

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

May 28, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday May 28, 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 Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the May 21, 2026, minutes.

#### **Review of Rules**

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

**25-P049 - Unemployment Insurance Self-Employment Assistance Program.** Dirk Anderson, Director of Workers' Compensation and Safety for the Department of Labor, explained the rule and answered questions.

This rule amendment creates a procedure for administering benefits through the Self-Employment Assistance Program. Pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 85, the Self-Employment Assistance Program provides unemployment benefits for self-employment activities for certain individuals who are eligible for unemployment benefits. The rule amendment outlines the application process, approval criteria, and termination criteria for the program.

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the rule.

**26-P002 - Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations.** Anna Bourakovsky, Program Manager of the Hazardous Materials Program for the Waste Management and Prevention Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation, explained the rule and answered questions.

This rule amendment conforms State rules with federal requirements regarding the management and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). The rule amendment also addresses hazardous waste transportation, and storage and management of state-listed cleanup debris generated as a result of an emergency response.

The Committee expressed concerns about the safe disposal of PCB in Vermont landfills. The Committee continued the proposed rule to the next meeting.

**26-P007 - Regulated Introduced Plant Species.** Emilie Inoue, Plant Health Section Chief of the Plant Industry Division for the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, explained the rule and answered questions.

This rule amendment would replace the existing Noxious Weed Quarantine rule. This rule amendment would replace the list of plant pest species that is written in the rule with a pest risk assessment process to update the quarantine list of introduced plant pest species on at least an annual basis. The rule amendment also would create a watch list for plant species under consideration for addition to the quarantine list. This rule amendment clarifies prohibited activities, updates definitions, adds acceptable management practices, and strengthens consistency with federal regulations.

The Committee proposed the following change: in Section 3.02, following the first instance of “The Secretary,” changing “may” to “shall.” The Agency agreed to make the change in the adopted rule.

On motion of Rep. Higley, the Committee approved the rule with the change in Section 3.02 as agreed upon by the Agency.

**25-P046 - Vermont Workers’ Compensation and Occupational Disease Rules 1-27.** Dirk Anderson, Director of Workers’ Compensation and Safety, and Beth DeBernardi, Staff Attorney, both for the Department of Labor, explained the rule and answered questions.

This rule amendment would implement requirements from 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 40, including creating a process for injured workers to request medical case management and increasing penalties for late payment of weekly benefits. This rule also clarifies page limits on filings submitted to administrative law judges, deletes an obsolete cross-reference, clarifies that a

medical case manager's file is discoverable, and creates a process for requesting a change of the assigned medical case manager.

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee approved the rule.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Committee adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 18, 2026, beginning at 10:00 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