

4/11/05

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #12

New Bills:

Only three new bills appeared on the Legislative Council Web site since last week. One of these of interest is S.165, introduced by the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. S. 165 concerns economic development; tax incentives; and the Vermont Economic Progress Council. The bill statement of purpose is: to improve the effectiveness and accountability of the state's economic development programs.

Reportedly withdrawn: S.153 – Statewide Cap on Big Box Retail Stores.

Senator Illuzzi is reported to have stated that in light of Bennington's vote overturning its bylaw and urging by VLCT and communities to leave this issue to local communities, his proposal for a statewide cap will be withdrawn.

Of note on the House Calendar for Tuesday April 12th :

H. 28 Guidelines for use of Outdoor Lighting.

Rep. Canfield for Natural Resources and Energy

Rep. Bohi for Government Operations – Amendment:

The department of buildings and general services, or the owner of a state funded outdoor lighting installation, shall conduct a program for the upgrading of outdoor luminaires, consistent with available resources, as required in order to be consistent with the guidelines created under this section.

Rep. Nitka for Appropriations - Amendment:

after the sentence that reads: "The board shall include one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker, and one member of the senate, appointed by the committee on committees." inserting the following: Legislative membership on and legislative council staffing of the board shall cease as soon as the board makes available its performance-based, outdoor lighting guidelines, as required under subsection (d) of this section.

Rep. McCullough of Williston Amendment

In Sec. 1, 10 V.S.A. § 591(g), before the sentence that begins with the words "This shall take place" by inserting the following:

Being "consistent with available resources" shall require upgrading of outdoor luminaires as part of any project in which outdoor luminaire improvements are being made, or pursuant to a program specifically directed toward upgrading those luminaires. That upgrade shall not be required as part of indoor improvements that are not related to outdoor luminaires.

Selected Committee Agenda items:

HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Friday, April 15, 2005

9:00 a.m. **H.229 - Flood Insurance** Rep. David Sharpe, Sponsor

11:00 a.m. **H.464 - Redevelopment Zones** Rep. Don Bostic, Sponsor

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

10:30 a.m. **S.142 - Act 250; ag mitigation** Marian White, Policy Analyst, Agency of Agriculture Michael Duane, Asst AG, Agency of Agriculture

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

11:00 a.m. **Vermont Planning Council** Paul Costello, Vt. Council on Rural Dev.

11:15 a.m. **S.142 - Act 250; ag mitigation** Committee Discussion

Thursday, April 14, 2005

9:00-11:30 a.m. **Septic Systems** Sarah Cowan, V.P., Bank of Middlebury (9:00 a.m.) Justus, Jr. DeVries, Justus DeVries, Jr., Inc. (9:15 a.m.) Steve Revell, Lincoln Applied Geology (9:30 a.m.) Jeff Wennberg, Comm., DEC (9:30 a.m.) George Springston, Research Associate, Norwich Univ. Dept. of Geology (9:45 a.m.) John Forcier, Chair, TAC (10:00 a.m.) Kim Kendall, VNRC (10:30 a.m.) Other witness to be announced (10:45 a.m.) Richard Czaplinski, Sewage Officer, East Montpelier (11:00 a.m.)

Friday, April 15, 2005

9:00 a.m. **Committee Discussion**

10:30 a.m. **H.28 - Outdoor Lighting** Rep. Bob Kiss, Sponsor of H.28

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