

Journal of the House

Friday, March 21, 2025

At nine o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Jared Hamilton, Pastor, United Church of Hinesburg.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time, and referred to committee as follows:

S. 45

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to protection from nuisance suits for agricultural activities

To the Committee on Judiciary.

S. 66

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to motor vehicle noise, exhaust modifications, and engine compression brakes

To the Committee on Transportation.

S. 87

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to extradition procedures

To the Committee on Judiciary.

Ceremonial Reading

H.C.R. 49

Offered by Representative Greer of Bennington

House concurrent resolution recognizing March 21, 2025 as World Day for Glaciers in Vermont

Whereas, according to United Nations Resolution 77/158, which the United Nations General Assembly adopted on December 14, 2022, “glaciers are a

critical component of the hydrological cycle and . . . the current accelerated melting and retreat of glaciers have severe impacts on the climate, the environment, the maintenance of human well-being and health and sustainable development,” and

Whereas, the resolution further stated that “in many high mountain areas, glacier retreat and permafrost thaw are projected to further decrease the stability of slopes, and that the incidences of floods owing to glacier lake outburst or rain-on-snow, landslides and snow avalanches are projected to increase and occur in new locations or different seasons,” and

Whereas, the United Nations General Assembly also expressed “the urgent need to raise awareness of and to promote and facilitate actions and sustainable measures towards preserving glaciers,” and

Whereas, the proponents of the resolution believed that the best way for the international community to focus on these concerns was to “declare 2025 the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation and to proclaim 21 March of each year the World Day for Glaciers,” and

Whereas, the first World Day for Glaciers will be observed on March 21, 2025 and will include official events at United Nations headquarters in New York City and at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, featuring glaciologists, policymakers, and the media, designed to bring public attention to this climate situation, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes March 21, 2025 as World Day for Glaciers in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the United Nations Secretary-General.

Having been adopted in concurrence on Friday, March 14, 2025 in accord with Joint Rule 16b, was read.

Action on Bill Postponed

H. 342

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up and, pending second reading, on motion of **Rep. Marcotte of Coventry**, action on the bill was postponed until March 25, 2025.

Action on Bill Postponed**H. 141**

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

Was taken up and pending the question, Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill?, on motion of **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction**, action on the bill was postponed until March 25, 2025.

Third Reading; Bills Passed

House bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed:

H. 398

House bill, entitled

An act relating to the Vermont Economic Development Authority

H. 461

House bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding employee access to unpaid leave

H. 480

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law

**Third Reading; Bill Passed; Rules Suspended,
Messaged to the Senate Forthwith****H. 482**

House bill, entitled

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

Was taken up, read the third time, and passed.

On motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the rules were suspended and House action on the bill was ordered messaged to the Senate forthwith.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 10**

Rep. Coffin of Cavendish, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

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

Reported in favor of its passage when 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.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered**H. 319**

Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph, for the Committee on Environment, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous environmental subjects

Reported in favor of its passage when 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.

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

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, the report of the Committee on Environment agreed to, and third reading ordered.

Second Reading; Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 321

Rep. Boyden of Cambridge, for the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis amendments

Reported in favor of its passage when 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.

Rep. Higley of Lowell, for the Committee on Ways and Means, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and when further 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.

* * *

Rep. Nigro of Bennington, for the Committee on Appropriations, recommended that 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.

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and the report of the Committee on Government Operations Military Affairs agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be further amended as recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means?, **Rep. Higley of Lowell** moved to amend the report of the Committee on Ways and Means in Sec. 13a, 32 V.S.A. § 7702, in subdivision (15), after “synthetic,” by striking “and”

Which was agreed to. Thereupon, the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, as amended, was agreed to and third reading ordered.

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading;
Third Reading Ordered**

H. 484

Rep. Nelson of Derby spoke for the Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to miscellaneous agricultural subjects

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

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up, read the second time, and third reading ordered.

**Committee Bill; Favorable Report; Second Reading; Consideration
Interrupted; Third Reading Ordered**

H. 489

Rep. Scheu of Middlebury spoke for the Committee on Appropriations.

House bill, entitled

An act relating to fiscal year 2025 budget adjustments

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

The bill, having appeared on the Notice Calendar, was taken up and read the second time.

At ten o'clock and fifty-one minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

At eleven o'clock and twenty-five minutes in the forenoon, the Speaker called the House to order.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, **Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be read a third time?, was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 91. Nays, 55.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Arsenault of Williston
Austin of Colchester
Bartholomew of Hartland
Berbeco of Winooski

Durfee of Shaftsbury
Eastes of Guilford
Emmons of Springfield
Garofano of Essex

Mihaly of Calais
Minier of South Burlington
Morris of Springfield
Morrow of Weston

Birong of Vergennes	Goldman of Rockingham	Mrowicki of Putney
Bishop of Colchester	Goodnow of Brattleboro	Nigro of Bennington
Black of Essex	Graning of Jericho	Noyes of Wolcott
Bluemle of Burlington	Greer of Bennington	Nugent of South Burlington
Bos-Lun of Westminster *	Harple of Glover	O'Brien of Tunbridge
Boyden of Cambridge	Headrick of Burlington	Ode of Burlington
Brady of Williston	Holcombe of Norwich	Olson of Starksboro
Brown of Richmond	Hooper of Randolph	Pezzo of Colchester
Burke of Brattleboro	Hooper of Burlington	Pouech of Hinesburg
Burkhardt of South Burlington	Houghton of Essex Junction*	Priestley of Bradford
Burrows of West Windsor	Howard of Rutland City	Rachelson of Burlington
Campbell of St. Johnsbury	Hunter of Manchester	Satcowitz of Randolph *
Carris-Duncan of Whitingham *	James of Manchester	Scheu of Middlebury
Casey of Montpelier *	Kimbell of Woodstock	Sheldon of Middlebury
Chapin of East Montpelier	Kleppner of Burlington	Sibilia of Dover
Cina of Burlington	Kornheiser of Brattleboro	Squirrell of Underhill
Cole of Hartford	Krasnow of South Burlington	Stevens of Waterbury *
Conlon of Cornwall	Lalley of Shelburne	Stone of Burlington *
Cooper of Pownal	LaLonde of South Burlington	Surprenant of Barnard *
Corcoran of Bennington	LaMont of Morristown *	Sweeney of Shelburne *
Cordes of Bristol	Logan of Burlington *	Tomlinson of Winooski
Critchlow of Colchester	Long of Newfane	Torre of Moretown
Dodge of Essex	Masland of Thetford	Waszazak of Barre City
Dolan of Essex Junction *	McFaun of Barre Town	Waters Evans of Charlotte
Donahue of Northfield *	McGill of Bridport	White of Waitsfield
Duke of Burlington		White of Bethel
		Wood of Waterbury
		Yacovone of Morristown

Those who voted in the negative are:

Bailey of Hyde Park	Gregoire of Fairfield	Nelson of Derby
Bartley of Fairfax	Hango of Berkshire	Nielsen of Brandon
Bosch of Clarendon	Harrison of Chittenden	North of Ferrisburgh
Boutin of Barre City	Harvey of Castleton	Oliver of Sheldon
Branagan of Georgia	Higley of Lowell	Page of Newport City
Burditt of West Rutland	Howland of Rutland Town	Parsons of Newbury
Burt of Cabot	Kascenska of Burke	Pinsonault of Dorset
Canfield of Fair Haven	Keyser of Rutland City	Powers of Waterford
Casey of Hubbardton	Labor of Morgan	Pritchard of Pawlet
Charlton of Chester	Laroche of Franklin	Quimby of Lyndon
Coffin of Cavendish	Lipsky of Stowe	Southworth of Walden
Demar of Enosburgh	Luneau of St. Albans City	Steady of Milton
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Malay of Pittsford	Tagliavia of Corinth
Dobrovich of Williamstown	Marcotte of Coventry	Taylor of Milton *
Dolgin of St. Johnsbury	McCoy of Poultney *	Toof of St. Albans Town
Feltus of Lyndon	Micklus of Milton	Walker of Swanton
Galfetti of Barre Town *	Morgan, L. of Milton	Wells of Brownington
Goslant of Northfield	Morgan, M. of Milton	Winter of Ludlow
	Morrissey of Bennington	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Christie of Hartford

Maguire of Rutland City

McCann of Montpelier

Rep. Bos-Lun of Westminster provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Carris-Duncan of Whitingham provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes on this bill because this could be anybody. It could be any of us. Given the current state of our economy, this could be any of us. We could lose our job, our business could dry up, and we could find ourselves without homes.”

Rep. Casey of Montpelier provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

Government’s job is to help people – but if we can’t do that, we shouldn’t hurt them. They don’t give grades for a civilized society, but when we toss children and disabled Vermonters on the street, we deserve an ‘F.’ Take the humanity out of it and this is just a cost shift – send the bill to Montpelier, we’ll do our best to make sure people don’t die on our streets.”

Rep. Dolan of Essex Junction provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Donahue of Northfield provided the following explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted yes reluctantly but want to state clearly on the record that this has never been about denying shelter to those in need. It is about who is denied shelter given inadequate capacity – without distinguishing among who is at

greatest need. We need a better path to support all those who find themselves without safe shelter.”

Rep. Galfetti of Barre Town provided the following explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

With no prioritized qualifications in the program, many of our most vulnerable Vermonters will remain unhoused. This budget adjustment proposal highlights the unwillingness of the majority to embrace true compromise and bodes poorly for this legislative session, addressing the problems Vermonters sent us to solve.”

Rep. Houghton of Essex Junction provided the following explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. LaMont of Morristown provided the following explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

Humans are not disposable. I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Logan of Burlington provided the following explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

The Governor’s compromise position would force a thousand vulnerable Vermonters into unsheltered homelessness, by making some groups ineligible for emergency housing. His compromise is untenable and unconscionable.”

Rep. McCoy of Poultney provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

The General Assistance Housing Program, as passed last year by the Legislature, does not end on April 1. I am hopeful that when we return to this Chamber on Tuesday, prior to third reading, that there will be an agreement reached on the Budget Adjustment.”

Rep. Satcowitz of Randolph provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being—it means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Stevens of Waterbury provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

When does 99.9% agreement not constitute a compromise. Choosing to veto a bill that denies one small segment of our population. The privilege of sleeping in a bed within a room of four walls, especially with no new appropriation, is the upmost in arrogance. Putting numbers above people again is inhumane. Stubbornness in adherence to a principle that puts people’s lives at risk. Unfortunately, a mood and not a policy, and it harms far more than those currently in the hotels.”

Rep. Stone of Burlington provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and wellbeing—it means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Surprenant of Barnard provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and wellbeing. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Sweeney of Shelburne provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I vote yes to center people over politics. We implore the Governor to join us in doing the same. Fiscal responsibility and strong leadership doesn’t mean making our most vulnerable pay the price with their safety and well-being. It means stepping up when it counts.”

Rep. Taylor of Milton provided the following vote explanation:

“Madam Speaker:

I voted no today with the hope that negotiations will continue, and I can be a yes for third reading.”

Message from the Senate No. 29

A message was received from the Senate by Ms. Gradel, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Madam Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 23. An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections.

S. 27. An act relating to medical debt relief and excluding medical debt from credit reports.

S. 51. An act relating to the Vermont unpaid caregiver tax credit.

S. 59. An act relating to amendments to Vermont’s Open Meeting Law.

S. 60. An act relating to establishing the Farm Security Special Fund to provide grants for farm losses due to weather conditions.

S. 109. An act relating to miscellaneous judiciary procedures.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has adopted a proposed amendment to the Vermont Constitution entitled:

Prop 3. Declaration of Rights; right to collectively bargain.

In the adoption of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate adopted Senate resolution of the following title:

S.R. 10. Senate resolution relating to the disapproval of Executive Order 01-25.

The Senate has on its part adopted concurrent resolutions originating in the House of the following titles:

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.

Adjournment

At twelve o'clock and eight minutes in the forenoon, on motion of **Rep. McCoy of Poultney**, the House adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to the provisions of J.R.S. 18.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Rule 16b of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted on the part of the House:

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

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2025 Biennial Session.]