

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

## STATE OF VERMONT

### Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

MINUTES

January 22, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, January 22, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 10 of the State House 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  
Damien Leonard  
Lindsey Schreier

Committee Counsel  
Committee Counsel  
Committee Assistant

### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting.

### **Review of Rules**

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

**25-P035 – Vermont Public Utility Commission/Rule 9.000 Rule Regarding the Installation, Construction, Operation, and Aggregation of Energy Storage Facilities.** Mary Jo Krolewski, Utilities Analyst, and Jake Marren, Staff Attorney, Vermont Public Utility Commission, answered questions regarding fire safety that LCAR posed at the January 15 meeting.

This new rule implements processes to apply for a certificate of public good for certain energy storage facilities. This rule also implements additional requirements for energy storage

facilities relating to interconnection; safety; duties for utilities, owners, operators, and aggregators; participation in wholesale energy markets; and facility decommissioning.

On motion of Rep. Higley, the Committee approved the rule with the proposed changes from the Public Utility Commission's January 21, 2026, memo.

**25-P031 - Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets/Best Management Practices for the Use of Neonicotinoid Treated Article Seeds and Neonicotinoid Pesticides.** Zachary Szczukowski, Agrichemical Program Manager, and Steve Dwinell, Director, Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division, answered questions from the Committee.

This new rule implements the provisions of 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 182 that prohibited the use of neonicotinoid treated article seeds and neonicotinoid pesticides unless subject to a written exemption. The rule establishes best management practices (BMPs) for the use of neonicotinoid treated article seeds and neonicotinoid pesticides when their use is authorized by law.

On motion of Rep. Higley, the Committee approved the rule with the proposed changes from the Agency's January 13, 2026, memo.

**25-P039 - Office of the State Treasurer/Vermont Saves Program Rule.** Rebecca Wasserman, Director of Economic Empowerment, and Justin St. James, General Counsel, Office of the State Treasurer, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This amendment updates the existing rule to change the definition of "covered employee" to remove a requirement that covered employees work at least 500 hours per calendar year. The rule also changes the definition of "covered employer" to include employers with two or more employees, down from five or more employees in the existing rule. The changes would increase the number of employers required to participate and the number of employees who may participate in the Vermont Saves Program.

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the rule. Rep. Higley and Sen. Beck voted to oppose approving the rule.

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in room 10 of the State House in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Showman  
Committee Counsel

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