

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #3

1/31/05

Another batch of new bills was added to the Legislative Council web site this week. A trio of housing bills was included:

H.110 (and S.54) Rental Housing Registry – Department of Public Safety inspection program

H.111 Receivership of unsafe / unhealthy housing units

H.112 Removal of Fair Housing Impediments – DHCA \$75,000

Also:

H.114 Waterfront Protection Standards – reintroduced by Rep. Deen – establishing statewide regulation of waterfront areas (250' from all public waters) including minimum lot requirements, vegetation preservation and related controls to be prescribed by the Secretary of ANR

H.130 Fee Bill – Sec 15. Labor & Industry fees upped to \$5.50 per thousand

H.131 Dam Removal – another Rep. Deen bill

H.140 Local option taxes – removing sunset date and opening these options to all municipalities

S.6 ANR Restructuring – goals and procedure, legislative oversight

The committee agendas are revealing the bills and issues that are emerging as priorities as the bill sponsors and interest groups jockey for agenda time...

Selected committee agenda items of interest to planners this week:

House Appropriations Committee

Wednesday 2pm **Municipal and Regional Planning Funding – FY 2006** – Peter Gregory
VAPDA (any other planners or agencies interested in planning funding?)

House Natural Resources & Energy Committee

Tuesday 10:30-12:00 **Wind Energy – Wind Commission Report**

Tuesday 3:30-4:30 **H.28 (Outdoor Lighting Bill)** – Al Boright Legislative Counsel

Wednesday 8:30-10:00 **H. 49 Greenhouse Gas** – Al Boright Legislative Counsel

Thursday 8:30 – 10:00 **Act 250 exemption for Trails** – Darby Bradley, VT Land Trust

Senate Agriculture Committee

Tuesday 8:00-9:30 **Ag Lands Mitigation** – six witnesses scheduled, including Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Senate Gov't Operations Committee

Thursday 9:30-10:30 **S.7 Landscape Architects** – James Donovan, Landscape Architect and Tom O'Connor, Chair of the Professional Engineers Licensing Board

Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee

All days – **S.52 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards**

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