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SEN. ROBERT PLUNKETT  
SEN. DAVID WEEKS



REP. TREVOR SQUIRRELL, CHAIR  
REP. MARK HIGLEY  
REP. CAROL ODE  
REP. LARRY SATCOWITZ

## STATE OF VERMONT

### Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

4/2/2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on April 2, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Room 10 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

Sen. Seth Bongartz, Vice Chair  
Sen. Scott Beck  
Sen. Robert Plunkett  
Sen. David Weeks

Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair  
Rep. Mark Higley  
Rep. Carol Ode  
Rep. Larry Satcowitz

Staff present:

Bradley Showman  
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel  
Committee Assistant

#### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

On motion of Rep. Ode, the March 26, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.

#### **Review of Rules**

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

**25-P047 - Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) Amendments.** Brittney Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, answered questions from the Committee. Bob Duncan, Duncan Wisniewski Architecture; Sandra Vitzthum, Member, Public Policy Committee, The American Institute of Architects, Vermont Chapter; Jenny Carter, Professor and Senior Attorney, Vermont Law and Graduate School; and Andy Shapiro, President, Energy Balance, Inc., also testified on the rule.

This rule amendment updates the Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) that regulate aspects of the design and construction of residential buildings that relate to the efficient use of energy. This amendment permits architects, builders, and other building professionals to

follow either the 2020 RBES or the 2024 RBES for purposes of complying with Vermont's residential building energy code.

The Committee considered this rule together with 25-P048, Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES).

**25-P048 - Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES) Amendments.**

Brittney Wilson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Service, answered questions from the Committee. Bob Duncan, Duncan Wisniewski Architecture; Sandra Vitzthum, Member, Public Policy Committee, The American Institute of Architects, Vermont Chapter; Jenny Carter, Professor and Senior Attorney, Vermont Law and Graduate School; and Andy Shapiro, President, Energy Balance, Inc., also testified on the rule.

This rule amendment updates the Vermont Commercial Building Energy Standards (CBES) that regulate aspects of the design and construction of commercial buildings that relate to the efficient use of energy. Like Rule 25-P047, this amendment permits architects, builders, and other building professionals to follow either the 2020 CBES or the 2024 CBES for purposes of complying with Vermont's commercial building energy code.

The Committee decided to neither approve nor object to Rule 25-P048 and Rule 25-P047.

**24-P042 - General Assistance Emergency Housing Assistance Rules.** The Department for Children and Families (DCF) submitted written testimony, but did not appear to testify on the rule. Leah Burdick, Staff Attorney, Vermont Legal Aid, testified on the rule.

This rule was considered by the Committee in February and March 2025. On February 18, the Committee objected to the rule as contrary to legislative intent. On February 20, DCF responded with a memo proposing to remove portions of the rule to which the Committee objected. On March 13, the Committee approved the proposed rule as amended by DCF's February 20 memo. However, DCF never adopted the final rule. In February 2026, Vermont Legal Aid submitted a request for the Committee to compel DCF's failure to adopt the rule.

Prior to this meeting, the Committee asked DCF to provide testimony on why DCF did not adopt the final proposed rule, as amended, after the Committee approved the rule in 2025, the status of the existing rules for the General Assistance Emergency Housing program, the authority under which DCF is currently operating the Program, and DCF's plan for future rulemaking regarding the Program.

The Committee decided to submit a memo to DCF that directs DCF to provide a more thorough response to the Committee's inquiries.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for April 9, 2026, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Room 10 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Showman  
Committee Counsel

cc: APA Clerk, Secretary of State  
ICAR, Agency of Administration