1	Introduced by
2	Referred to Committee on
3	Date:
4	Subject: <subject></subject>
5	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to <purpose></purpose>
6	An act relating to <title></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>* * * Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program * * *</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 699 is amended to read:</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>§ 699. VERMONT RENTAL HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>(a) Creation of Program.</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>* * *</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>(5)(A) The Department may cooperate with and subgrant funds to State</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>agencies and governmental subdivisions and public and private organizations</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>in order to carry out the purposes of this subsection.</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>(B) Entities carrying out the provisions of this section, including</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>grantees, subgrantees, and contractors of the State, shall be exempt from the</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>provisions of 8 V.S.A. chapter 73 (licensed lenders, mortgage brokers,</td></tr></tbody></table></title>

1	mortgage loan originators, sales finance companies, and loan solicitation
2	companies).
3	* * *
4	(d) Program requirements applicable to grants and forgivable loans.
5	(1)(A) A grant or loan shall not exceed÷
6	(i) \$70,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of an eligible
7	rental housing unit meeting the applicable building accessibility requirements
8	under the Vermont Access Rules; or
9	(ii) \$50,000.00 per unit, for rehabilitation or creation of any other
10	eligible rental housing unit. Up to an additional \$20,000.00 per unit may be
11	made available for specific elements that collectively bring the unit to the
12	visitable standard outlined in the rules adopted by the Vermont Access Board.
13	* * *
14	(e) Program requirements applicable to grants and five-year forgivable
15	loans. For a grant or five-year forgivable loan awarded through the Program,
16	the following requirements apply for a minimum period of five years:
17	(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local
18	coordinated entry homelessness service organizations approved by the
19	Department to identify potential tenants.
20	(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (e), a
21	landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:

1	(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years
2	of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service
3	provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;
4	(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement
5	program; or
6	(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who
7	receives or is eligible approved to receive Medicaid-funded home and
8	community based services or Social Security Disability Insurance; or
9	(iv) with approval from the Department in writing, an organization
10	that will hold a master lease that explicitly states the unit will be used in
11	service of the populations described in this subsection (e).
12	***
13	(4)(A) A landlord may convert a grant to a forgivable loan upon
14	approval of the Department and the housing organization that approved the
15	grant.
16	(B) A landlord who converts a grant to a forgivable loan shall receive
17	a 10-percent pro-rated credit for loan forgiveness for each year in which the
18	landlord participates in the Program.
19	(f) Requirements applicable to 10-year forgivable loans. For a 10-year
20	forgivable loan awarded through the Program, the following requirements
21	apply for a minimum period of 10 years:

1	(1) A landlord shall coordinate with nonprofit housing partners and local
2	coordinated entry organizations to identify potential tenants The total cost of
3	rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall not
4	exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of
5	Housing and Urban Development, except that a landlord may accept a housing
6	voucher that exceeds fair market rent, if available.
7	(2)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(B) of this subsection (f), a
8	landlord shall lease the unit to a household that is:
9	(i) exiting homelessness, including any individual under 25 years
10	of age who secures housing through a master lease held by a youth service
11	provider on behalf of individuals under 25 years of age;
12	(ii) actively working with an immigrant or refugee resettlement
13	program; or
14	(iii) composed of at least one individual with a disability who is
15	eligible to receive Medicaid-funded home and community based services.
16	(B) If, upon petition of the landlord, the Department or the housing
17	organization that issued the grant determines that a household under
18	subdivision (2)(A) of this subsection (f) is not available to lease the unit, then
19	the landlord shall lease the unit:
20	(i) to a household with an income equal to or less than 80 percent
21	of area median income; or

1	(ii) if such a household is unavailable, to another household with
2	the approval of the Department or housing organization.
3	(3)(A) A landlord shall accept any housing vouchers that are available to
4	pay all, or a portion of, the tenant's rent and utilities.
5	(B) If no housing voucher or federal or State subsidy is available, the
6	cost of rent for the unit, including utilities not covered by rent payments, shall
7	not exceed the applicable fair market rent established by the Department of
8	Housing and Urban Development.
9	(4) The Department shall forgive 10 percent of the amount of a
10	forgivable loan for each year a landlord participates in the loan program.
11	***
12	(i) Creation of the Vermont Rental Housing Improvement Program
13	Revolving Fund. Funds repaid or returned to the Department from forgivable
14	loans or grants funded by the Program shall return to the Vermont Rental
15	Housing Improvement Revolving Fund to be used for Program expenditures
16	and administrative costs at the discretion of the Department.
17	* * * MHIR * * *
18	Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 700 is added to read:
19	§ 700. VERMONT MANUFACTURED HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
20	REPAIR PROGRAM

1	(a) There is created within the Department of Housing and Community
2	Development the Manufactured Home Improvement and Repair Program. The
3	Department shall design and implement the Program to award funding to
4	statewide or regional nonprofit housing organizations, or both, to provide
5	financial assistance or awards to manufactured homeowners and manufactured
6	home park owners to improve existing homes, incentivize new slab placement
7	for prospective homeowners, and incentivize park improvements for infill of
8	more homes.
9	(b) The following projects are eligible for funding through the Program:
10	(1) The Department may award up to \$20,000.00 to owners of
11	manufactured housing communities to complete small-scale capital needs to
12	help infill vacant lots with homes, including disposal of abandoned homes, lot
13	grading and preparation, the siting and upgrading of electrical boxes,
14	enhancing E911 safety issues, transporting homes out of flood zones, and
15	improving individual septic systems. Costs awarded under this subdivision
16	may also cover legal fees and marketing to help make it easier for home-
17	seekers to find vacant lots around the State.
18	(2) The Department may award funding to manufactured homeowners
19	for which the home is their primary residence to address habitability and
20	accessibility issues to bring the home into compliance with safe living
21	conditions.

1	(3) The Department may award up to \$15,000.00 per grant to a
2	homeowner to pay for a foundation or federal Department of Housing and
3	Urban Development approved slab, site preparation, skirting, tie-downs, and
4	utility connections on vacant lots within a manufactured home community.
5	(c) The Department may adopt rules, policies, and guidelines to aid in
6	enacting the Program.
7	* * * Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund * * *
8	Sec. 3. 24 V.S.A. chapter 119, subchapter 6 is amended to read:
9	Subchapter 6: Special Funds
10	***
11	§ 4686. VERMONT INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUND
12	(a) Creation. There is created the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability
13	Fund within the Vermont Bond Bank.
14	(b) Purpose. The purpose of the Fund is to provide capital to extend and
15	increase capacity of water and sewer service and other public infrastructure in
16	municipalities where lack of extension or capacity is a barrier to housing
17	development.
18	(c) Administration. The Vermont Bond Bank may administer the Fund in
19	coordination with and support from other State agencies, government
20	component parts, and quasi-governmental agencies.
21	(d) Program parameters.

(1) The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the Department of
Housing and Community Development, shall develop program guidelines to
effective implement the Fund.
(2) The program shall provide low interest loans or bonds to
municipalities to expand infrastructure capacity. Eligible activities include:
(A) preliminary engineering and planning;
(B) engineering design and bid specifications;
(C) construction for municipal waster and wastewater systems;
(D) transportation investments, including those required by municipal
regulation, the municipality's official map, designation requirements, or other
planning or engineering identifying complete streets and transportation and
transit related improvements, including improvements to existing streets;
(E) other eligible activities as determined by the guidelines produced
by the Vermont Bond Bank in consultation with the Department of Housing
and Community Development.
(e) Application Requirements. Eligible project applications shall
demonstrate:
(1) the project will create reserve capacity necessary for new housing
unit development;
(2) the project has a direct link to housing unit production; and

1	(3) the municipality has a commitment to own and operate the project
2	throughout its useful life.
3	(f) Application Criteria. In addition to any criteria developed in the
4	program guidelines, project applications shall be evaluated using the following
5	criteria:
6	(1) whether there is a direct connection to proposed or in-progress
7	housing development with demonstrable progress toward regional housing
8	targets;
9	(2) whether the project is an expansion of an existing system and the
10	proximity to a designated area;
11	(3) the project readiness and estimated time until the need for financing;
12	(4) the ranking of the community on the Vermont Department of
13	Finance and Management, Vermont Community Index; and
14	(5) the demonstration of financing for project completion or completion
15	of a project component.
16	(g) Award terms. The Vermont Bond Bank, in consultation with the
17	Department of Housing and Community Development, shall establish award
18	terms that may include:
19	(1) the maximum loan or bond amount;
20	(2) the maximum term of the loan or bond amount:
21	(3) the time by which amortization shall commence;

1	(4) the maximum interest rate;
2	(5) whether the loan is eligible for forgiveness and to what percentage or
3	amount;
4	(6) the necessary security for the loan or bond; and
5	(7) any additional covenants encumbering the improved properties to
6	further secure the loan or bond.
7	(h) Revolving fund. Any funds repaid or returned from the Infrastructure
8	Sustainability Fund shall be deposited into the Fund and used to continue the
9	program established in this section.
10	* * * Tax Department Housing Data Access * * *
11	Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 5404 is amended to read:
12	§ 5404. DETERMINATION OF EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX GRAND
13	LIST
14	* * *
15	(b) Annually, on or before August 15, the clerk of a municipality, or the
16	supervisor of an unorganized town or gore, shall transmit to the Director in an
17	electronic or other format as prescribed by the Director: education and
18	municipal grand list data, including exemption information and grand list
19	abstracts; tax rates; an extract of the assessor database also referred to as a
20	Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system or Computer Assisted
21	Mass Appraisal database; and the total amount of taxes assessed in the town or

1	unorganized town or gore. The data transmitted shall identify each parcel by a
2	parcel identification number assigned under a numbering system prescribed by
3	the Director. Municipalities may continue to use existing numbering systems in
4	addition to, but not in substitution for, the parcel identification system
5	prescribed by the Director. If changes or additions to the grand list are made
6	by the listers or other officials authorized to do so after such abstract has been
7	so transmitted, such clerks shall forthwith certify the same to the Director.
8	* * *
9	* * * Statewide Rental Housing Registry * * *
10	Sec. 5. 3 V.S.A. § 2478 is added to read:
11	§ 2478. STATE RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRY; HOUSING DATA
12	(a) The Department of Housing and Community Development, in
13	coordination with the Division of Fire Safety, the Department of Health, the
14	Enhanced 911 Board, and the Department of Taxes, shall create and maintain a
15	registry of the rental housing in this State that includes a "dwelling unit" as
16	defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4451 and a "short-term rental" as defined in 18 V.S.A.
17	<u>§ 4301.</u>
18	(b) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall require
19	for each unit that is registered the following data:
20	(1) the name of the owner or landlord;

1	(2) phone number, email, and mailing address of the landlord, as
2	available;
3	(3) location of the unit;
4	(4) year built;
5	(5) type of rental unit;
6	(6) number of units in the building;
7	(7) school property account number;
8	(8) accessibility of the unit; and
9	(9) any other information the Department deems appropriate.
10	(c) Upon request of the Department of Housing and Community
11	Development, and at least annually, a municipal, district, or other local
12	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program that
13	requires registration of a rental housing unit and a fee for inclusion on the
14	registry shall provide to the Department the data for each unit that is required
15	pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.
16	Sec. 6. 3 V.S.A. § 2479 is added to read:
17	§ 2479. RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRATION
18	(a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an owner of long-
19	term rental housing that is subject to 9 V.S.A. chapter 137 shall:
20	(1) file with the Department of Taxes a landlord certificate; and

1	(2) within 30 days of filing the certificate, register with and pay to the
2	Department of Housing and Community Development an annual registration
3	fee of \$35.00 per rental unit, unless the owner has within the preceding
4	12 months:
5	(A) registered the unit pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; or
6	(B) registered the unit with a municipal, district, or other local
7	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program.
8	(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an owner of a
9	short-term rental, as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 4301, shall, annually, within
10	30 days of renting a unit, register with and pay to the Department of Housing
11	and Community Development an annual registration fee of \$35.00 per rental
12	unit, unless the owner has within the preceding 12 months:
13	(1) registered the unit pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; or
14	(2) registered the unit with a municipal, district, or other local
15	government entity that operates a rental housing health and safety program.
16	(c)(1) An owner of a mobile home lot within a mobile home park who has
17	registered the lot with the Department of Housing and Community
18	Development and who does not own a mobile home on the lot is exempt from
19	registering the lot pursuant to this section.
20	(2) An owner of a mobile home lot within a mobile home park who has
21	registered the lot with the Department and who owns a mobile home on the lot

1	that is available for rent or rented shall register the property with the
2	Department and pay a fee equal to the fee required by subdivision (a)(2) of this
3	section less any fee paid within the previous 12 months pursuant to 10 V.S.A.
4	<u>§ 6254(c).</u>
5	(3) An owner of a mobile home who rents the mobile home, whether
6	located in a mobile home park, shall register pursuant to this section.
7	(d) An owner of rental housing who fails to register pursuant to this section
8	shall pay a late registration fee of \$150.00 and may be subject to administrative
9	penalties not to exceed \$5,000.00 for each violation.
10	* * * Sales & Use Tax Exemption * * *
11	Sec. 7.
12	* * * VHFA First Generation Homebuyer Program * * *
13	Sec. 8.
14	* * * VHFA Down Payment Assistance Program * * *
15	Sec. 9.
16	* * * Homeownership Education Center * * *
17	Sec. 10.
18	* * * Land Bank Report Back * * *
19	Sec. 11.
20	* * * Downtown and Village Center Tax Credits * * *
21	Sec. 12. 32 V.S.A. § 5930ee is amended to read:

1	§ 5930ee. LIMITATIONS
2	Beginning in fiscal year 2010 and thereafter, the State Board may award tax
3	credits to all qualified applicants under this subchapter, provided that:
4	(1) the total amount of tax credits awarded annually, together with sales
5	tax reallocated under section 9819 of this title, does not exceed \$3,000,000.00
6	<u>\$5,000,000.00;</u>
7	* * *
8	* * * Appeals * * *
9	Sec. 13. 10 V.S.A. § 6089 is amended to read:
10	§ 6089. APPEALS
11	(a) Appeals of any act or decision of a District Commission under this
12	chapter or a district coordinator under subsection 6007(c) of this title shall be
13	made to the Environmental Division in accordance with chapter 220 of this
14	title. For the purpose of this section, a decision of the Chair of a District
15	Commission under section 6001e of this title on whether action has been taken
16	to circumvent the requirements of this chapter shall be considered an act or
17	decision of the District Commission.
18	(b) Except cases the Court considers of greater importance, proceedings
19	involving development of residential housing before the Environmental
20	Division of the Superior Court and appeals there from, take precedence on the

1	docket over all cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument
2	at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.

* * * Municipal Zoning Appeals * * *

Sec. 14. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:

§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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(b) As used in this chapter, an "interested person" means any one of the following:

9 ***

(4) Any 20 persons A minimum of 20 percent of the most recent U.S.

Census Bureau population estimate of the municipality who may be any combination of voters, residents, or real property owners within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection who, by signed petition to the appropriate municipal panel of a municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is at issue in any appeal brought under this title, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the appropriate municipal panel must designate one person to serve as the representative of the petitioners regarding all matters related to the appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, an appeal shall not include the character of the

1	area affected if the project has a residential component that includes affordable
2	housing.
3	* * *
4	(d) A party appealing a land use decision must demonstrate a clear and
5	substantial departure from the comprehensive plan or land use regulation that
6	directly affects their property.
7	* * * Priority for hearing of Housing Appeals * * *
8	Sec. 15. 24 V.S.A. § 4471 is amended to read:
9	§ 4471. APPEAL TO ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
10	* * *
11	(f) Except cases the Court considers of greater importance, proceedings
12	involving development of residential housing before the Environmental
13	Division of the Superior Court and appeals there from, take precedence on the
14	docket over all cases and shall be assigned for hearing and trial or for argument
15	at the earliest practicable date and expedited in every way.
16	(g) A party appealing a land use decision must demonstrate a clear and
17	substantial departure from the comprehensive plan or land use regulation that
18	directly affects their property.
19	Sec. 16. 10 V.S.A. § 8504 is amended to read:
20	§ 8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
21	* * *

1	(k) Limitations on appeals. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
2	section:
3	* * *
4	(4) it shall be the goal of the Environmental Division to <u>hear cases</u>
5	involving development of residential housing within 60 days and to issue a
6	decision on a case <u>involving development of residential housing or</u> regarding
7	an appeal of an appropriate municipal panel decision under 24 V.S.A. chapter
8	117 within 90 days following the close of the hearing.
9	* * *
10	* * * Attorney's Fees and Costs * * *
11	Sec. 17. 10 V.S.A. § 8507 is added to read:
12	§ 8507. LEGAL FEES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS OF APPEAL:
13	(a) If an aggrieved person elects to appeal the judgment of the appropriate
14	municipal panel on an approved application for a project involving residential
15	housing to the court under this chapter, and court rules in favor of the
16	applicant, the court shall require the aggrieved person to compensate, in a
17	sufficient sum as the court directs, the permit applicant for an amount not to
18	exceed \$50,000 consisting of:
19	(1) the permit applicant's reasonable attorney's fees; and
20	(2) tangible costs incurred by the permit applicant in defending the
21	permit, such as costs of studies and other analysis.

1	(b) The court may grant dispensation from the compensation required in
2	section (a) for aggrieved persons that can demonstrate undue hardship due to
3	income status or other factors in the court's discretion.
4	Sec. X. 24 V.S.A. § 4465 is amended to read:
5	§ 4465. APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
6	* * *
7	(b) As used in this chapter, an "interested person" means any one of the
8	following:
9	* * *
10	(3) A person owning or occupying property in the immediate
11	neighborhood of a property that is the subject of any decision or act taken
12	under this chapter, who can demonstrate a physical or environmental impact on
13	the person's particularized interest under the criteria reviewed, and who alleges
14	that the decision or act, if confirmed, will not be in accord with the policies,
15	purposes, or terms of the plan or bylaw of that municipality.
16	(4) Any 20 persons who may be any combination of voters, residents, or
17	real property owners within a municipality listed in subdivision (2) of this
18	subsection who, by signed petition to the appropriate municipal panel of a
19	municipality, the plan or a bylaw of which is at issue in any appeal brought
20	under this title, allege that any relief requested by a person under this title, if
21	granted, will not be in accord with the policies, purposes, or terms of the plan

1	or bylaw of that municipality. This petition to the appropriate municipal panel
2	must designate one person to serve as the representative of the petitioners
3	regarding all matters related to the appeal. For purposes of this subdivision, an
4	appeal shall not include the character of the area affected if the project has a
5	residential component that includes affordable housing.
6	(5) Any department and administrative subdivision of this State owning
7	property or any interest in property within a municipality listed in subdivision
8	(2) of this subsection, and the Agency of Commerce and Community
9	Development of this State.
10	Sec. 18. 10 V.S.A. §8504 is amended to read:
11	§8504. APPEALS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION
12	* * *
13	(h) De novo hearing. The Environmental Division, applying the
14	substantive standards that were applicable before the tribunal appealed from,
15	shall hold a de novo hearing on those issues that have been appealed, except in
16	the case of:
17	(1) a decision being appealed on the record pursuant to 24 V.S.A.
18	chapter 117;
19	(2) a decision of the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation
20	under section 2625 of this title being appealed on the record, in which case the

1	court shall affirm the decision, unless it finds that the Commissioner did not
2	have reasonable grounds on which to base the decision;

(3) a decision from an appropriate municipal panel regarding a housing development, in which case to prevail, a party appealing the decision shall demonstrate a clear and substantial departure from the municipal bylaw that directly affects the property.

* * *

Sec. 19. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 181, Sec. 11a is amended to read:

Sec. 11a. ACT 250 APPEALS STUDY

(a) On or before January 15, 2026 November 15, 2025, the Land Use Review Board shall issue a report evaluating whether to transfer appeals of permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151 to the Land Use Review Board or whether they should remain at the Environmental Division of the Superior Court. The Board shall convene a stakeholder group that at a minimum shall be composed of a representative of environmental interests, attorneys that practice environmental and development law in Vermont, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Land Access and Opportunity Board, the Office of Racial Equity, the Vermont Association of Realtors, a representative of non-profit housing development interests, a representative of for-profit housing

- development interests, a representative of commercial development interests, an engineer with experience in development, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and the Agency of Natural Resources in preparing the report. The Board shall provide notice of the stakeholder meetings on its website and each meeting shall provide time for public comment.
 - (b) The report shall at minimum recommend:
 - (1) whether to allow consolidation of appeals at the Board, or with the Environmental Division of the Superior Court, and how, <u>including what resources the Board would need</u>, if transferred to the Board, appeals of permit decisions issued under 24 V.S.A. chapter 117 and the Agency of Natural Resources can be consolidated with Act 250 appeals;
 - (2) how to prioritize and expedite the adjudication of appeals related to housing projects, including the use of hearing officers to expedite appeals and the setting of timelines for processing of housing appeals;
 - (3) procedural rules to govern the Board's administration of Act 250 and the adjudication of appeals of Act 250 decisions. These rules shall include procedures to create a firewall and eliminate any potential for conflicts with the Board managing appeals and issuing permit decisions and jurisdictional opinions; and

(4) other actions the Board should take to promote the efficient and
effective adjudication of appeals, including any procedural improvements to
the Act 250 permitting process and jurisdictional opinion appeals.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Environment and Energy.

* * * * *

- 8 Sec. 20. 30 V.S.A. § 8002 is amended to read:
- 9 § 8002. DEFINITIONS

10 * * *

(10) "Group net metering system" means a net metering system serving more than one customer, or a single customer with multiple electric meters, located within the service area of the same retail electricity provider. Various buildings owned by municipalities, including water and wastewater districts, fire districts, villages, school districts, and towns, may constitute a group net metering system. A union or district school facility may be considered in the same group net metering system with buildings of its member schools that are located within the service area of the same retail electricity provider. A system that files a complete application for a certificate of public good on or after January 1, 2026 shall not qualify for group net metering, unless the plant will be located on the same parcel, or a parcel adjacent to, the parcel where the

1	energy is utilized or if the system serves a multifamily building containing
2	qualified rental units serving low-income tenants, as defined under 32 V.S.A.
3	5404a(a)(6).
4	* * *
5	(16) "Net metering system" means a plant for generation of electricity
6	that:
7	(A) is of not more than 500 kW capacity;
8	(B) operates in parallel with facilities of the electric distribution
9	system;
10	(C) is intended primarily to offset the customer's own electricity
11	requirements and does not primarily supply electricity to electric vehicle
12	supply equipment, as defined in section 201 of this title, for the resale of
13	electricity to the public by the kWh or for other retail sales to the public,
14	including those based in whole or in part on a flat fee per charging session or a
15	time-based fee for occupying a parking space while using electric vehicle
16	supply equipment;
17	(D)(i) employs a renewable energy source; or
18	(ii) is a qualified micro-combined heat and power system of 20
19	kW or fewer that meets the definition of combined heat and power in
20	subsection 8015(b) of this title and uses any fuel source that meets air quality
21	standards; and

1	(E)(i) for a system that files a complete application for a certificate of
2	public good after December 31, 2024, except for systems as provided for in
3	subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (E), generates energy that will be used on
4	the same parcel as, or a parcel adjacent to, the parcel where the plant is located;
5	(ii) for a system that files a complete application for a certificate
6	of public good after December 31, 2025, if unless the system serves a
7	multifamily building containing qualified rental units serving low-income
8	tenants, as defined under 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(a)(6), generates then the system
9	may or may not generate energy that will be used on the same parcel as, or a
10	parcel adjacent to, the parcel where the plant is located; and
11	(iii) for . For purposes of subdivisions (10) of this section and this
12	subdivision (16), two parcels shall be adjacent if they share a property
13	boundary or are adjacent and separated only by a river, stream, railroad line,
14	private road, public highway, or similar intervening landform.
15	***
16	* * * Bylaws * * *
17	Sec. 21. 24 V.S.A. § 4441 is amended to read:
18	§ 4441. PREPARATION OF BYLAWS AND REGULATORY TOOLS;
19	AMENDMENT OR REPEAL
20	* * *

1	(i) Notwithstanding this section and any other law to the contrary, for
2	bylaw amendments that are required to comply with amendments to this
3	chapter, no hearings are required to be held on the bylaw amendments.
4	* * * * * * *
5	Sec. 22. 30 V.S.A. § § 209 is amended to read:
6	§ 209. JURISDICTION; GENERAL SCOPE
7	* * *
8	(d) Energy efficiency.
9	* * *
10	(6) Provision of equity and justice in services; requirements. Any
11	appointed entity shall ensure an equitable and just provision of services.
12	(A) Not less than 25 percent of the annual budget shall be targeted
13	for residential services for customers with low to moderate income.
14	(B) Not less than 12.5 percent of the annual budget shall be targeted
15	for small businesses and not-for-profit organizations.
16	(C) The cost of providing services under this subsection (6) shall be
17	excluded from the calculation of cost-effectiveness for the appointed entities'
18	portfolio of services.
19	* * *
20	* * * Brownfields * * *
21	Sec. 23.

1	* * * Assessments * * *
2	Sec. 24.
3	* * * Appropriations * * *
4	Sec. 25. APPROPRIATIONS
5	The following shall be appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal year
6	<u>2026:</u>
7	(1) the sum of \$250,000.00 to the Department of Housing and
8	Community Development granted to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency to
9	implement the recommendations in the 2025 "Opportunities to Utilize Off-Site
10	Construction to Meet Vermont's Housing, Workforce and Climate Goals"
11	report issued January 9, 2025.
12	(2) The sum of \$735,000.00 to the Vermont State Colleges System for
13	the purpose of supporting the creation of new apprenticeships, curriculum
14	development, employer partnerships, and faculty training in the fields of
15	HVAC and information technology, including cyber security. The Vermont
16	State Colleges System shall, on or before January 31, 2027, issue a report to
17	the House Committee on General and Housing and the Senate Committee on
18	Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs describing how the
19	funds appropriated pursuant to this section have been spent, how any
20	remaining funds appropriated pursuant to this section will be spent, and how

1	the creation of these new programs have improved workforce development
2	issues in the State.
3	(3) The sum of \$39,100,000.00 to the Department of Housing and
4	Community Development in fiscal year 2026 for the following purposes:
5	(A) \$15,000,000.00 granted to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency
6	to continue implementation of the Middle-Income Homeownership
7	Development Program;
8	(B) \$15,000,000.00 granted to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency
9	to continue implementation of the Rental Housing Revolving Loan Fund; and
10	(C) \$9,100,000.00 granted to the Vermont Bond Bank to implement
11	the Vermont Infrastructure Sustainability Fund.
12	(4) The sum of \$6,000,000.00 to the Agency of Human Services to be
13	granted to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to administer the
14	Resident Services Program established in Sec. 88 of 2024 Acts and Resolves
15	<u>181.</u>
16	Sec. 26. EFFECTIVE DATE
17	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.