of the  
3 following: “The Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund is funded by  
4 the taxpayers of the State of Vermont, at the direction of the General  
5 Assembly, through the annual Capital Appropriation and State Bonding Act.”  
6 An appropriate placard shall, if feasible, be displayed at the location of the  
7 proposed grant activity.

8           (f) All recipients of grant funds and funds derived from the annual capital  
9 appropriations and State bonding act acknowledge that all conservation lands  
10 purchased with any grant funds from this program shall be encumbered with  
11 the following covenants:

12                 (1) that in furtherance of science-based management of the wildlife of  
13 the State of Vermont, hunting, including trapping and fishing, shall be allowed  
14 in accordance with State law and without additional restriction;

15                 (2) that recreational trail systems shall be maintained at or above the  
16 levels of connectivity and trail length existing at the time these funds are used  
17 to purchase parcels;

18                 (3) that should there be an ecological need to remove a trail section, it  
19 shall be replaced with at least an equivalent length of trail and any lost  
20 connectivity shall be reestablished;

1           (4) that in the absence of an ecological imperative to the contrary, other  
2           existing recreational infrastructure shall be maintained to, at a minimum, the  
3           levels existing at the time these funds are used to purchase parcels; and

4           (5) that in the absence of an ecological imperative to the contrary, the  
5           lands shall be managed with timber harvest as an acceptable practice upon  
6           them.

7           Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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