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Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2025 Legislative Priorities



Josh Hanford
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Jhanford@vlct.org

Samantha Sheehan
Municipal Policy and Advocacy Specialist
ssheehan@vlct.org

What is VLCT?

Every city and town in Vermont, including yours, is a member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1967 to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. In addition to legislative advocacy, VLCT provides:

- Educational workshops for local officials
- Comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities
- Confidential legal guidance from experienced municipal attorneys
- The Vermont Municipal Data Project
- Help for state agencies and legislative working groups



NEW Our Municipal Operations Support Team is funded by a \$1 million USDA RD grant to assist local officials with financial management, grant funding, ARPA, project development, and more

VLCT 2025 Legislative Priorities

Support municipalities in meeting the obligations and functions of today's local government and help them take action to solve the challenges of the 21st century.

2025

Support

Lower Property Taxes

Enable municipalities to raise local revenues and control expenses, avoid shifting state costs and obligations to local budgets.

Invest Locally

Provide reliable funding beyond competitive grants to municipalities to support the delivery of essential services, innovative programs, and the maintenance of public infrastructure.

Improve Accountability

Ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, compliance, and equity across state and local government.

Action

Create Housing

Authorize new incentives and investment in infrastructure to support housing growth and create shelter, transitional housing, and services to address Vermont's homelessness crisis.

Promote Public Safety

Increase treatment options, law enforcement training opportunities, and judicial accountability.

Build Resilient Communities

Work across government silos to address flood resiliency, water quality, sustainable growth, and the impacts of climate change.



H.86 Chloride Contamination Reduction Program

Municipalities are aligned with efforts to reduce environmental impacts and expense from spreading salt

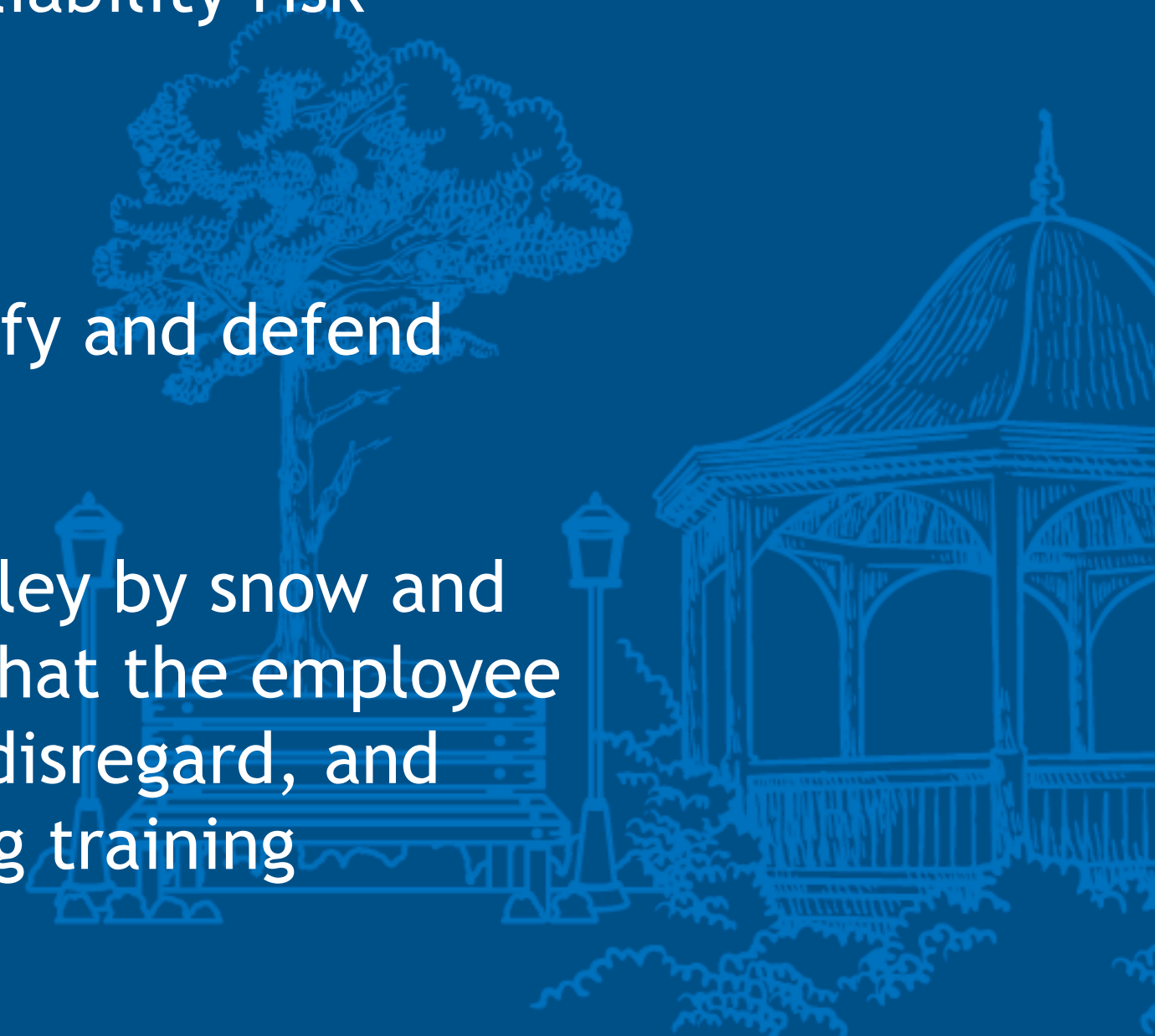
- Any program must be voluntary, municipal resources vary
- Support for implementation and funding for compliance and oversight would increase participation
- NH differentiates between Municipal and Commercial applicators for their Green Snow Program, Municipal requirements are modified, and the Program provides template salt reduction plans



H.86 Proposed Civil Liability Protections are Inadequate

VLCT is reluctant to discuss plans to cut down on chloride without commensurate action to limit monetary liability for taxpayers.

- Adequate protection from monetary liability would likely result in reduced salt application regardless of other features of this program, municipalities are balancing water impairment against public safety and liability risk
- The presumption of compliance is rebuttable
- Pursuant to Title 24, municipalities have a duty to indemnify and defend employees
- Municipality would have to prove the event was caused "solely by snow and ice", that the application was according to best practice, that the employee or contractor did not commit gross negligence or reckless disregard, and meet other requirements such as record keeping, attending training



Municipalities Lack Underlying Liability Protection

VLCT is reluctant to discuss plans to cut down on chloride without commensurate action to limit monetary liability for taxpayers.

- VLCT supports H.138 to provide municipalities a monetary cap for liability in parity with the State of Vermont
- Since 2011: The maximum liability of the State under Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. chapter 189 is \$500,000.00 to any one person and a maximum aggregate liability of \$2,000,000.00 to all persons for each occurrence
- This liability protection from tort claims would apply to school districts as well and would not affect suits related to criminal conduct or violations of civil liberty
- With a monetary cap, plaintiffs can still bring a claim and could receive a settlement



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Questions???



Josh Hanford
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
jhanford@vlct.org

Samantha Sheehan
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