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REP. MARK HIGLEY
REP. CAROL ODE
REP. LARRY SATCOWITZ

STATE OF VERMONT

Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES MINUTES October 15, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, October 15, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 10 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

The following members were present:

Sen. Seth Bongartz, Vice Chair	Rep. Trevor Squirrell, Chair
Sen. Robert Plunkett	Rep. Carol Ode
	Rep. Larry Satcowitz

The following members were present via Zoom but did not participate in voting:

Sen. David Weeks	Rep. Mark Higley

Staff present:

Bradley Showman	Committee Counsel
Megan Cannella	Supervisor of Committee Services

Approval of Prior Minutes

On motion of Rep. Ode, the Committee approved the minutes from the August 20, 2026, meeting.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

26-P018 - VOSHA Review Board – VOSHA Review Board Rules of Procedure. Gary McQuesten, the Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration Review (VOSHA) Board Chair, and Carolyn Desch, Clerk for the VOSHA Review Board, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment updates the VOSHA Review Board Rules of Procedure. This rule makes conforming changes to match the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure and federal OSHA Rules of Procedure. This rule updates filing requirements, service requirements for discovery, requests for relief from discovery, appearance requirements for attorneys licensed in another state, and

petitions for discretionary review by the Review Board. This rule also adds a requirement to disclose corporate parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates for corporate filers.

On motion of Rep. Satcowitz, the Committee approved the rule with the amendments proposed in the memorandum from the VOSHA Review Board dated September 14, 2026.

26-P025 - Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board - 10 App. V.S.A. § 7, Bear Management Rule. Hannah Smith, General Counsel for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Jaclyn Comeau, Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to eliminate the early and late season delineations to create one bear hunting season that would extend through the end of the deer hunting seasons, which is typically mid-December. This extension adds about three additional weeks to bear hunting season. This rule also would permit hunters to purchase a second bear tag permit. This rule prohibits the intentional taking of denning bears and the taking of sows with cubs.

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

26-E03 - Department for Children and Families - Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum. Sandi Hoffman, Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families, and Heidi Moreau, Policy Advisor for the Department for Children and Families, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

Brenda Siegel, Executive Director of End Homelessness Vermont; Sarah Launderville, Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Independent Living; Leah Burdick, Staff Attorney for Vermont Legal Aid; Jessica Radbord, Staff Attorney for ACLU of Vermont; and Rory Van Tuinen, Co-Founder of Cultivating Connections Vermont, also testified on the rule.

This new emergency rule implements the Vermont Homelessness Response Continuum Program established by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 143. This program is meant to replace the current emergency housing program. The Program delivers services for households that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness through a tiered delivery system based on need. The tiered system includes (1) prevention and diversion, (2) shelter services, (3) specialized shelter services, and (4) hotels and motels. This rule includes rules for the fourth tier only. This rule also incorporates permanent supportive housing services and emergency housing services, including extreme cold weather shelters.

This rulemaking is an emergency rule as required by 2026 Acts and Resolves No. 143, Sec. 8. The deadline to adopt a permanent rule is October 1, 2027.

Due to time constraints, the Committee continued discussion of this rule to the October 29, 2026, meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 29, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 11 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Showman
Committee Counsel