

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #15

Highlights:

- **Legislature hopes to adjourn this week!**
- **S.142 Growth Centers bill passes House - in Conference Committee – meeting Tues AM-**
- **S.291 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bill stuck in Ways & Means Committee**
- **H.701 Ancient Roads on Senate Calendar for action**

House passes S.142 Growth Centers Bill – Proposal of Amendment to Senate. (se separate attachment)

Conference Committee appointed:

House: Reps. Jim Masland, Ted Krawczyk, Mary Peterson

Senate: Sens. Ginny Lyons, Claire Ayer, Diane Snelling

05/02/06 9:45 a.m. Room 8 [Committees of Conference](#) meeting
S.142 - Growth Centers

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

1:15 pm Caucus

After: **TIFs, Further Testimony/Committee Discussion**

Charles Merriman, Tax Dept

Sara Teachout, Joint Fiscal Office

Paul Giuliani, Bond Counsel (3:00)

On The Senate Calendar

H. 701 Relating to unidentified corridors

Government Operations Committee Report

Appropriations Committee Report

H. 855 Relating to telecommunications capacity development

Ec. Dev., Housing & General Affairs Committee Report.

NOTE zoning exemption amendment added to ‘Broadband Infrastructure Bill’ :

Sec. 8. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development provisions shall apply in every municipality:

* * *

(6) Heights of certain structures. The height of antenna structures, wind turbines with blades less than 20 feet in diameter, or rooftop solar collectors less than 10 feet high, any of which are mounted on complying structures, shall not be regulated unless the bylaws provide specific standards for regulation. However, if an antenna structure is less than 20 feet in height and its primary function is to transmit or receive communication signals for commercial, industrial, municipal, county, or state purposes, it shall not be regulated under this chapter if it is located:
(A) On a farm structure as defined in section 4413 of this title.
(B) On a structure located within the boundaries of a downhill ski area and permitted under this chapter. For the purposes of this section, “downhill ski area” means an area with trails for downhill skiing served by one or more ski lifts and any other areas within the boundaries of the ski area and open to the public for winter sports.

H. 859

An act relating to the energy security and reliability act.

Reported favorably with recommendation of proposal of amendment by Senator Lyons for the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

The Committee recommends that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. DESIGNATION OF ACT

This act shall be referred to as the Vermont energy security and reliability act.

Sec. 2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN POWER PLANNING

(a) The state shall conduct a comprehensive statewide public engagement process on energy planning, focused on electric energy supply choices facing the state beginning in 2012. The commissioner of public service and the joint energy committee shall develop and implement a public engagement process through a request for proposal (RFP) process...

Sec. 9. 24 V.S.A. § 4345 is amended to read:

§ 4345. OPTIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Any regional planning commission created under this chapter may:

(1) Develop an inventory of the region’s fire and safety facilities; hospitals, rest homes, or other facilities for aging or disabled persons; correctional facilities; and emergency shelters; and work with regulated utilities, the department of public service, the department of public safety, potential developers of distributed power facilities, adjoining regional planning commissions, interested adjoining regional entities from adjoining states, and citizens of the region to propose and evaluate alternative sites for distributed power facilities that might provide uninterrupted renewable local or regional power at least for identified critical service providers in time of extended national, statewide, or regional power disruption or other emergency.

Fred S. Dunnington
VPA Legislative Liaison

fdunnington@town.middlebury.vt.us
(802) 388-8106 x 228