

## House Proposal of Amendment

### S. 328

An act relating to housing and common interest communities

The House proposes to the Senate to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Common Interest Community Resources \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 119 is added to read:

#### § 119. COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Secretary of State shall provide on its website or otherwise distribute to the public information about Vermont's common interest communities. This information shall include the governing statutes.

\* \* \* Service-Supported Housing \* \* \*

Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 3098 is added to read:

#### § 3098. SERVICE-SUPPORTED HOUSING ADVISORY COUNCIL

(a) The Service-Supported Housing Advisory Council is created for the purpose of identifying opportunities for increased alignment between human services programs and policies serving individuals who receive Medicaid-funded Developmental Disability Services and housing capital and support services programs.

(b) The Advisory Council shall be overseen by the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and shall be composed of the following individuals:

(1) one member, appointed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board;

(2) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

(3) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or designee;

(4) the State Treasurer or designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development or designee;

(6) two members, appointed by the Developmental Disabilities Housing Initiative;

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council or designee;

(8) two members, appointed by Green Mountain Self-Advocates; and

(9) one member, appointed by Vermont Care Partners.

(c)(1) The Advisory Council shall meet at least monthly.

(2) The Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living shall convene the first meeting of the Advisory Council, during which the Advisory Council shall elect a chair from among its members.

(d) The Advisory Council shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

(e) When requested by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Advisory Council shall provide advice to the Board regarding the expenditure of funds for the production of permanently affordable housing for individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded Developmental Disability Services.

(f)(1) The Advisory Council shall report annually on or before November 15 to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Human Services and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Health and Welfare regarding:

(A) administrative and programmatic reforms carried out to better align support-services and housing development programs and policies, including examples of projects or progress enabled by those changes;

(B) a housing needs assessment for individuals served by the Developmental Disabilities Services System of Care, including a summary of the number of units and an overview of the types of housing needed to support this population;

(C) activities undertaken pursuant to this section; and

(D) recommendations for future legislative action and funding sources, including actionable recommendations for changes in State laws or policies that are obstacles to the creation of housing needed by individuals who are eligible to receive Medicaid-funded Developmental Disability Services.

(2) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the annual report to be made under this subsection.

(g) Members of the Advisory Council who are not otherwise compensated for their time shall be entitled to per diem compensation as permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings of the Advisory Council. Payments to members of the Advisory Council authorized under this subsection shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living's base budget.

\* \* \* Vermont State Treasurer Credit Facility \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 10 is amended to read:

§ 10. VERMONT STATE TREASURER; CREDIT FACILITY FOR LOCAL INVESTMENTS

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 433(a) to the contrary and consistent with prudent investment principles and guidelines pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433(b) and (c) and the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, 14A V.S.A. chapter 9, the Vermont State Treasurer shall have the authority to establish on terms acceptable to the Treasurer:

(A) a credit facility of up to ~~10~~ 12.5 percent of the State's average cash balance on terms acceptable to the Treasurer and consistent with prudent investment principles and guidelines pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433(b) (c) and the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, 14A V.S.A. chapter 9; and

(B) a credit facility of up to one percent of the State's average cash balance, provided that the credit facility established under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (1) shall be reduced by an equal amount to any credit facility amount established under this subdivision (B).

(2) The credit facility established in subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection may be used only to facilitate housing development through the bulk purchasing of off-site constructed housing and to aid in the purchase of off-site constructed housing units.

\* \* \*

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of 32 V.S.A. § 433(a) to the contrary, and in addition to the provisions of subsection (a) ~~on~~ of this section, the Vermont State Treasurer shall have the authority to establish a credit facility of up to two and one-half percent of the State's average cash balance on terms acceptable to the Treasurer and consistent with prudent investment principles and guidelines pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 433(b) ~~(c)~~ 433(b) and (c) and the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, 14A V.S.A. chapter 9. The Treasurer may use amounts available under this subsection only to provide financing for climate infrastructure and resilience projects and may modify the terms of such financing in the Treasurer's discretion as is necessary to protect the ~~interest~~ interests of the State.

(d)(1) Annually, on or before November 15, the Treasurer shall submit a report detailing the activities, financing, and accounting of any credit facilities created pursuant to ~~subsection (c)~~ subsection (e) of this section during the preceding calendar year to the Governor; the House Committees on Appropriations, on Commerce and Economic Development, and on Ways and Means; and the Senate

Committees on Appropriations, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Finance.

(2) The provisions of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) (expiration of required reports) shall not apply to the annual report to be made under this subsection.

\* \* \* Off-Site Construction Accelerator Pilot \* \* \*

#### Sec. 4. OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION ACCELERATOR PILOT

(a)(1) The Office of the State Treasurer may develop and administer a pilot demonstration project that explores the possibility of reducing housing development costs through modular construction.

(2) The Treasurer may utilize requests for information or requests for proposal to identify participating modular construction manufacturers and developers and to determine manufacturer and developer needs and priorities.

(3) In contracting with a manufacturer or developer under this pilot program, the State Treasurer shall be exempt from the requirements of 3 V.S.A. chapter 14.

(4) In order to fund off-site constructed housing under the pilot program authorized by this section, the Treasurer may utilize funds authorized under 10 V.S.A. § 10 subject to the requirements of that section.

(b) The pilot may consider the following elements:

(1) bulk purchasing for a single development or aggregation of multiple developments;

(2) creating a loan loss reserve for construction loans;

(3) utilization of off-site construction, including panelized or volumetric modular construction; and

(4) establishing a statewide procurement consortium for bulk orders of modular units and materials.

(c)(1) As part of the pilot, the Office of the State Treasurer may identify the feasibility of the State providing a guarantee or other device to facilitate bulk purchasing of the off-site construction of homes.

(2) Prior to distributing any funds under this section, the Treasurer shall consult with the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont State Housing Authority, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

(d) On or before January 15, 2027, the Treasurer shall submit a written report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

\* \* \* Vermont Economic Development Authority \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 212 is amended to read:

§ 212. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(6) “Eligible facility” or “eligible project” means any industrial, commercial, or agricultural enterprise or endeavor approved by the Authority used in a trade or business whether or not such business is operated for profit, including land and rights in land, air, or water; buildings; structures; machinery; and equipment of such eligible facilities or eligible projects, except that an eligible facility or project shall not include the portion of an enterprise or endeavor relating to the sale of goods at retail where such goods are manufactured primarily out of State, and except further that an eligible facility or project shall not include the portion of an enterprise or endeavor relating to housing unless otherwise authorized in this chapter. Such enterprises or endeavors may include:

\* \* \*

(U) After consultation with, and with deference to, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency on applications that are eligible for financing from both the Authority and the Agency, multiunit housing developments of five or more units when requested by, and jointly financed with, a financing lender, except that the Authority shall not finance portions or phases of a multiunit housing development that:

(i) the Agency determines is being primarily developed for occupancy by persons and families of low and moderate income as defined in subdivision 601(11) of this title; or

(ii) utilizes funding issued by the Agency, whether in the form of debt or tax credits.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Vermont Housing Finance Agency \* \* \*

Sec. 5a. INTENT TO CODIFY RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

The intent and purpose of Sec. 5b of this act is to codify in statute the Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program originally enacted in 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 47, as amended by 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 69. The Program designed and implemented by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall remain in effect under 10 V.S.A. § 629. Loans issued through the

Program prior to July 1, 2026, shall remain in effect in accordance with the executed terms and conditions.

Sec. 5b. 10 V.S.A. chapter 25 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 25. VERMONT HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

\* \* \*

Subchapter 3. Powers and Duties

\* \* \*

§ 629. RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM

(a) Creation; administration. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency shall design and implement a Rental Housing Revolving Loan Program and shall create and administer a revolving loan fund to provide subsidized loans for rental housing developments that serve middle-income households.

(b) Loans; eligibility; criteria.

(1) The Agency shall adopt processes, procedures, and guidelines to implement the Program consistent with this section, including a simple application process that is accessible to small developers, builders, and contractors.

(2)(A) To be eligible for a subsidized loan through the Program, a project shall create two or more new rental housing units, which may include market rate and affordable units, provided that at least 25 percent of the units in the project are affordable to a household earning up to 150 percent of the applicable area median income.

(B) Projects may include new construction, acquisition with substantial rehabilitation, and preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing.

(3) A loan is available only for the costs of the project allocable to the affordable units.

(4)(A) The Agency shall calculate the maximum amount of a loan, which shall not exceed the lesser of:

(i) 35 percent of the costs of the project allocable to the affordable units; or

(ii) the following amounts based on area median income bands:

(I) \$150,000.00 per unit for each unit that is affordable to a household earning up to 80 percent of area median income; and

(II) \$100,000.00 per unit for each unit that is affordable to a household earning from 81 to 150 percent of area median income.

(B) The Agency shall adopt and implement a method to adjust the values specified in subdivision (A)(ii) of this subdivision (4) at least annually for inflation and may adopt a smoothing mechanism to adjust the maximum loan values within each band based on levels of affordability.

(5) The Agency shall determine the term and interest rate of a loan. The Agency may adopt one or more mechanisms to provide an enhanced subsidy to incentivize projects, including:

(A) a lower interest rate;

(B) an interest-only option with deferred principal repayment; and

(C) partial loan forgiveness.

(6) The Agency shall adopt a Program plan that allows for an enhanced subsidy for a project that meets one or more of the following criteria:

(A) The project receives five percent or more of the total funding from an employer or employer-capitalized loan or grant.

(B) The project receives five percent or more of the total funding from a municipal or regional housing fund, local fiscal recovery fund, or other form of community investment.

(C) The project utilizes tax-exempt bond funding or federal low-income housing tax credits for at least 20 percent of the project's total units.

(D) The project is small in scale and provides infill development within a historic settlement pattern.

(7) The Agency shall use one or more legal mechanisms to ensure that:

(A) a subsidized unit remains affordable to a household earning the applicable percent of area median income for the longer of:

(i) seven years; or

(ii) full repayment of the loan plus three years; and

(B) during the affordability period determined pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (7), the annual increase in rent for a subsidized unit does not exceed three percent or an amount otherwise authorized by the Agency.

(c) Program design.

(1) When designing and implementing the Program, the Agency shall consult stakeholders and experts in the field.

(2) The Program shall include:

(A) a streamlined and appropriately scaled application process;

(B) an outreach and education plan, including specific tactics to reach and support eligible applicants, especially those from underserved regions or sectors; and

(C) an equitable system for distributing investment statewide on the basis of need according to a system of priorities that includes consideration of:

(i) geographic distribution;

(ii) community size;

(iii) community economic need; and

(iv) whether an application has already received an investment or is from an applicant in a community that has already received Program funding.

(3) The Agency shall use its best efforts to ensure that:

(A) investments are targeted to the geographic communities or regions with the most pressing economic and employment needs; and

(B) the allocation of investments provides equitable access to the benefits to all eligible geographical areas.

(d) Revolving funds. The Agency shall retain payments of principal, interest, and any fees in a revolving loan fund, the amounts of which it shall use to issue future loans through the Program.

(e) Annual report. The Agency shall include information on the status of the Program as part of the annual report required by section 639 of this title.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* VHIP \* \* \*

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:

§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

(a) Creation of Program.

(1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall design and implement the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program, through which the Department shall award funding to statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide competitive grants and forgivable loans to private landlords for the rehabilitation, including weatherization and accessibility improvements, of eligible rental housing units.

(2) The Department shall develop statewide standards for the Program, including factors that partner organizations shall use to evaluate applications and award grants and forgivable loans. The Department may authorize

partnership organizations to advance funding at the beginning of a project as part of an award.

\* \* \*

(j) Annual report. Annually, on or before November 15, the Department shall submit a report to the House Committees on Human Services and on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs regarding the following:

(1) separately, the number of units funded and the number of units rehabilitated through grants, through a five-year forgivable loan, and through a 10-year forgivable loan;

(2) for grants and five-year forgivable loans, for the first year after the expiration of the lease requirements outlined in subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this section, whether the unit is still occupied by a tenant who meets the qualifications of that subdivision;

(3) for each program, for the first year after the expiration of the applicable lease requirements outlined in this section, the amount of rent charged by the landlord and how that rent compares to fair market rent established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(4) the rate of turnover for tenants housed utilizing grants or five-year forgivable loans and 10-year forgivable loans separately.

\* \* \* Special Assessment Bonds \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 3257 is added to read:

§ 3257. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS

(a) Upon approval of the legislative body of the municipality and subject to subsection (c) of this section, a municipality may issue revenue bonds for the purpose of financing a public improvement for the benefit of the limited area of the municipality to be served by the improvement. A revenue bond issued under this section is issued for an essential and governmental purpose.

(b) A revenue bond issued pursuant to this section shall be payable solely and exclusively from the special assessments levied on the properties to be served by the improvement and shall not constitute general indebtedness of the municipality. No holder of a bond issued under this section shall have the right to compel any exercise of the taxing power of the municipality to pay on the bond.

(c) The municipality may issue a revenue bond pursuant to this section only if one or more of the following conditions are met:

(1) one of the following entities provides a commitment letter for the issuance:

(A) the Vermont Bond Bank;

(B) a bank regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, or the Federal Reserve Board;  
or

(C) a credit union regulated by the National Credit Union Administration; or

(2) a nationally recognized statistical rating organization that has an active U.S. public finance practice rates the issuance at a minimum credit rating of BBB or equivalent.

Sec. 7a. 24 V.S.A. § 1896(c) is amended to read:

(c) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a district shall be subject to the provision of subsection (a) of this section. Special assessments levied under chapters 76A or 87 of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the district, and not for improvements within the district, as defined in subdivision 1891(4) of this title, or if the special assessments secure a special assessment bond issued pursuant to section 3257 of this title.

Sec. 7b. 24 V.S.A. § 1910b(f) is amended to read:

(f) Notwithstanding any charter provision or other provision, all property taxes assessed within a housing development site shall be subject to the provisions of this section. Special assessments levied under chapter 76A or 87 of this title or under a municipal charter shall not be considered property taxes for the purpose of this section if the proceeds are used exclusively for operating expenses related to properties within the housing development site and not for improvements within the housing development site or if the special assessments secure a special assessment bond issued pursuant to section 3257 of this title.

\* \* \* Municipal Plans \* \* \*

Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 4382 is amended to read:

§ 4382. THE PLAN FOR A MUNICIPALITY

(a) A plan for a municipality shall be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

\* \* \*

(10) A housing element that shall include a recommended program for public and private actions to address housing needs and targets as identified by the regional planning commission pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title. The housing element shall also include an analysis of any regulatory and physical constraints preventing the development, redevelopment, or rehabilitation of sufficient housing to meet the housing needs and targets, and a description of what actions the municipality may take to accommodate the projected housing needs. The program shall use data on year-round and seasonal dwellings and include specific actions to address the housing needs of persons with low income and persons with moderate income and account for permitted residential development as described in section 4412 of this title. Progress toward the construction of the housing units identified as needed to meet projected housing targets shall be documented within the housing element and updated as appropriate when the plan is amended or readopted according to section 4385 or 4387 of this title, as the case may be.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Municipal Zoning \* \* \*

Sec. 9. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

#### § 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development provisions shall apply in every municipality:

(1) Equal treatment of housing and required provisions for affordable housing.

\* \* \*

(B) Except as provided in subdivisions 4414(1)(E) and (F) of this title, no bylaw shall have the effect of excluding mobile homes, modular housing, manufactured housing, or prefabricated housing from any district that allows year-round residential development in the municipality, except upon the same terms and conditions as conventional housing is excluded. A municipality may establish specific site standards in the bylaws to regulate individual sites within preexisting mobile home parks with regard to distances between structures and other standards as necessary to ensure public health, safety, and welfare, provided the standards do not have the effect of prohibiting the replacement of mobile homes on existing lots.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Reports \* \* \*

Sec. 10. OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL; COMMON INTEREST  
COMMUNITY REPORT

(a) On or before November 15, 2026, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide a written report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs outlining any legal, conventional financing, and funding compliance issues related to requiring common interest communities to:

(1) authorize leasing of residential units;

(2) authorize commercial purposes within a dwelling unit; and

(3) permit the construction of accessory dwelling units on land reserved for the exclusive use of a unit owner.

(b) In developing the report, the Office shall work with and identify external partners with knowledge and expertise in common interest communities across the State.

Sec. 11. VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD;

#### FARMWORKER HOUSING REPORT

On or before January 15, 2027, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with information on the progress made towards meeting the goals identified in the *Farmworker Housing Needs Assessment* of 2021. The report shall describe the farmworker housing program established by the Board following the initial report, evaluate the program's impact on farmworker housing in Vermont, and identify barriers to improving and expanding farmworker housing.

Sec. 12. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

#### DEVELOPMENT; CORPORATE PURCHASE OF HOMES

#### REPORT

(a)(1) On or before November 15, 2026, the Department of Housing and Community Development shall submit a report to the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with information on the purchase in Vermont of single- and two-family residences by institutional real estate investors. As part of the report, the Department shall provide the following information:

(A) bills introduced in other states implementing restrictions or limitations on the corporate purchase of single- or two-family residences;

(B) the number of covered entities operating in Vermont;

(C) the number of single- and two-family residences owned by covered entities in Vermont;

(D) the number of single- and two-family residences purchased by a covered entity in Vermont between 2020 and 2026; and

(E) proposed methods of enforcement to ensure effective implementation of any statutory restriction on the corporate purchase of single- or two-family residences.

(2) In the event the Department cannot provide the information required by subdivisions (1)(B)–(D) of this subsection, the Department shall identify methods of gathering the information for future use.

(b) As used in this section:

(1)(A) “Covered entity” means an institutional real estate investor or an entity that receives funding from an institutional real estate investor for the purchase of a single-family residence or two-family residence. A loan provided in exchange for a mortgage of the residence that is being purchased shall not be considered funding for the purposes of this subdivision (1), provided that such mortgage shall be of a type for which members of the general public can apply.

(B) “Covered entity” does not include:

(i) an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(ii) a land bank;

(iii) a community land trust; or

(iv) a creditor or its loan servicer acquiring ownership of real property in full or partial satisfaction of a secured debt.

(2)(A) “Institutional real estate investor” means an entity or combined group that, directly or indirectly:

(i) owns 10 or more single-family residences or two-family residences, or both;

(ii) manages or receives funds pooled from investors and acts as a fiduciary with respect to one or more investors; and

(iii) has \$30,000,000.00 or more in net value or assets under management on any day during the taxable year.

(B) An entity is considered owning a single-family residence or two-family residence if it directly owns the single-family residence or two-family residence or indirectly owns 10 percent or more of the single-family residence or two-family residence.

(3) “Single-family residence” means a residential property consisting of one dwelling unit, provided that the term does not include:

(A) any single-family residence that is to be used as the principal residence of any person who has an ownership interest in the covered entity that seeks to purchase the single-family residence; or

(B) any single-family residence constructed, acquired, or operated with federal, state, or local appropriated funding sources.

(4) “Two-family residence” means a residential property consisting of two dwelling units, provided that the term does not include:

(A) any two-family residence in which one of the dwelling units is to be used as the principal residence of any person who has an ownership interest in the covered entity that seeks to purchase the two-family residence; or

(B) any two-family residence constructed, acquired, or operated with federal, State, or local appropriated funding sources.

\* \* \* Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation to VHCB \* \* \*

Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.