

1/18/05

## VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #2

The Legislative committees, now formed, have begun to publish agendas – the first week listed many “meet and greet” sessions and “issue overview” introductions with administration officials, legislative council staff and lobbyists. This week the committee agendas continue some of that, (e.g., Housing & Community Affairs Overview – House Commerce Thursday 1/20 at 3PM) and budget adjustment presentations (Agency of Commerce & Community Affairs – House Appropriations, Wed 1/19 8:45 AM, and Senate Economic Development and Housing Committee 9:30 AM).

The House Fish, Wildlife & Water Resources Committee [“Wet & Wild”] is scheduling overviews and introductions to water supply, stormwater (Tues and Wed) as well as ANR wetlands, wastewater and watershed planners later this week. See their agenda at <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/schedule/agenda-w.cfm?Session=2000&CommID=5>

The committees also this week began consideration of specific bills – a few specific bills and issues of interest to planners:

### **House Gov’t Operations Committee**

**H.12 [Limiting] Municipal Regulation of Amateur Radio Antennae** - presentation by Rep. Pat Brennan of Colchester – Wednesday 1/19, 11:00

**Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) bill** (this could include discussion of the licensing of landscape architects issue) – Tues 1/18, 2 :15 and Thursday 1/20, 10:30

### **House Natural Resources & Energy Committee**

**Public Service Department’s 20 yr Electric Plan** – Tues and Wed 1/18 & 1/19

**H.28 Outdoor Lighting Bill**–presentation by Rep. Bob Kiss and testimony by Tom Torti, Dept. of State Bldgs, Chris Owen, Public Service Dept. and Lou Borie, Environmental Board, and Deb Sachs, VPA’s President, Thurs 1/20, 10:15. Deb has been involved in the drafting of this bill and has asked to represent VPA on this issue.

Of note amongst the raft of new bills posted since last week is **H.49, the Climate Change bill.**

The big event scheduled this week is Gov. Douglas’ budget address at 2 pm on Wednesday.

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