

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

April 30, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, April 30, 2026, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Room 11 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 (remote)
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 April 9, 2026, minutes.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

25-P047 and 25-P048 - Vermont Residential (RBES) and Commercial (CBES) Building Energy Standards Amendments.

The Committee discussed a draft memo that explains the Committee's decision to neither approve nor object to the RBES and CBES rules. The memo explains the Committee's concerns with the Department of Public Service not convening an Advisory Committee prior to adopting the new rules, the Department's economic impact analysis, the Department's rule alternatives, and the Department's consideration of available resources or software to assist in compliance with the rules. The memo also encourages the Department to engage in new rulemaking to address these concerns.

On motion of Sen. Bongartz, the Committee approved sending the memo to the Department of Public Service.

24-P042 - General Assistance Emergency Housing Assistance Rules.

The Committee requested that a representative from the Department for Children and Families (DCF) testify regarding this rule in response to a March 26, 2026, memo from DCF. The Committee sent DCF a memo requesting testimony regarding DCF's decision to not adopt Rule 24-P42, asking DCF to respond to Vermont Legal Aid's April 1 memo asserting that DCF was required to adopt the rules, analysis on the cost of adopting Rule 24-P42 if cost is a barrier to adoption, analysis on the status of existing rules for the Emergency Housing Program, and DCF's plan for future rulemaking.

Kristin McClure, Deputy Secretary for the Agency of Human Services, responded to questions from the Committee.

25-P040 - Vermont Wetland Rules. Michael O'Grady, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Office of Legislative Counsel, explained concerns with the rule and possible grounds for objection. Misty Sinsigalli, Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Conservation, testified on the rule.

This rule amendment updates the Vermont Wetland Rules to support and accelerate housing development in designated growth areas and incorporates additional wetland protections required pursuant to 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 121. This amendment would permit construction of residential housing in unmapped Class II wetlands and at least 25 feet from mapped Class II wetlands. This amendment also removes the reconsideration process for denied permits as a step before seeking appeal.

Due to time constraints, consideration of this rule was continued to the May 7, 2026, meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 7, 2026, beginning at 8:00 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