

## VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #12

### *Highlights:*

- ***S.142 Growth Centers Bill in House Natural Resources - third week of testimony scheduled. Indications are a growth centers bill will pass this session, but will the process be made less daunting? Will provision be included for 'non-adjacent' growth areas such as industrial parks?***
- ***S.291 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bill [Formerly :Tax Increment Financing Districts for Milton, South Burlington and Berlin] in House Commerce, Natural Resources and Ways & Means.***
- ***H.869 Transportation Bill passes Senate Transportation; headed to Senate Finance on Tuesday to consider the issue of fuel taxes vs. motor vehicle fees and use of other funds to support transportation.***

### *Committee agendas:*

#### **HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY**

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

9:00 a.m. **S.142 - Downtowns and Growth Centers**

Jay Kenlan, Attorney, Rutland ; Kevin Harper, Middelbury ; John Anderson, Attorney, Burlington; Tayt Brooks, Ex. Dir., VT Homebuilders and Remodelers

2:00 p.m. **Tax Increment Financing** : Bill Russell, Legislative Counsel; Sarah Teachout, Joint Fiscal Office; Susan Mesner, Department of Taxes; Juli Beth Hinds, Planner, South Burlington

Thursday, April 6, 2006 9:00 a.m. **S.142 - Downtowns and Growth Centers**

Nancy Everheart, VT Housing Conservation Board  
Committee Discussion

#### **HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

8:30 am **S.142, Downtowns & Growth Centers**

Senator Cummings, Reporter; Meredith Sumner, Legislative Council; Sara Teachout, Joint Fiscal Office; Susan Mesner, Tax Dept

After the above - **S.291, TIFs**

Senator Cummings, Reporter; Meredith Sumner, Legislative Council; Sara Teachout, Joint Fiscal Office; Susan Mesner, Tax Dept; Mike Wasser, Tax Dept

## **HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, April 6, 2006 9:00-Noon **S.142 Creation of Designated Growth Centers and Downtown Tax Credit Program**

## **HOUSE COMMERCE**

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 2:30 p.m.

**S.291 - Tax Increment Financing Districts for Milton, South Burlington and Berlin**

Sandford Miller, Town Manager, Milton ; Juli Beth Hinds, Planner, South Burlington;

Ray Tanguay, Town Administrator, Berlin ; Gerald Myers, City Manager, Winooski;

Ernie Pomerleau, Pomerleau Agency

Wednesday, April 5, 2006 2:00 p.m.

**S.291 - Tax Increment Financing Districts for Milton, South Burlington and Berlin**

Karen Horn, VT League of Cities and Towns; Karen Lafayette, Burlington; Dan Smith, Lobbyist, GBIC

## **SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY**

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

8:45 a.m. **H.860 - RGGI (Greenhouse Gas)** Committee discussion and mark-up

9:30 a.m. **H.253 - Appliance Standards`** Committee discussion and mark-up 1

0:15 a.m. **H.859 - Energy Bill** Committee discussion and mark-up

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

8:30 a.m. **H.860 - RGGI (Greenhouse Gas)** Final work

8:30 a.m. **H.253 - Appliance Standards** Final work

8:30 a.m. **H.859 - Energy Bill** Final work

9:15 a.m. **H.876 - Mercury** Rep. Steve Adams, Chair, House Fish, Wildlife, Water Resources; Comm. Michael Bender, Co-chair, Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution; Allison Demag, Auto Mfgs.

10:15 a.m. **H.294 - Groundwater** Reps. from DEC Jim Morgan, CEO, ClearSource; Jon Groveman, VNRC (10:30 a.m.) ;Rep. Davis Deen, House Fish, Wildlife, Water Resources Comm.

Thursday, April 6, 2006

8:30 a.m. **H.211 - Motor vehicles; diesel emissions** Rep. Sara Edwards, House Nat. Resources Comm.; Rep. Jim Masland, House Nat. Resources Comm.

10:00 a.m. **H.817 - Stormwater** Pete Laflamme, Dept. of Env. Conservation ;Mary Borg, Dept. of Env. Conservation; Karen Horn, VLCT

### ***New Bills:***

**H.890 - AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

Date: 4-3-06

Subject: Public safety; homeland security; emergency management

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to amend emergency management procedures in Vermont.

**Note: This bill includes several references to Regional Planning Commissions – eg:**

To coordinate the preparation of plans and programs for emergency management with public safety districts, local emergency planning committees, **regional planning commissions**, and by the ~~cities and towns~~ municipalities of this state, such plans to be integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management plans and program of this state to the fullest possible extent.

Local emergency planning committees should include representatives from the following: fire departments; local and regional emergency medical services; local, county, and state law enforcement; media; transportation; **regional planning commissions**; hospitals; industry; the national guard; the department of health district office; an animal rescue organization; and any other interested public or private individual or organization.

## H.891 AN ACT RELATING TO THE VERMONT WEB PORTAL

Introduced by the Committee on Government Operations

Date: 4-3-06

Subject: Executive branch; information and innovation; Vermont web portal

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create the Vermont web portal and the Vermont web portal board to oversee the portal's administration.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 22 V.S.A. chapter 16 is added to read:

### Chapter 16. The Vermont Web Portal

#### § 950. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Vermont web portal is to increase, at no cost to the taxpayer, the ease of accessing needed information.

#### § 951. Definitions

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Public information" means any state data that is included within the information deemed to be public pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and other provisions of law providing for release of information to the public at large or to specified groups or recipients.

(2) "Self-funded web portal" means the centralized electronic information system by which public information is disseminated or collected via the internet, supported entirely with fees collected for financial transactions through the portal.

(3) "State data" means any information stored, gathered, or generated in electronic or magnetic form by a state agency.

(4) "Vermont web portal board" or "board" means the board established in section 952 of this title.

#### § 952. Vermont Web Portal; Vermont Web Portal Board;

#### Membership

(a) There is created the Vermont web portal which shall be governed by a board consisting of 11 members ...*[no planning entities listed... see the full bill on the Legislature Web Site H-891 under new bills]*

***On Tuesday Senate calendar:***

Second Reading:

**H. 777**

An act relating to relating to resident ownership of mobile home parks using cooperative and condominium structures.

**Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Dunne for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.**

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill in Sec. 5, 27A V.S.A. § 1-209, by striking out the word “nine” and inserting in lieu thereof the word twelve

and that upon passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

“AN ACT RELATING TO RESIDENT OWNERSHIP OF MOBILE HOME PARKS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT”

(Committee Vote: 5-0-1)

(For House amendments, see House Journal for March 14, 2006, page 641; March 15, 2006, page 645.)

**ORDERED TO LIE**

- S. 157 Relating to rulemaking for Vermont origin..... 1015
- S. 315 Relating to creation of the Vermont Land Bank program..... 1015
- S. 316 Relating to access to broadband services throughout Vermont..... 1015
- S. 319 Relating to expanding the scope of the net metering program..... 1015

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