

3/20/06

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #10

As the leadership presses for early adjournment, here's what's moving (of interest to planners):

- *Senate passes **S.175 - Community Impact Studies for Large Scale Retail Operations** increasing threshold from 50,000 to 75,000 sq. ft; House Natural Resources to take up S.175 on Wednesday afternoon.*
- ***S.142 Growth Centers Bill** in final Senate Finance work on related TIF's and Downtown Tax Credits ; expected to be voted out Tuesday and considered by the full Senate later this week. House Natural Resources prepares to receive the **Growth Centers Bill**; begins scheduling testimony for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.*
- *House Judiciary set to vote out **S.246 Eminent Domain** bill on Tuesday.*
- *Senate Natural Resources takes up House **energy** legislation.*
- *Senate Gov. Ops receives **H.710 Ancient Roads** bill and **H.12 Amateur Radio Antenna** bill; H12 to be taken up Wednesday afternoon.*
- *Senate Transportation Committee receives House- passed Transportation Bill*
- *Appropriations bill scheduled to go to the House Floor by Thursday.*

SENATE FINANCE

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

1:00 p.m. **S.142 Growth Center Bill** and **S.291 Tax Increment Financing Districts for Milton, South Burlington and Berlin.**

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 9:00 a.m. **H.859 - Omnibus Energy Bill** Al Boright, Leg. Counsel
Rich Smith, Dep. Comm., Dept. of Public Service (9:30 a.m.)

Witnesses to be announced (9:45 a.m.)

10:30 a.m. **H.859 - Omnibus Energy Bill** Witnesses to be announced (10:45 a.m.)

1:00 p.m. **H.859 - Omnibus Energy Bill** Witnesses to be announced

3:15 p.m. **H.859 - Omnibus Energy Bill** Michael Dworkin, Vermont Law School

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 8:30 a.m. **Downtowns and Growth Centers**

Sharon Murray, VT Planners Association; Mike Zahner, Environmental Board; Sen. Ginny Lyons, Senate Natural Resources Committee; Al Boright, Legislative Counsel; Brian Shupe, Forum on Sprawl

3:00 p.m. **S.259 - Climate Change** Sen. Ginny Lyons, Reporter

3:30 p.m. **S.124 - Certification of Public Good for Extending the Operating License of the Nuclear Power Plant** Member, Senate Finance Committee

4:00 p.m. **S.175 - Large Retail Stores** Sen. Vince Illuzzi, Chair, Sen. Economic Dev., Housing & General Affairs Comm.

Thursday, March 23, 2006 8:30 a.m. **Downtown and Growth Centers**

Pat Powden, Natural Resources Board; Brian Shupe, Forum on Sprawl

3:00 p.m. **To Be Announced**

Friday, March 24, 2006 1:00 p.m. **Downtowns and Growth Centers**

HOUSE JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 10:30 a.m. **S. 246 - Eminent Domain**

Committee Discussion, Mark Up and Possible Vote

Tom Weiss, Montpelier (citizen); Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 9:00 am **Tax Credit and Housing Issues (Continued), Committee Discussion** Andy Broderick, Housing Vermont

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 8:30 am **Economic Development Issues, Review Draft** Emily Bergquist, Legislative Council Tax Dept

9:30 am **H.872, Tax Credit for Energy Efficient Homes** Rep Keenan, Chair, Commerce Committee

HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 10:30 a.m. **S.172 - Municipal Authority to to Charge Fees for Fire Service** Steve Jeffrey, Ex. Director, VLCT; Robert Schlachter, Chief, Rutland Fire Department

SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 1:30 p.m. **H.12 - Municipal Regulation of Amateur Radio Antennas**

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

Thursday, March 23, 2006

9:00 - 9:45 **FY07 Agency of Commerce & Community Development--Overview; Secretarys Office** Kevin Dorn

9:45 - 12:00 **Advocate Input & FY07--Housing & Community Affairs** John Hall

Note: House and Senate Transportation Committees have no scheduled agendas for the week as of Monday 3/20/06 11:00 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Wednesday, March 22, 2006

8:05 a.m. **05-P39 - Natural Resources Board/Rules of Procedure** Patricia Moulton Powden, Chair, Natural Resources Board; Michael Zahner, Executive Director, Natural Resources Board

8:15 a.m. **05-P38 -Natural Resources Board/Act 250 Rules (excluding Rule 80)** Patricia Moulton Powden, Chair, Natural Resources Board ;Michael Zahner, Executive Director, Natural Resources Board

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED THIS PAST WEEK:

S.315 AN ACT RELATING TO CREATION OF THE VERMONT LAND BANK PROGRAM
Introduced by Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs

Subject: Housing; state land; land bank; housing development

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to:

- (1) Create a Vermont land bank program to make land available for construction of new affordable and moderately priced residential housing.
- (2) Implement a land bank program to help meet the pressing need for more housing, both affordable and moderately priced; support economic development by increasing housing for Vermont's workforce; and strengthen the social and economic vitality of Vermont's communities.

Full text at: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2006/bills/intro/S-315.htm>

S.316 AN ACT TO ACCELERATE ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES THROUGHOUT VERMONT Introduced by Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
Subject: Economic development; Vermont broadband task force; Vermont economic development authority; community broadband grant program; Act 250; appropriation
Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to:

1. Create a broadband task force to oversee and coordinate broadband expansion projects and develop innovative approaches for rural broadband deployment.
2. Continue the competitive community broadband grant program that provides subsidies for broadband infrastructure deployment projects in difficult to serve areas of Vermont.
3. Enable the Vermont economic development authority to access up to \$750,000.00 in existing mortgage insurance capacity under subchapter 2 of chapter 12 of Title 10 to insure up to \$1,500,000.00 in technology infrastructure loans for its technology infrastructure loan program.
4. Streamline the permit process to accelerate deployment of broadband infrastructure.

Full text at: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2006/bills/intro/S-316.htm>

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