

H.507

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative Boutin of Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Conservation and development; wetlands; development; buffer zones

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend multiple provisions regarding the permitting of development in wetlands. The bill would amend the definition of a Class II wetland to provide that a Class II wetland is one that is not a Class I or Class III wetland and is mapped on the Vermont significant wetlands inventory maps or is an unmapped wetland that the Secretary of Natural Resources determines merits protection based on an evaluation of the functions and values. The bill would also amend the buffer zone requirements for a Class II wetland by providing that the buffer zone shall be 25 feet for a Class II wetland when the wetland is located in an industrial park, designated center, Tier 1A or Tier 1B area approved by the Land Use Review Board, or in locations meeting the requirements for an interim Act 250 permit exemption. The bill would also exempt from permitting any construction activity location in an unmapped Class II wetland when the wetland is located in an industrial park, designated center, Tier 1A or Tier 1B area approved by the Land Use Review Board, or in locations meeting the

1 requirements for an interim Act 250 permit exemption. In addition, the bill
2 would extend from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026 the deadline for the Secretary
3 of Natural Resources to amend the Vermont Wetlands Rules to clarify that the
4 goal of wetlands regulation and management in the State is a net gain of
5 wetlands. The bill also would amend the ratio for restoration of adverse effects
6 in a wetland from a ratio of 2:1 restoration to loss to a ratio of 1:1 restoration to
7 loss when the adverse effect occurs in an industrial park, designated center,
8 Tier 1A or Tier 1B area approved by the Land Use Review Board, or in
9 locations meeting the requirements for an interim Act 250 permit exemption.
10 The bill would require the Agency of Natural Resources to publish wetland
11 guidance on the mitigation and compensation sequence contemplated in the
12 Vermont Wetland Rules.

13 An act relating to the regulation of development in wetlands

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

15 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)