

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

August 20, 2026

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules met on Thursday, August 20, 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
Sen. Scott Beck
Sen. Robert Plunkett
Sen. David Weeks

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

Staff present:

Damien Leonard
Megan Cannella

Committee Counsel
Supervisor of Committee Services

Approval of Prior Minutes

On motion of Rep. Ode, the Committee approved the minutes from the August 6, 2026, meeting.

Review of Rules

The Committee reviewed the following rules:

26-P012 – Agency of Human Services - Agency Designation. Ashley Johns, General Counsel of the Agency of Human Services (AHS), explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee. Simone Rueschemeyer, Executive Director, and Amy Johnson, Director of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy, of Vermont Care Partners testified in relation to the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to make several updates the requirements for AHS to designate nonprofit agencies to deliver community mental health and intellectual or developmental disability services. This rule would update the process for a designated agency to request assistance from the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) to serve clients with extraordinary needs, request a change in expenditures or reduction in services, request that payments continue if services are interrupted due to extraordinary circumstances, and implement and provide services generally. This rule also would update requirements for a

designated agency's Board of Directors (or equivalent) bylaws, agency recordkeeping, data policy, use of artificial intelligence policy, event reporting, and for the agency's fair hearing process for client complaints. This rule would update rules related to DAIL oversight of designated agencies, including provisions related to records review and agency compliance with federal and State law.

On motion of Sen. Beck, the Committee approved the rule with the amendments proposed in the memorandum from the Agency of Human Services dated August 17, 2026.

25-P014 – Department of Fish and Wildlife - 10 App. V.S.A. § 2. Report, big game (CVR 12-010-090). Hannah Smith, General Counsel for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to amend 10 App. V.S.A. § 2 to increase the fee the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife would pay to agents at authorized reporting stations for each big game animal taken in the State. The rule also would prohibit knowingly making false statements in these reports.

On motion of Rep. Satcowitz, the Committee approved the rule with the amendments proposed in the memorandum from the Department of Fish and Wildlife dated August 19, 2026.

26-P015 – Department of Fish and Wildlife - 10 App. V.S.A. § 2a. Big game; tagging (CVR 12-010-032). Hannah Smith, General Counsel for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to require additional information that must be reported on a big game tag, including the person's name and permit number if applicable. This amendment would also require tagging for landowners taking game on their own property.

On motion of Rep. Satcowitz, the Committee approved the rule.

26-P016 – Department of Fish and Wildlife - 10 App. V.S.A. § 5. Bow and arrow and crossbow standards. Hannah Smith, General Counsel, and Col. Justin Stedman, Chief Warden, from the Department of Fish and Wildlife explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment proposes to change rules regarding the size of an arrowhead for a bow and a crossbow.

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

26-P017 – Department of Fish and Wildlife - 10 App. V.S.A. § 12. Leashed tracking dogs (CVR 12-010-059). Hannah Smith, General Counsel for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This rule amendment would change rules regarding using leashed dogs to track injured deer and bears during the animal's respective hunting season. This rule would permit individuals to use a leashed dog to track any injured big game animal at any point during the year.

On motion of Sen. Beck, the Committee approved the rule with the amendments proposed in the memorandum from the Department of Fish and Wildlife dated August 19, 2026.

26-E02 – Agency of Transportation - Inspection of Motor Vehicles. Capt. Benjamin Shelp, Vermont Highway Patrol, for the Department of Motor Vehicles, explained the rule and answered questions from the Committee.

This emergency rule amendment updates the requirements for annual motor vehicle inspections to remove failure reasons that are not directly related to motor vehicle safety. Items being removed include: all references to on-road testing; tire cuts, snags, or weather cracks; broken power steering belts; loss of shock absorber function; rust on brakes; headlamp aiming; anti-lock braking system or airbag failure lights; horn, speedometer, and odometer malfunction; cracks or star breaks on windshield; power window malfunction; and damaged windshield wiper blades. The emergency rule amendment also proposed to prohibit the modification of a motorcycle exhaust system in a manner that would result in an unreasonable sound level.

On motion of Sen. Weeks, the Committee voted to approve the rule with the removal of the proposed amendments related to motorcycle exhaust systems, as discussed during the Committee meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for October 15, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Room 11 of the State House Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,

Damien Leonard
Committee Counsel