

House Calendar

Friday, March 21, 2025

73rd DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 9:30 A.M.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until March 21, 2025

Third Reading

H. 342 Protecting the personal information of certain public servants961

Governor's Veto

H. 141 Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments
Text of Governor's Veto 961

New Business

Third Reading

H. 398 The Vermont Economic Development Authority962

H. 461 Expanding employee access to unpaid leave 962

H. 480 Miscellaneous amendments to education law 962

H. 482 Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's
reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer 962

Favorable with Amendment

H. 10 Approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre
Rep. Coffin for Government Operations and Military Affairs 963

H. 319 Miscellaneous environmental subjects
Rep. Satcowitz for Environment963
Rep. Ode for Ways and Means981

H. 321 Miscellaneous cannabis amendments
Rep. Boyden for Government Operations and Military Affairs 981
Rep. Higley for Ways and Means992
Rep. Nigro for Appropriations993
Rep. Higley Amendment 993

Favorable

H. 484 Miscellaneous agricultural subjects
Rep. Nelson for Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry 993
Rep. Masland for Ways and Means 994

H. 489 Fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments
Rep. Scheu for Appropriations 994
Rep. Kornheiser for Ways and Means 994

Action Postponed Until March 25, 2025

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 474 Miscellaneous changes to election law
Rep. Waters Evans for Government Operations and Military Affairs 994
Rep. Sibilila et al. Amendment 994

H. 483 The expansion of existing income tax credits
Rep. Kimbell for Ways and Means 995

Action Postponed Until March 26, 2025

Favorable with Amendment

H. 244 State contracting standards for advertising
Rep. Waters Evans for Government Operations and Military Affairs 995

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 237 Prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists
Rep. McFaun for Health Care 997
Rep. Branagan for Ways and Means 1000

H. 401 Exemptions for food manufacturing establishments
Rep. Burt for Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry 1001
Rep. Masland for Ways and Means 1003

H. 481 Stormwater management
Rep. Logan for Environment 1003
Rep. Ode for Ways and Means 1003
Rep. Squirrell for Appropriations 1003

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR ACTION

H.C.R. 53 Honoring Megan Humphrey for her outstanding leadership of
HANDS 1003

H.C.R. 54 In memory of former Representative, Governor, and Interim
University of Vermont President Thomas Paul Salmon 1004

H.C.R. 55 Recognizing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont	1004
H.C.R. 56 Designating April 18, 2025 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont	1004
H.C.R. 57 Recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont	1004
H.C.R. 58 Recognizing April 18, 2025 as Electric Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day in Vermont	1004
H.C.R. 59 Honoring Linda C. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse	1004
H.C.R. 60 Designating March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House	1004
H.C.R. 61 Recognizing March 2025 as National Athletic Training Month in Vermont	1004
H.C.R. 62 Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Music Division at Bennington College	1004

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ACTION CALENDAR

Action Postponed Until March 21, 2025

Third Reading

H. 342

An act relating to protecting the personal information of certain public servants

Governor's Veto

H. 141

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Text of Veto Message

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. H. 141** to the House is as follows:

March 14, 2025

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I'm returning H.141, *An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments*, without my signature.

For weeks, I have been clear that I do not support H.141 as passed by the House or the Senate for many reasons including:

1. Given growing uncertainty around federal funding and the potential for significant funding cuts to critical programs, spending additional general funds in the budget adjustment for expenses that are not time sensitive is irresponsible. These new spending proposals should be considered as part of the FY26 budget to be weighed against other initiatives that may have been reduced due to federal budget cuts.
2. Expanding the free "hotel/motel program," moves us backwards, reversing important progress made towards reforming this failed

program, agreed upon by the Administration and Legislature just last year. After nearly five years of experience, we know this approach is far too expensive and fails our constituents, communities and taxpayers.

I proposed a compromise path to the Committee of Conference which would have moved these spending and policy decisions to the FY26 budget while providing \$2.1 million in flexible grants to municipalities to address needs in their communities during April, May and June. My compromise proposal protects the most vulnerable, develops emergency shelter capacity, adheres to the agreement from the last session, and limits unnecessary appropriations while we monitor federal action.

This compromise proposal, or something similar, remains on the table.

For these reasons, I'm vetoing H.141 pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution.

It's my hope the Legislature will reconsider and send me a budget adjustment I can agree to.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott
Governor

New Business

Third Reading

H. 398

An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority

H. 461

An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave

H. 480

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

H. 482

An act relating to Green Mountain Care Board authority to adjust a hospital's reimbursement rates and to appoint a hospital observer

Favorable with Amendment

H. 10

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the City of Barre

Rep. Coffin of Cavendish, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill be amended in Sec. 2, 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 1, City of Barre, following section 206, vacancies, by inserting the following before the ellipses:

§ 207. VOTING ON REQUEST OF THE CITY MANAGER

(a) Annually, on the ~~first~~ second Tuesday in ~~March~~ May, the legal voters of the City shall meet to vote on the requests of the City Manager.

(b) If, at the annual ~~March~~ meeting, the voters disapprove the request of the City Manager, the Mayor, or in his or her absence or disability, the City Clerk, shall warn a general meeting of the legal voters to consider the article disapproved by the voters and to authorize a specific sum of money therefor. The meeting shall be in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §§ 2630–2689 and shall be held at the same location as the previous meeting with the polls open for the same hours as the previous meeting. If the voters continue to disapprove any portion of the request, similar meetings shall be held in the same manner.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 319

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects

Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph, for the Committee on Environment, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Battery Extended Producer Responsibility * * *

Sec. 1. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 152, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. ANR BATTERY ASSESSMENT

(a) On or before July 1, ~~2026~~, ~~the Secretary of Natural Resources~~ 2027, ~~the~~ stewardship organization formed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 168 shall complete an assessment of the opportunities, challenges, and feasibility of establishing mandatory end-of-life management programs for the following battery types:

- (1) batteries used in hybrid and electric vehicles;
- (2) battery energy storage systems; and

(3) batteries that are not easily removable from the products they power.

(b) The assessment required by this section shall include:

(1) a summary of the work and progress other states have made in establishing end-of-life management programs for the three battery types listed under subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) policy recommendations on whether mandatory end-of-life management programs are necessary for the battery types listed under subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The assessment required by this section shall be provided to the Secretary of Natural Resources, the House Committee on Environment and Energy, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

* * * Fuel Storage Tanks * * *

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1927(d) is amended to read:

(d) No person shall deliver a regulated substance to a category one tank that is visibly designated by the Agency as not having a valid permit or not meeting standards adopted by the Secretary related to corrosion protection, spill prevention, leak detection, financial responsibility, or overfill protection that may result in the tank releasing a regulated substance to the environment.

* * * Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility * * *

Sec. 3. 10 V.S.A. § 7181 is amended to read:

§ 7181. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(4)(A) “Covered household hazardous product” means a consumer product offered for retail sale that is contained in the receptacle in which the product is offered for retail sale, if the product has any of the following characteristics:

(i) the product or a component of the product is a hazardous waste under subchapter 2 of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, regardless of the status of the generator of the hazardous waste; or

(ii) the product is a gas cylinder.

(B) “Covered household hazardous product” does not mean any of the following:

* * *

(iv) architectural paint as that term is defined in section 6672 of this title;

* * *

Sec. 4. 10 V.S.A. § 7182 is amended to read:

§ 7182. SALE OF COVERED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS;
STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION;
MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION

(a) Sale prohibited.

(1) A manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a covered household hazardous product without registering with the stewardship organization pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(2) Beginning six months after a final decision on the adequacy of a collection plan by the Secretary, a manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a covered household hazardous product unless all the following have been met:

~~(1)(A)~~ The manufacturer is participating in a stewardship organization implementing an approved collection plan.

~~(2)(B)~~ The name of the manufacturer, the manufacturer's brand, and the name of the covered household hazardous product are submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources by a stewardship organization and listed on the stewardship organization's website as covered by an approved collection plan.

~~(3)(C)~~ The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has submitted an annual report consistent with the requirements of section 7185 of this title.

~~(4)(D)~~ The stewardship organization in which the manufacturer participates has conducted a plan audit consistent with the requirements of subsection 7185(b) of this title.

(b) Stewardship organization registration requirements.

(1) On or before July 1, 2025 ~~and annually thereafter~~, a stewardship organization shall file a registration form with the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide the registration form to the stewardship organization. The registration form shall include:

~~(A) a list of the manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(B) a list of the brands of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(C) a list of the covered household hazardous products of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(D) the name, address, and contact information of a person responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter;~~

~~(E) a description of how the stewardship organization meets the requirements of subsection 7184(b) of this title, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the stewardship organization; and~~

~~(F)(B) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a nonmember manufacturer to contact regarding how to participate in the stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.~~

~~(2) A renewal of a registration without changes may be accomplished through notifying the Agency of Natural Resources on a form provided by the Agency Beginning July 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, a stewardship organization shall renew its registration with the Secretary. A renewal registration shall include the following:~~

~~(A) a list of the manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(B) a list of the brands of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(C) a list of the covered household hazardous products of each manufacturer participating in the stewardship organization;~~

~~(D) the name, address, and contact information of a person responsible for ensuring compliance with this chapter;~~

~~(E) a description of how the stewardship organization meets the requirements of subsection 7184(b) of this title, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the stewardship organization; and~~

~~(F) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a nonmember manufacturer to contact regarding how to participate in the stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.~~

~~(c) Manufacturer registration. On or before November 1, 2025, a manufacturer of a covered household hazardous product shall register with the~~

stewardship organization in a manner proscribed by the stewardship organization.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 7183 is amended to read:

§ 7183. COLLECTION PLANS

(a) Collection plan required. ~~Prior to July 1, 2025~~ On or before July 1, 2026, any stewardship organization registered with the Secretary as representing manufacturers of covered household hazardous products shall coordinate and submit to the Secretary for review one collection plan for all manufacturers.

(b) Collection plan; minimum requirements. ~~Each collection plan shall include, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:~~

(1) Initial plan. The initial plan shall last for a period not to exceed three years and contain, at a minimum, the following requirements:

(A) List of participants. A list of the manufacturers, brands, and products participating in the collection plan and a methodology for adding and removing manufacturers and notifying the Agency of new participants.

~~(2)(B)~~ Free statewide collection of covered household hazardous products. The collection program shall ~~provide for~~ reimburse municipalities when a municipality provides for free, convenient, and accessible statewide opportunities for the collection from covered entities of covered household hazardous products, including orphan covered products. ~~A stewardship organization shall accept all covered household hazardous products collected from a covered entity and shall not refuse the collection of a covered household hazardous product, including orphan covered household products, based on the brand or manufacturer of the covered household hazardous product unless specifically exempt from this requirement.~~ The collection program shall also provide for the payment of collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous products. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

~~(3) Convenient collection location.~~ ~~The stewardship organization shall develop a collection program that allows all municipal household hazardous waste collection programs to opt to be a part of the collection plan, including collection events and facilities offered by solid waste planning entities. The plan shall make efforts to site points of collection equitably across all regions~~

of the State to allow for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to collection facilities or collection events.

~~(4) Public education and outreach. The collection plan shall include an education and outreach program that shall include a website and may include media advertising, retail displays, articles and publications, and other public educational efforts. Outreach and education shall be suitable for the State's diverse ethnic populations, through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach. Public education and outreach should include content to increase meaningful participation by environmental justice focus populations as required by 3 V.S.A. chapter 72. During the first year of program implementation and two years after adoption of the collection plan, each stewardship organization shall carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of the program established under this chapter that can identify communities that have disparities in awareness and need more outreach. Each stewardship organization shall share the results of the public awareness surveys with the Secretary. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing plans approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall coordinate in carrying out their education and outreach responsibilities under this subdivision and shall include in their annual reports to the Secretary a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts. The education and outreach program and website shall notify the public of the following:~~

~~(A) that there is a free collection program for covered household hazardous products;~~

~~(B) the location and hours of operation of collection points and how a covered entity can access this collection program;~~

~~(C) the special handling considerations associated with covered household hazardous products; and~~

~~(D) source reduction information for consumers to reduce leftover covered household products.~~

~~(5) Compliance with appropriate environmental standards. In implementing a collection plan, a stewardship organization shall comply with all applicable laws related to the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. A stewardship organization shall comply with any special handling or disposal standards established by the Secretary for covered household hazardous products or for the collection plan of the manufacturer.~~

~~(6) Method of disposition. The collection plan shall describe how covered household hazardous products will be managed in the most~~

~~environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the waste-management hierarchy. The management of covered household hazardous products under the collection plan shall use management activities in the following priority order: source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. Collected covered household hazardous products shall be recycled when technically and economically feasible.~~

~~(7) Performance goals. A collection plan shall include:~~

~~(A) A performance goal for covered household hazardous products determined by the number of total participants at collection events and facilities listed in the collection plan during a program year divided by the total number of households. The number of households shall include seasonal households. The calculation methodology for the number of households shall be included in the plan.~~

~~(B) At a minimum, the collection performance goal for the first approved plan shall be an annual participation rate of five percent of the households for every collection program based on the number of households the collection program serves. After the initial approved program plan, the stewardship organization shall propose performance goals for subsequent program plans. The Secretary shall approve the performance goals for the plan at least every five years. The stewardship organization shall use the results of the most recent waste composition study required under 6604 of this title and other relevant factors to propose the performance goals of the collection plan. If a stewardship organization does not meet its performance goals, the Secretary may require the stewardship organization to revise the collection plan to provide for one or more of the following: additional public education and outreach, additional collection events, or additional hours of operation for collection sites. A stewardship organization is not authorized to reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other activities implemented under an approved plan on the basis of achievement of program performance goals.~~

~~(8)(C) Collection plan funding. The collection plan shall describe how the stewardship organization will fund the implementation of the collection plan and collection activities under the plan, including the costs for education and outreach, collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous product all municipal collection offered to the public in a base program year. A base program year shall be based on the services provided in calendar year 2024 and any other collection facilities or events approved by the Secretary. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service~~

fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials. The collection plan shall include how municipalities will be compensated for all costs attributed to collection of covered household hazardous products. The Secretary shall resolve disputes relating to compensation.

(2) Subsequent plans. After the expiration of the initial plan approved by the Secretary, the collection plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) List of participants. A list of the manufacturers, brands, and products participating in the collection plan and a methodology for adding and removing manufacturers and notifying the Agency of new participants.

(B) Free statewide collection of covered household hazardous products. The collection program shall provide for free, convenient, and accessible statewide opportunities for the collection from covered entities of covered household hazardous products, including orphan covered products. A stewardship organization shall accept all covered household hazardous products collected from a covered entity and shall not refuse the collection of a covered household hazardous product, including orphan covered household products, based on the brand or manufacturer of the covered household hazardous product unless specifically exempt from this requirement. The collection program shall also provide for the payment of collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous products. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials.

(C) Convenient collection location. The stewardship organization shall develop a collection program that allows all municipal household hazardous waste collection programs to opt to be a part of the collection plan, including collection events and facilities offered by solid waste planning entities. The plan shall make efforts to site points of collection equitably across all regions of the State to allow for convenient and reasonable access of all Vermonters to collection facilities or collection events.

(D) Public education and outreach. The collection plan shall include an education and outreach program that shall include a website and may include media advertising, retail displays, articles and publications, and other public educational efforts. Outreach and education shall be suitable for the State's diverse ethnic populations, through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach. Public education and outreach should include content to increase meaningful

participation by environmental justice focus populations as required by 3 V.S.A. chapter 72. During the second approved plan, each stewardship organization shall carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of the program established under this chapter that can identify communities that have disparities in awareness and need more outreach. Each stewardship organization shall share the results of the public awareness surveys with the Secretary. If multiple stewardship organizations are implementing plans approved by the Secretary, the stewardship organizations shall coordinate in carrying out their education and outreach responsibilities under this subdivision (D) and shall include in their annual reports to the Secretary a summary of their coordinated education and outreach efforts. The education and outreach program and website shall notify the public of the following:

(i) that there is a free collection program for covered household hazardous products;

(ii) the location and hours of operation of collection points and how a covered entity can access this collection program;

(iii) the special handling considerations associated with covered household hazardous products; and

(iv) source reduction information for consumers to reduce leftover covered household products.

(E) Compliance with appropriate environmental standards. In implementing a collection plan, a stewardship organization shall comply with all applicable laws related to the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. A stewardship organization shall comply with any special handling or disposal standards established by the Secretary for covered household hazardous products or for the collection plan of the manufacturer.

(F) Method of disposition. The collection plan shall describe how covered household hazardous products will be managed in the most environmentally and economically sound manner, including following the waste-management hierarchy. The management of covered household hazardous products under the collection plan shall use management activities in the following priority order: source reduction, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal. Collected covered household hazardous products shall be recycled when technically and economically feasible.

(G) Performance goals. A collection plan shall include:

(i) A performance goal for covered household hazardous products determined by the number of total participants at collection events and

facilities listed in the collection plan during a program year divided by the total number of households. The number of households shall include seasonal households. The calculation methodology for the number of households shall be included in the plan.

(ii) At a minimum, the collection performance goal for the initial plan approved pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall be an annual participation rate of five percent of the households for every collection program based on the number of households the collection program serves. After the initial approved program plan, the stewardship organization shall propose performance goals for subsequent program plans. The Secretary shall approve the performance goals for the plan at least every five years. The stewardship organization shall use the results of the most recent waste composition study required under 6604 of this title and other relevant factors to propose the performance goals of the collection plan. If a stewardship organization does not meet its performance goals, the Secretary may require the stewardship organization to revise the collection plan to provide for one or more of the following: additional public education and outreach, additional collection events, or additional hours of operation for collection sites. A stewardship organization is not authorized to reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other activities implemented under an approved plan on the basis of achievement of program performance goals.

(H) Collection plan funding. The collection plan shall describe how the stewardship organization will fund the implementation of the collection plan and collection activities under the plan, including the costs for education and outreach, collection, processing, and end-of-life management of the covered household hazardous product. Collection costs include facility costs, equipment costs, labor, supplies, maintenance, events costs, and event contractor costs, including collection event set-up fees, environmental service fees, insurance fees, and shipping containers and materials. The collection plan shall include how municipalities will be compensated for all costs attributed to collection of covered household hazardous products. The Secretary shall resolve disputes relating to compensation.

(c) Term of collection plan. A collection plan approved by the Secretary under section 7187 of this title shall have a term not to exceed five years, provided that the stewardship organization remains in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the terms of the approved collection plan.

(d) Collection plan implementation. Stewardship organizations shall implement the collection plan on or before six months after the date of a final decision by the Secretary on the adequacy of the collection plan.

Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 7184 is amended to read:

§ 7184. STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Participation in a stewardship organization. A manufacturer shall meet the requirements of this chapter by participating in a stewardship organization that undertakes the responsibilities under sections 7182, 7183, and 7185 of this title.

(b) Qualifications for a stewardship organization. To qualify as a stewardship organization under this chapter, an organization shall:

(1) commit to assume the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities of all manufacturers participating in the stewardship organization;

(2) not create unreasonable barriers for participation in the stewardship organization; and

(3) maintain a public website that lists all manufacturers and manufacturers' brands and products covered by the stewardship organization's approved collection plan.

(c) A stewardship organization is authorized to charge its members reasonable fees for the organization, administration, and implementation of the programs required by this chapter.

Sec. 7. 10 V.S.A. § 7187 is amended to read:

§ 7187. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Review and approve collection plans. The Secretary shall review and approve or deny collection plans submitted under section 7183 of this title according to the public notice and comment requirements of section 7714 of this title.

* * *

(g) Agency collection plan. If no stewardship organization is formed on or before July 1, 2025 or the stewardship organization fails to submit a plan or submits a plan that does not meet the requirements of this chapter, the Secretary shall adopt and administer a plan that meets the requirements of section 7183 of this title. If the Secretary administers the plan adopted under section 7183, the Secretary shall charge each manufacturer the prorated costs of plan administration, the Agency's oversight costs, and a hazardous waste reduction assessment of 10 percent of the plan's total cost to be deposited in the Solid Waste Management Assistance Account of the Waste Management Assistance Fund, for the purpose of providing grants to municipalities and small businesses to prevent pollution and reduce the generation of hazardous

waste in the State. When determining a manufacturer's assessment under this section, the Agency may allocate costs to a manufacturer of covered household hazardous products based on the sales of covered household hazardous products nationally prorated to the population of Vermont.

Sec. 8. 10 V.S.A. § 6621a is amended to read:

§ 6621a. LANDFILL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) In accordance with the following schedule, no person shall knowingly dispose of the following materials in solid waste or in landfills:

* * *

(12) Covered household hazardous products after July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

* * *

Sec. 9. SOLID WASTE PLAN; FLEXIBILITY

(a) Notwithstanding the municipal household hazardous waste (HHW) collection requirements under the State Solid Waste Plan adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6604, the Secretary of Natural Resources may grant a variance from the requirement to conduct at least two household hazardous waste collection events in that municipality. The variance shall allow a municipality to meet its obligations, as follows:

(1) the municipality has partnered with another municipality to allow its residents the ability to access a permanent HHW facility in the same manner as the municipality that operates the permanent HHW facility;

(2) the municipality has partnered with a nearby municipality to offer collection events to members in both municipalities;

(3) the municipality has demonstrated that it has made reasonable efforts to provide alternate collection opportunities identified under subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection and was unable and that the cost of a collection event is unreasonable. In such circumstances the Secretary of Natural Resources may reduce the required collection events to one per year.

(b) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2027.

* * * Healthy Homes Initiative * * *

Sec. 10. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 78, Sec. B.1103 is amended to read:

Sec. B.1103 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2024

ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

* * *

(j)(1) In fiscal year 2024, the amount of \$6,100,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the Healthy Homes Initiative. Funds shall be used to make repairs or improvements to drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater systems for Vermonters who have low to moderate income or who live in manufactured housing communities, or both.

(2) All information submitted to or compiled by the Department of Environmental Conservation related to the issuance of individual funding awards under the Healthy Homes Initiative shall be considered confidential unless the person providing the information designates that it is not confidential. This shall include all personal information of applicants that request or receive funding. Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this subdivision shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2023.

* * *

* * * Flood Safety * * *

Sec. 11. 2024 Act and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION;
RIVER CORRIDOR BASE MAP; INFILL MAPPING;
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

(a) On or before January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the regional planning commissions, shall amend by procedure the statewide River Corridor Base Map to identify areas suitable for development that are located within existing settlements and that will not cause or contribute to increases in fluvial erosion hazards.

(b) Beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending on January 1, ~~2027~~ 2028, the Department of Environmental Conservation shall conduct an education and outreach program to consult with and collect input from municipalities, environmental justice focus populations, the Environmental Justice Advisory Council, businesses, property owners, farmers, and other members of the public regarding how State permitting of development in mapped river corridors will be implemented, including potential restrictions on the use of land within mapped river corridors. The Department shall develop educational materials for the public as part of its charge under this section. The Department shall collect input from the public regarding the permitting of development in mapped river corridors as proposed by this act. On or before January 15, ~~2027~~ 2028 and until permitting of development in mapped river corridors begins under 10 V.S.A. § 754, the Department shall submit to the

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, the House Committee on Environment and Energy, and the Environmental Justice Advisory Council a report that shall include:

(1) a summary of the public input it received regarding State permitting of development in mapped river corridors during the public education and outreach required under this section;

(2) recommendations, based on the public input collected, for changes to the requirements for State permitting of development in mapped river corridors;

(3) an analysis and summary of State permitting of development in mapped river corridors on environmental justice populations; and

(4) a summary of the Department's progress in adopting the rules required under 10 V.S.A. § 754 for the regulation of development in mapped river corridors.

Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 754 is amended to read:

§ 754. MAPPED RIVER CORRIDOR RULES

(a) Rulemaking authority.

(1) On or before ~~July 1, 2027~~ July 15, 2028, the Secretary shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 that establish requirements for issuing and enforcing permits for:

(A) all development within a mapped river corridor in the State; and

(B) for development exempt from municipal regulation in flood hazard areas.

(2) The Secretary shall not adopt rules under this subsection that regulate agricultural activities without the consent of the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, provided that the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall not withhold consent under this subdivision when lack of such consent would result in the State's noncompliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

(3) The Secretary shall seek the guidance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in developing and drafting the rules required by this section in order to ensure that the rules are sufficient to meet eligibility requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program.

* * *

(e) Permit requirement. Beginning on ~~January 1, 2028~~ July 1, 2029, a person shall not commence or conduct development exempt from municipal regulation in a flood hazard area or commence or conduct any development in a mapped river corridor without a permit issued under the rules required under subsection (a) of this section by the Secretary or by a State agency delegated permitting authority under subsection (f) of this section. When an application is filed under this section, the Secretary or delegated State agency shall proceed in accordance with chapter 170 of this title.

* * *

Sec. 13. 2024 Acts and Resolves 121, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

Sec. 10. STUDY COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

* * *

(e) Report. On or before August 15, ~~2025~~ 2026, the Study Committee shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. Any recommendation for legislative action shall be as draft legislation.

* * *

Sec. 14. 2024 Acts and Resolves 121, Sec. 11(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall initiate rulemaking, including pre-rulemaking, for the rules required in Sec. 5 of this act, 10 V.S.A. § 754 (river corridor development), not later than July 1, 2025. The rules shall be adopted on or before July 1, ~~2027~~ 2028.

Sec. 15. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 29(b) is amended to read:

(b) All other sections shall take effect July 1, 2024, except that:

(1) Secs. 6a, 7, 8, 8a, and 9 (conforming amendments to municipal river corridor planning) shall take effect on January 1, 2028, except that in Sec. 9, 24 V.S.A. § 4424(a)(2)(B)(i) (municipal compliance with the State Flood Hazard Area Standards) shall take effect on January 1, ~~2026~~ 2028;

* * *

* * * Wetlands * * *

Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 918 is amended to read:

§ 918. NET GAIN OF WETLANDS; STATE GOAL; RULEMAKING

(a) On or before ~~July 1~~ December 1, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall amend the Vermont Wetlands Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to clarify that the goal of wetlands regulation and management in the State is the net gain of wetlands to be achieved through protection of existing wetlands and restoration of wetlands that were previously adversely affected. This condition shall not apply to wetland, river, and flood plain restoration projects, including dam removals.

* * *

(c) At a minimum, the Wetlands Rules shall be revised to:

(1) Require an applicant for a wetland permit that authorizes adverse impacts to more than 5,000 square feet of wetlands to compensate for those impacts through restoration, enhancement, or creation of wetland resources.

(2) Incorporate the net gain rule into requirements for permits issued after ~~September 1~~ December 1, 2025.

* * *

* * * Dams * * *

Sec. 17. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 22 is amended to read:

Sec. 22. STUDY COMMITTEE ON DAM EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
PLANNING

(a) Creation. There is created the Study Committee on Dam Emergency Operations Planning to review and recommend how to improve regional emergency action planning for hazards caused by dam failure, including how to shift responsibility for emergency planning from individual municipalities to regional authorities, how to improve regional implementation of dam emergency response plans, and how to fund dam emergency action planning at the regional level.

* * *

(e) Report. On or before December 15, ~~2024~~ 2025, the Study Committee shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action. Any recommendation for legislative action shall be submitted as draft legislation.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources or designee shall call the first meeting of the Study Committee.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the

first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership of the Study Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Study Committee shall cease to exist on March 1, ~~2025~~ 2026.

* * *

Sec. 18. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121, Sec. 24(f) is amended to read:

(f) On or before ~~January 15~~ September 1, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources shall complete its analysis of the capital and ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the Green River Dam, as authorized in 2022 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 46, and shall submit the results of the analysis to the House Committees on Environment and Energy and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and on Appropriations.

* * * Resilience Implementation Strategy * * *

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 599a is amended to read:

§ 599a. REPORTS; RULEMAKING

(a) On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall submit a report to the General Assembly detailing the feasibility and progress of carrying out the requirements of this chapter, including any recommendations for improving the administration of the Program.

(b) The Agency shall adopt rules necessary to implement the requirements of this chapter, including:

(1) adopting methodologies using available science and publicly available data to identify responsible parties and determine their applicable share of covered greenhouse gas emissions; and

(2) requirements for registering entities that are responsible parties and issuing notices of cost recovery demands under the Program; and

(3) ~~the Resilience Implementation Strategy, which shall include:~~

~~(A) practices utilizing nature-based solutions intended to stabilize floodplains, riparian zones, lake shoreland, wetlands, and similar lands;~~

~~(B) practices to adapt infrastructure to the impacts of climate change;~~

~~(C) practices needed to build out early warning mechanisms and support fast, effective response to climate-related threats;~~

~~(D) practices that support economic and environmental sustainability in the face of changing climate conditions; and~~

~~(E) criteria and procedures for prioritizing climate change adaptation projects eligible to receive monies from the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.~~

(c) On or before September 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy a report summarizing the Agency of Natural Resources' adoption of the Resilience Implementation Strategy. The Strategy shall include:

(1) practices utilizing nature-based solutions intended to stabilize floodplains, riparian zones, lake shoreland, wetlands, and similar lands;

(2) practices to adapt infrastructure to the impacts of climate change;

(3) practices needed to build out early warning mechanisms and support fast, effective response to climate-related threats;

(4) practices that support economic and environmental sustainability in the face of changing climate conditions; and

(5) criteria and procedures for prioritizing climate change adaptation projects eligible to receive monies from the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.

~~(e)~~(d) In adopting the Strategy, the Agency shall:

(1) consult with the Environmental Justice Advisory Council;

(2) in consultation with other State agencies and departments, including the Department of Public Safety's Division of Vermont Emergency Management, assess the adaptation needs and vulnerabilities of various areas vital to the State's economy, normal functioning, and the health and well-being of Vermonters;

(3) identify major potential, proposed, and ongoing climate change adaptation projects throughout the State;

(4) identify opportunities for alignment with existing federal, State, and local funding streams;

(5) consult with stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, environmental advocates, relevant subject area experts, and representatives of environmental justice focus populations;

(6) consider components of the Vermont Climate Action Plan required under section 592 of this title that are related to adaptation or resilience, as defined in section 590 of this title; and

(7) conduct public engagement in areas and communities that have the most significant exposure to the impacts of climate change, including disadvantaged, low-income, and rural communities and areas.

(d)(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the existing authority of a State agency, department, or entity to regulate greenhouse gas emissions or establish strategies or adopt rules to mitigate climate risk and build resilience to climate change.

Sec. 20. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 122, Sec. 3(a) is amended to read:

~~(a) On or before July 1, 2025, the Agency of Natural Resources pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 837 shall file with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules the proposed rule for the adoption of the Resilience Implementation Strategy required pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 599a(b)(3). On or before January 1, 2026, the Agency of Natural Resources shall adopt the final rule establishing the Resilience Implementation Strategy required pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 599a(b)(3). [Repealed.]~~

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Ode of Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Environment.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 321

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

Rep. Boyden of Cambridge, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 7 V.S.A. § 832 is amended to read:

§ 832. CANNABIS POSSESSED UNLAWFULLY SUBJECT TO SEIZURE
AND FORFEITURE

Cannabis possessed unlawfully in violation of this title or administrative rules adopted pursuant to this title may be seized by law enforcement and is subject to forfeiture.

Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 844 is amended to read:

§ 844. AUTHORITY FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(a) The Board shall establish a user agreement with the Vermont Crime Information Center in accordance with 20 V.S.A. chapter 117 for the purpose of obtaining Vermont criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation as required by chapters 33 (cannabis establishments) and 37 (medical cannabis dispensaries) of this title.

(b) A fingerprint-based state and national criminal history record check shall be conducted for each natural person prior to being issued a cannabis establishment identification card pursuant to chapter 33 (cannabis establishments) of this title or a medical cannabis dispensary identification card pursuant to chapter 37 (medical cannabis dispensaries) of this title. The Board may require that such record checks be completed as a condition precedent to license renewal.

Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 861(23) is amended to read:

(23)(A) “Hemp products” or “hemp-infused products” means all products with the federally defined tetrahydrocannabinol concentration level for hemp derived from, or made by, processing hemp plants or plant parts that are prepared in a form available for commercial sale, including cosmetics, personal care products, food intended for animal or human consumption, cloth, cordage, fiber, fuel, paint, paper, construction materials, plastics, and any product containing one or more hemp-derived cannabinoids, such as cannabidiol.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (23), “hemp products” and “hemp-infused products” do not include any substance, manufacturing intermediary, or product that:

(i) is prohibited or deemed a regulated cannabis product by administrative rule of the Cannabis Control Board; or

(ii) contains more than 0.3 percent total tetrahydrocannabinol on a dry-weight basis.

(C) A hemp-derived product or substance that is excluded from the definition of “hemp products” or “hemp-infused products” pursuant to subdivision (B) of this subdivision (23) shall be considered a cannabis product

as defined by subdivision 831(3) of this title; provided, however, that a person duly licensed or registered by the Cannabis Control Board lawfully may possess such products in conformity with the person's license or hemp processor registration.

Sec. 4. 7 V.S.A. § 881 is amended to read:

§ 881. RULEMAKING; CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS

(a) The Board shall adopt rules to implement and administer this chapter in accordance with subdivisions (1)–~~(8)~~(9) of this subsection.

(1) Rules concerning any cannabis establishment shall include:

(A) the form and content of license and renewal applications;

(B) qualifications for licensure that are directly and demonstrably related to the operation of a cannabis establishment, including:

(i) a requirement to submit an operating plan, which shall include information concerning:

(I) the type of business organization, the identity of its controlling owners and principals, and the identity of the controlling owners and principals of its affiliates; and

(II) the sources, amount, and nature of its capital, assets, and financing; the identity of its financiers; and the identity of the controlling owners and principals of its financiers;

(ii) a requirement to file an amendment to its operating plan in the event of a significant change in organization, operation, or financing; and

(iii) the requirement for a fingerprint-based criminal history record check and regulatory record check pursuant to section 883 of this title;

(C) oversight requirements, including provisions to ensure that a licensed establishment complies with State and federal regulatory requirements governing insurance, securities, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and occupational health and safety;

(D) inspection requirements;

(E) records to be kept by licensees and the required availability of the records;

(F) employment and training requirements;

(G) security requirements, including any appropriate lighting, physical security, video, and alarm requirements;

(H) health and safety requirements;

(I) regulation of additives to cannabis and cannabis products, including cannabidiol derived from hemp and substances that are toxic or designed to make the product more addictive, more appealing to persons under 21 years of age, or to mislead consumers;

(J) procedures for seed-to-sale traceability of cannabis, including any requirements for tracking software;

(K) regulation of the storage and transportation of cannabis;

(L) sanitary requirements;

(M) procedures for the renewal of a license, which shall allow renewal applications to be submitted up to 90 days prior to the expiration of the cannabis establishment's license;

(N) procedures for suspension and revocation of a license;

(O) requirements for banking and financial transactions, including provisions to ensure that the Board, the Department of Financial Regulation, and financial institutions have access to relevant information concerning licensed establishments to comply with State and federal regulatory requirements;

(P) disclosure or eligibility requirements for a financier, its owners and principals, and its affiliates, which may include:

(i) requirements to disclose information to a licensed establishment, the Board, or the Department of Financial Regulation;

(ii) a minimum age requirement and a requirement to conduct a background check for natural persons;

(iii) requirements to ensure that a financier complies with applicable State and federal laws governing financial institutions, licensed lenders, and other financial service providers; and

(iv) any other requirements, conditions, or limitations on the type or amount of loans or capital investments made by a financier or its affiliates, which the Board, in consultation with the Department of Financial Regulation, determines are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare;

(Q) policies and procedures for conducting outreach and promoting participation in the regulated cannabis market by diverse groups of individuals, including those who have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition;

(R) advertising and marketing; ~~and~~

(S) requirements for cannabis control testing of hemp, hemp-infused products, cannabis, and cannabis products; and

(T) requirements and criteria governing licensee applications to change ownership, control, or location.

* * *

(5) Rules concerning retailers shall include:

* * *

(F) location or siting requirements that increase the geographic distribution of ~~new~~ cannabis retail establishments based on regional population, ~~and~~ market needs, and community input; and

* * *

(9) Rules concerning trim and harvest services shall include:

(A) requirements for verification of the licenses of clients;

(B) essential content and permissible terms of written service contracts, including provisions for security and diversion prevention;

(C) provisions to ensure safe and lawful transportation and lodging of travelling personnel;

(D) essential content of employee health, safety, and skills training, including first aid and recognition of common pests and pathogens;

(E) requirements appropriate to minimize the risk of pest and pathogen transmission; and

(F) procedures for documenting lawful compensation.

* * *

Sec. 5. 7 V.S.A. § 883 is amended to read:

§ 883. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND RECORD CHECKS; APPLICANTS

(a) The Board shall obtain from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of a fingerprint-based Vermont criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each license applicant, principal of an applicant, and person who controls an applicant who is a natural person. Checks may be repeated for good cause or with prudent frequency as determined by the Board.

(b) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining whether an applicant should be denied a cannabis establishment license because of ~~his or her~~ the applicant's criminal history record based on factors that demonstrate whether the applicant presently poses a threat to public safety or the proper functioning of the regulated market. Nonviolent drug offenses shall not automatically disqualify an applicant.

(c) ~~Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section or subsection 844(b) of this title, if required records are not reasonably available to the Board due to circumstances beyond its control, with the consent of the applicant, the Board may accept third-party criminal background checks submitted by an applicant for a cannabis establishment license or renewal in lieu of obtaining the records from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of the person's Vermont fingerprint-based criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation from a reputable commercial provider.~~ Any such third-party background check shall:

~~(1) be conducted by a third-party consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is in compliance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act; and~~

~~(2) include a multistate and ~~multi-jurisdiction~~ multijurisdiction criminal record locator. Consumer credit scores shall not be a basis for license denial.~~

Sec. 6. 7 V.S.A. § 884 is amended to read:

§ 884. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT IDENTIFICATION CARD

(a) Every owner, principal, and employee of a cannabis establishment shall obtain an identification card issued by the Board. A person may apply for an identification card prior to obtaining employment with a licensee. An employee identification card shall authorize the person to work for any licensee.

(b)(1)(A) Prior to issuing the identification card to an owner or principal of a cannabis establishment, the Board shall obtain from the Vermont Crime Information Center a copy of the person's Vermont fingerprint-based criminal history records, out-of-state criminal history records, and criminal history records from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(B) Prior to issuing the identification card to an employee of a cannabis establishment, the Board shall obtain a copy of a fingerprint-based identity history summary record from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) The Board shall adopt rules that set forth standards for determining whether a person should be denied a cannabis establishment identification card

because of ~~his or her~~ the person's criminal history record based on factors that demonstrate whether the applicant presently poses a threat to public safety or the proper functioning of the regulated market. Nonviolent drug offenses shall not automatically disqualify an applicant.

(c) ~~Once an identification card application has been submitted, a person the Board, for good cause, may serve~~ issue a temporary permit authorizing the applicant to serve as an employee of a cannabis establishment pending the background check, provided the person is supervised ~~in his or her duties~~ by someone who is a cardholder. ~~The Board shall issue a temporary permit to the person for this purpose, which shall expire upon the issuance of the identification card or disqualification of the person in accordance with this section~~ Good cause exists if, among other reasons, the application is reasonably expected to take more than 12 days to process.

(d) An identification card shall expire one year after its issuance or, in the case of owners and principals, upon the expiration of the cannabis establishment's license, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 7. 7 V.S.A. § 886 is added to read:

§ 886. INCAPACITY OR DISTRESS; SPECIAL PERMITTING;

IMMUNITY

(a) It is the purpose of this section to authorize the Board to effectively oversee cannabis establishments and the persons authorized to operate such establishments in case of incapacity of a principal, dysfunction, operating distress, interruption in licensure, abrupt closure, or judicial intervention including receivership.

(b) The Board may issue a special permit temporarily authorizing a licensed or unlicensed designee of suitable ability and judgment to temporarily operate a cannabis establishment, or to possess, transport, or dispose of cannabis and cannabis products, as specified by the terms of the permit. The permit shall be printed on official Board letterhead, bear the signature of the Chair of the Board, state clearly a means of prompt authentication by law enforcement and licensees, and specify start and end dates and times. A person's eligibility for a permit under this subsection (b) shall not be limited by subdivision 901(d)(3) of this title.

(c) A person acting in conformity with the terms and scope of a special permit issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be immune from civil and criminal liability in relation to possession, transportation, or transfer of cannabis within the borders of this State. The Board shall not be liable for

economic losses resulting from forfeiture, seizure, sequestration, sale stoppage, transportation, storage, or destruction of cannabis or cannabis products.

(d) If appropriate to facilitate judicial proceedings involving a cannabis establishment or its principals, including an action for receivership, a State court of competent jurisdiction may request that the Board determine whether a person is suited by background and qualifications to hold a special permit issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for a purpose specified by the court. In the alternative, the court may ask that the Board recommend such person.

Sec. 8. 7 V.S.A. § 901 is amended to read:

§ 901. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person shall not engage in the cultivation, preparation, processing, packaging, transportation, testing, or sale of cannabis or cannabis products without obtaining a license from the Board.

(b) All licenses shall be valid for one year and expire at midnight on the eve of the anniversary of the date the license was issued. A licensee may apply to renew the license annually.

(c) Applications for licenses and renewals shall be submitted on forms provided by the Board and shall be accompanied by the fees provided for in section 910 of this title.

(d)(1) There shall be ~~seven~~ eight types of licenses available:

- (A) a cultivator license;
- (B) a propagator license;
- (C) a wholesaler license;
- (D) a product manufacturer license;
- (E) a retailer license;
- (F) a testing laboratory license; ~~and~~
- (G) a trim and harvest service license; and
- (H) an integrated license.

(2)(A) The Board shall develop tiers for:

- (i) cultivator licenses based on the plant canopy size of the cultivation operation or plant count for breeding stock; and
- (ii) retailer licenses.

(B) The Board may develop tiers for other types of licenses.

(3)(A) Except as provided in subdivisions (B) and (C) of this subdivision (3), an applicant and its affiliates may obtain a maximum of one type of each type of license as provided in subdivisions (1)(A)–~~(F)~~~~(G)~~ of this subsection (d). Each license shall permit only one location of the establishment, however a trim and harvest service licensee may provide services at multiple other licensed cannabis establishments.

(B) An applicant and its affiliates that control a dispensary registered on April 1, 2022 may obtain one integrated license provided in subdivision (1)~~(G)~~~~(H)~~ of this subsection (d) or a maximum of one of each type of license provided in subdivisions (1)(A)–(F) of this subsection (d). An integrated licensee may not hold a separate cultivator, propagator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, or testing laboratory license, and no applicant or its affiliates that control a dispensary shall hold more than one integrated license. An integrated license shall permit only one location for each of the types of activities permitted by the license: cultivation, propagator, wholesale operations, product manufacturing, retail sales, and testing.

(C) An applicant and its affiliates may obtain multiple testing laboratory licenses.

(e) A dispensary that obtains a retailer license or an integrated license pursuant to this chapter shall maintain the dispensary and retail operations in a manner that protects patient and caregiver privacy in accordance with rules adopted by the Board.

(f) Each licensee shall obtain and maintain commercial general liability insurance in accordance with rules adopted by the Board. Failure to provide proof of insurance to the Board, as required, may result in revocation of the license.

(g) All licenses may be renewed according to procedures adopted through rulemaking by the Board.

(h) [Repealed.]

Sec. 9. 7 V.S.A. § 904 is amended to read:

§ 904. CULTIVATOR LICENSE

* * *

(d) Each cultivator shall create packaging for its cannabis.

(1) Packaging shall include:

(A) The name and registration number of the cultivator.

(B) The strain and variety of cannabis contained.

(C) The potency of the cannabis represented by the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol in milligrams total and per serving.

(D) A ~~“produced on” date reflecting the date that the cultivator finished producing the cannabis~~ “harvested on” date reflecting the date the cultivator harvested the cannabis and a “packed on” date reflecting the date the product was packaged for sale.

(E) Appropriate warnings as prescribed by the Board in rule.

(F) Any additional requirements contained in rules adopted by the Board in accordance with this chapter. Rules shall take into consideration that different labeling requirements may be appropriate depending on whether the cannabis is sold to a wholesaler, product manufacturer, or retailer.

(2) Packaging shall not be designed to appeal to persons under 21 years of age.

* * *

Sec. 10. 7 V.S.A. § 904b is amended to read:

§ 904b. PROPAGATION CULTIVATOR LICENSE

(a) A propagation cultivator licensed under this section may:

(1) cultivate not more than 3,500 square feet of cannabis clones, immature cannabis plants, or mature cannabis plants;

(2) test, transport, and sell cannabis clones and immature cannabis plants to licensed cultivators and retailers; and

(3) test, transport, and sell cannabis seeds that meet the federal definition of hemp to a licensed cultivator or retailer or to the public.

(b) A licensed propagation cultivator shall not cultivate mature cannabis plants for the purpose of producing, harvesting, transferring, or selling cannabis flower for or to any person.

Sec. 11. 7 V.S.A. § 904c is added to read:

§ 904c. TRIM AND HARVEST SERVICE LICENSE

A trim and harvest service licensed under this section may contract with cultivators licensed under section 904 or 904a of this chapter, on a seasonal or temporary basis, to supply specified cannabis maintenance services within the scope of each client-cultivator’s license.

Sec. 12. 7 V.S.A. § 910 is amended to read:

§ 910. CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENT FEE SCHEDULE

The following fees shall apply to each person or product licensed by the Board:

* * *

(8) Trim and harvest services. Trim and harvest services shall be assessed an annual licensing fee of \$500.00.

(9) Employees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual licensing fee of \$50.00 for each employee. The Board shall offer one-year and two-year employee licenses.

~~(9)~~(10) Products. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual product licensing fee of \$50.00 for every type of cannabis and cannabis product that is sold in accordance with this chapter. The Board may issue longer product registrations, prorated at the same cost per year, for products it deems low risk and shelf stable. Such products may be defined and distinguished in readily accessible published guidance.

~~(10)~~(11) Local licensing fees. Cannabis establishments licensed by the Board shall be assessed an annual local licensing fee of \$100.00 in addition to each fee assessed under subdivisions (1)–(7) of this section. Local licensing fees shall be distributed to the municipality in which the cannabis establishment is located pursuant to section 846(c) of this title.

~~(11)~~(12) One-time fees Application fee.

(A) All applicants for a cannabis establishment license shall be assessed an initial one-time application fee of \$1,000.00.

~~(B) An applicant may choose to be assessed an initial one-time intent to apply fee of \$500.00. If the applicant subsequently seeks a license within one year after paying the intent to apply fee, the initial one-time application fee of \$1,000.00 shall be reduced by \$500.00.~~

Sec. 13. 32 V.S.A. § 3260 is amended to read:

§ 3260. BULK SALES

(a) Whenever a person (transferor) required to collect or withhold a trust tax pursuant to chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233 of this title shall make any sale, transfer, long-term lease, or assignment (transfer) in bulk of any part or the whole of the assets of a business, otherwise than in the ordinary course of the business, the purchaser, transferee or assignee (transferee) shall, at least 10 days before taking possession of the subject of the transfer or before payment therefore if earlier, notify the Commissioner in writing of the proposed sale

and of the price, terms, and conditions thereof whether or not the transferor has represented to or informed the transferee that the transferor owes any trust tax pursuant to chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233 and whether or not the transferee has knowledge that such taxes are owed, and whether any taxes are in fact owed.

(b) Whenever the transferee shall fail to give notice to the Commissioner as required by subsection (a) of this section, or whenever the Commissioner shall inform the transferee that a possible claim for tax exists, any sums of money, property, or choses in action, or other consideration, which the transferee is required to transfer over to or for the transferor, shall be subject to a first priority right and lien for any taxes theretofore or thereafter determined to be due from the transferor to the State, and the transferee is forbidden to transfer the consideration to or for the transferor to the extent of the amount of the State's claim.

(c) For failure to comply with this section, the transferee shall be personally liable for the payment to the State of any taxes theretofore or thereafter determined to be due to the State from the transferor and the liability may be assessed and enforced in the same manner as the liability for tax under chapter 151, 207, 225, or 233.

* * *

Sec. 14. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 164, Sec. 6d, as amended by 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 3, Sec. 90, is further amended to read:

Sec. 6d. [Deleted.]

Sec. 15. CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD; ENFORCEMENT ATTORNEY;
POSITION

One full-time, permanent, exempt position of Enforcement Attorney is authorized in the Cannabis Control Board in fiscal year 2026.

Sec. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Rep. Higley of Lowell, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the bill be amended by adding a new section to be Sec. 13a to read as follows:

Sec. 13a. 32 V.S.A. § 7702 is amended to read:

§ 7702. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

* * *

(15) “Other tobacco products” means any product manufactured from, derived from, or containing tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, and including nicotine alkaloids and nicotine analogs, that is intended for human consumption by smoking, chewing, or in any other manner, including products sold as a tobacco substitute, as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 1001(8), and including any liquids, whether nicotine based or not, or delivery devices sold separately for use with a tobacco substitute, but shall not include cigarettes, little cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, snuff, new smokeless tobacco as defined in this section, or cannabis products as defined in 7 V.S.A. § 831.

* * *

(20) “New smokeless tobacco” means any tobacco product manufactured from, derived from, or containing tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, including nicotine alkaloids and nicotine analogs, that is not intended to be smoked, has a moisture content of less than 45 percent, or is offered in individual single-dose tablets or other discrete single-use units.

* * *

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Nigro of Bennington, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, and when further amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Higley of Lowell to the report of the Committee on Ways and Means on H. 321

That the report of the Committee on Ways and Means be amended in Sec. 13a, 32 V.S.A. § 7702, in subdivision (15), after “synthetic,” by striking “and”

Favorable

H. 484

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

(Rep. Nelson of Derby will speak for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.)

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 489

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

(Rep. Scheu of Middlebury will speak for the Committee on Appropriations.)

Rep. Kornheiser of Brattleboro, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

Action Postponed Until March 25, 2025

Committee Bill for Second Reading

H. 474

An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

(Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte will speak for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs.)

Amendment to be offered by Reps. Sibia of Dover, Donahue of Northfield, Headrick of Burlington, and Lipsky of Stowe to H. 474

That the bill be amended by adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Secs. 5a to read as follows:

* * * Independent Candidate Filing Deadline * * *

Sec. 5a. 17 V.S.A. § 2402 is amended to read:

§ 2402. REQUISITES OF STATEMENT

* * *

(d)(1) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form shall be filed:

* * *

(C) in the case of any other independent candidate, not earlier than the fourth Monday in April and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the ~~Thursday~~ preceding fourteenth day following the primary election prescribed by section

2351 of this chapter, and not later than 5:00 p.m. of the ~~third day prior to~~ fourteenth day following the day of a special primary election.

* * *

H. 483

An act relating to the expansion of existing income tax credits

(Rep. Kimbell of Woodstock will speak for the Committee on Ways and Means.)

Action Postponed Until March 26, 2025

Favorable with Amendment

H. 244

An act relating to State contracting standards for advertising

Rep. Waters Evans of Charlotte, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 902(a) is amended to read:

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract for and make all purchases, including all fuel, supplies, materials, and equipment, for all departments, offices, institutions, and other agencies of the State and counties. However, ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner may delegate authority to those governmental agencies to purchase directly individually approved types and classes of items when the interests of the State are best served thereby, provided that any such delegated authority shall be subject to the same limitations set forth in subsections 910(a)–(c) of this subchapter as apply to the Commissioner. ~~He or she~~ The Commissioner shall also contract for and purchase materials for the repair and for the construction and equipment of new buildings to be erected by the State, unless otherwise provided. ~~He or she~~ The Commissioner may purchase such supplies, materials, and equipment as are requisitioned by the supervisors of the natural resources conservation districts. ~~He or she~~ The Commissioner may also cooperate with and advise officials of any political subdivision of the State or any institution of higher education chartered in Vermont and accredited or holding a certificate of approval from the State Board of Education in their purchase of any of the supplies, materials, and equipment needed by the political subdivision or institution of higher education, and may act as the agent of the political subdivision at the request of the authorized officials or agent thereof in the purchase of supplies, materials, and equipment.

Sec. 2. 29 V.S.A. § 910 is added to read:

§ 910. STATE CONTRACTS FOR ADVERTISING

(a) When contracting for print or digital advertising services for the State or its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, or institutions, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract with local news organizations for not less than 70 percent of the total annual value of the print or digital advertising services.

(b) When contracting for radio or television advertising services for the State or its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, or institutions, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall contract with local broadcast organizations for not less than 70 percent of the total annual value of the radio or television advertising services.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may exclude from the total annual value of advertising services any advertisement focused on tourism and any employment search or job posting.

(d) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall maintain a list of local news organizations and local broadcast organizations.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) “Local broadcast organization” means an organization licensed to broadcast in the State by the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) “Local news organization” means an organization that:

(A) engages professionals to create, edit, produce, and distribute original content concerning matters of public interest through reporting activities;

(B) employs a full-time employee who dedicates at least 30 hours a week to providing coverage of an area of the State for dissemination to the local or State community and lives within 50 miles of the coverage area;

(C)(i) has published at least one print publication per month over the previous 12 months and either holds a valid U. S. Postal Service periodical permit or dedicates at least 25 percent of its content to local news; or

(ii) on average over the previous 12 months, has published online at least one piece per week about the local or State community and has at least 33 percent of its online audience in Vermont;

(D) has disclosed in its print publication or on its website its beneficial ownership or, in the case of a nonprofit entity, its board of directors;

(E) in the case of an organization that is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), declares as its stated mission in its filings with the Internal Revenue Service the coverage of local or State news; and

(F) over the previous calendar year did not receive more than 50 percent of its gross receipts from political action committees, other entities described in 26 U.S.C. § 527, or from organizations exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(4), (c)(5), or (c)(6).

Sec. 3. 29 V.S.A. § 911 is added to read:

§ 911. CONTRACTS FOR ADVERTISING; REPORTING

Annually, on or before June 30, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall submit to the General Assembly a report summarizing any advertising services purchased by the State and its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, or institutions during the preceding fiscal year, including a summary of the amounts spent by entity on advertising services and where those funds were spent.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0)

NOTICE CALENDAR

Favorable with Amendment

H. 237

An act relating to prescribing by doctoral-level psychologists

Rep. McFaun of Barre Town, for the Committee on Health Care, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 26 V.S.A. § 3001 is amended to read:

§ 3001. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Practice of psychology” means rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, or organizations, for a consideration, any service involving the application of principles, methods, and procedures of understanding, predicting, and influencing behavior that are primarily drawn from the science of psychology. The science of psychology includes

assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and amelioration of adjustment problems and emotional and mental disorders of individuals and groups.

(2) “Psychologist” or “practicing psychologist” means a person who is licensed to practice psychology under this chapter.

(3) “Psychologist-doctorate” means a person who is so licensed under this chapter.

(4) “Psychologist-master” means a person who is so licensed under this chapter.

(5) “Board” means the Board of Psychological Examiners established under this chapter.

* * *

(12) “Collaborating practitioner” means a physician licensed to practice medicine pursuant to chapter 23 or 33 with a specialty in psychiatry.

(13) “DSM” means the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders current at the time of practice.

(14) “Drug” has the same meaning as section 2022 of this title.

(15) “Prescribing psychologist” means a licensed, doctoral-level psychologist who has undergone specialized training, has passed an examination as determined by rule, and has received a current prescribing specialty under section 3019 of this title that has not been revoked or suspended by the Board.

(16) “Prescription drug” has the same meaning as in section 2022 of this title.

(17) “Prescriptive authority” means the authority to prescribe or discontinue prescription drugs solely for the purpose of diagnosing, treating, or managing a condition recognized in the DSM. “Prescriptive authority” excludes the authority to:

(A) dispense, administer, or distribute prescription drugs; and

(B) prescribe or discontinue prescription drugs for patients who are less than 18 years of age, over 80 years of age, or pregnant.

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 3009a is amended to read:

§ 3009a. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD

(a) The Board shall adopt rules necessary to perform its duties under this chapter, including rules that:

- (1) specify educational and other prerequisites for obtaining licensure;
- (2) ~~explain complaint and appeal procedures to licensees, applicants, and the public;~~
- (3) explain continuing education requirements; ~~and~~
- (3) regulate prescribing psychologist licensees pursuant to section 3019 of this title, including:
 - (A) the settings of clinical rotations; and
 - (B) prescriptive authority, including designation of conditions and drugs excluded from that authority, as well as requirements for the prescribing of particular drugs; and
- (4) ~~explain how the Board shall investigate suspected unprofessional conduct~~ regulate collaborative practice agreements pursuant to section 3019 of this title, including collaborating practitioner qualifications and annual competency evaluations.

* * *

Sec. 3. 26 V.S.A. § 3019 is added to read:

§ 3019. PRESCRIBING BY DOCTORAL-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS

SPECIALITY

(a) Prescribing psychologist specialty. A psychologist-doctorate may apply to the Board for a prescribing psychologist specialty. The application shall be made in a manner approved by the Board and include the payment of any required fees.

(b) Specialty by examination. A psychologist-doctorate shall be eligible for the prescribing specialty if the psychologist-doctorate:

(1) holds a current license to practice psychology at the doctoral level in the State;

(2) has successfully completed a postdoctoral training program in psychopharmacology designated by the American Psychological Association or its successor;

(3) has completed clinical rotations over a total of not less than 14 months in not less than nine practice settings, to include psychiatry, pediatrics, geriatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, and one elective;

(4) has completed a national certifying exam, as determined by rule; and

(5) meets all other requirements for obtaining a prescribing psychologist specialty, as determined by rule.

(c) Criteria for prescribing medication.

(1) A written collaborative agreement is required for all prescribing psychologists practicing under a prescribing psychologist specialty issued pursuant to this section.

(2) The issuance of prescriptive authority by a collaborating practitioner to a prescribing psychologist shall only include prescription drugs for the treatment of mental health conditions that the collaborating practitioner generally provides to patients in the normal course of practice.

(3) The collaborating practitioner shall file the collaborative agreement with the Board and notice of any termination of the agreement.

(4) Issuance of prescribing authority for Schedule II through V controlled substances shall identify the specific controlled substance by brand name or generic name. Prescription or administration of a controlled substance by injection shall not be allowed.

(d) Specialty by endorsement. The Director of the Board may, upon payment of the required fee, grant a prescribing specialty without examination if:

(1) the applicant holds active psychologist prescribing authority in another U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction; and

(2) the requirements for psychologist prescribing authority in that jurisdiction are, in the judgement of the Director, substantially equivalent to the requirements of this section.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Sec. 2 (power and duties of the Board) shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(b) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

Rep. Branagan of Georgia, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends that the report of the Committee on Health Care be amended as follows:

In Sec. 3, 26 V.S.A. § 3019, in subsection (d), by striking out the word “the” before “required fee” and inserting in lieu thereof “any”

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

H. 401

An act relating to exemptions for food manufacturing establishments

Rep. Burtt of Cabot, for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry, recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

(1) Vermont enhance its food resiliency through increased supply and distribution of locally produced food products;

(2) Vermonters have more access to the local food marketplace as both producers and consumers;

(3) local food producers are able to meet the demand for Vermont-made food products from visitors to the State;

(4) small-scale food producers, new business start-ups, and sole proprietors benefit from raising the limit of the existing licensing exemption for at-home bakery products to adjust for inflationary cost changes occurring since the initial statutory enactment; and

(5) supply-chain costs and inflationary considerations be addressed to bring risk management thresholds more in line with the economic conditions at the time of initial statutory enactment.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 4353 is amended to read:

§ 4353. FEES

(a) The Commissioner may establish by rule any requirement the Department needs to determine the applicable categories or exemptions for licenses. The following license fees shall be paid annually to the Department at the time of making the application according to the following schedules:

* * *

(3) Food manufacturing establishment — a fee for any person or persons that process food for resale to restaurants, stores, or individuals according to the following schedule:

(A) Food manufacturing establishments; nonbakeries

I — ~~Gross receipts of \$10,001.00 to \$50,000.00; \$175.00~~

II — Gross receipts of over \$50,000.00 \$30,000.00;

\$275.00

II — Nonhome-operated food service establishment
with gross receipts of \$30,000.00 or less;
\$175.00

III — ~~Gross~~ Home-operated food service establishment
with gross receipts of \$10,000.00 \$30,000.00 or less
are exempt pursuant to section 4358 of this title

(B) Food manufacturing establishment; bakeries

I — Home bakery with gross receipts over \$30,000.00;
\$100.00

II — Small commercial; \$200.00

III — Large commercial; \$350.00

IV — Nonhome-operated bakery with gross receipts of
\$30,000.00 or less; \$50.00

V — Home-operated bakery with gross receipts of
\$30,000.00 or less are exempt pursuant to section
4358 of this title

* * *

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4358 is amended to read:

§ 4358. EXEMPTIONS

* * *

(b) ~~The provisions of licensure requirements and related licensure fees in this subchapter shall not apply to an individual manufacturing and selling bakery products from his or her own home kitchen~~ a food manufacturing establishment operating from a home kitchen whose average gross retail sales do not exceed \$125.00 per week are less than or equal to \$30,000.00 per year.

* * *

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Committee Vote: 8-0-0)

Rep. Masland of Thetford, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

H. 481

An act relating to stormwater management

(Rep. Logan of Burlington will speak for the Committee on Environment.)

Rep. Ode of Burlington, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommends the bill ought to pass.

(Committee Vote: 11-0-0)

Rep. Squirrell of Underhill, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommends the bill ought to pass when amended as follows:

By striking out Sec. 8 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATION

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Clean Water Board shall recommend \$5,000,000.00 from the Clean Water Fund in fiscal year 2027 to the Municipal Stormwater Implementation Program in 10 V.S.A. § 928 for costs of complying with permitting requirements under 10 V.S.A. § 1264(c)(7), including for residential subdivisions when the municipality assumes full legal responsibility for the stormwater system.

(Committee Vote: 10-0-1)

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR ACTION

Concurrent Resolutions for Adoption Under Joint Rules 16a - 16d

The following concurrent resolutions have been introduced for approval by the Senate and House and will be adopted automatically unless a Senator or Representative requests floor consideration in that member's chamber before today's adjournment. Requests for floor consideration in either chamber should be communicated to the Senate Secretary's Office or the House Clerk's Office, as applicable. For text of resolutions, see Addendum to House Calendar of March 20, 2025.

H.C.R. 53

House concurrent resolution honoring Megan Humphrey for her

outstanding leadership of HANDS

H.C.R. 54

House concurrent resolution in memory of former Representative, Governor, and Interim University of Vermont President Thomas Paul Salmon

H.C.R. 55

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 2025 as the Month of the Military Child in Vermont

H.C.R. 56

House concurrent resolution designating April 18, 2025 as USS VERMONT (SSN 792) Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 57

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 25, 2025 as National Medal of Honor Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 58

House concurrent resolution recognizing April 18, 2025 as Electric Utility Lineworker Appreciation Day in Vermont

H.C.R. 59

House concurrent resolution honoring Linda C. Johnson for her outstanding State and national contributions to the prevention of child abuse

H.C.R. 60

House concurrent resolution designating March 25, 2025 as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the State House

H.C.R. 61

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Athletic Training Month in Vermont

H.C.R. 62

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Black Music Division at Bennington College

For Informational Purposes

CROSSOVER DATES

The Joint Rules Committee established the following crossover dates:

(1) All **Senate/House** bills must be reported out of the last committee of reference (including the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means, except as provided below in (2) and the exceptions listed below) on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day – Committee bills must be voted out of Committee by **Friday, March 14, 2025**.

(2) All **Senate/House** bills referred pursuant to Senate Rule 31 or House Rule 35(a) to the Committees on Appropriations and Finance/Ways and Means must be reported out by the last of those committees on or before **Friday, March 21, 2025**, and filed with the Secretary/Clerk so they may be placed on the Calendar for Notice the next legislative day.

Exceptions to the foregoing deadlines include the major money bills (the general Appropriations bill (“The Big Bill”), the Transportation Capital bill, the Capital Construction bill, and the Fee/Revenue bills).

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (H.C.R.) PROCESS

Joint Rules 16a–16d provide the procedure for the General Assembly to adopt concurrent resolutions pursuant to the Consent Calendar. Here are the steps for Representatives to introduce an H.C.R. and to have it ceremonially read during a House session:

1. Meet with Legislative Counselor Michael Chernick regarding your H.C.R. draft request. Come prepared with an idea and any relevant supporting documents.
2. Have a date in mind if you want a ceremonial reading. You should meet with Counselor Chernick at least two weeks prior to the week you want your ceremonial reading to happen.
3. Counselor Chernick will draft your H.C.R., and Resolutions Editor and Coordinator Jill Pralle will edit it. Upon completion of this process, a paper or electronic copy will be released to you. If a paper copy is released to you, a sponsor signout sheet will also be included.
4. Please submit the sponsor list to Counselor Chernick by paper *or* electronically, but not both.

5. The final list of sponsors needs to be submitted to Counselor Chernick not later than 12:00 noon the Thursday of the week prior to the H.C.R.'s appearance on the Consent Calendar.
6. The Office of Legislative Counsel will then send your H.C.R. to the House Clerk's Office for incorporation into the Consent Calendar and House Calendar Addendum for the following week.
7. The week that your H.C.R. is on the Consent Calendar, any presentation copies that you requested will be mailed or available for pickup on Friday, after the House and Senate adjourn, which is when your H.C.R. is adopted pursuant to Joint Rules.
8. Your H.C.R. can be ceremonially read during a House session once it is adopted. If you would like to schedule a ceremonial reading, contact Second Assistant Clerk Courtney Reckord to confirm your requested ceremonial reading date.

JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE NOTICES

Grants and Positions that have been submitted to the Joint Fiscal Committee by the Administration, under 32 V.S.A. §5(b)(3)(D):

JFO #3244: \$2,335,401.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Funds support continued crisis counseling assistance and training in response to the July 2024 flood event. *[Received February 7, 2025]*

JFO #3245: \$250,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services, Department of Health from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Funds used to provide trainings for crisis staff and to make improvements to the State's crisis system dispatch platform. *[Received February 7, 2025]*