

VPA LEGISLATIVE REPORT #10 – 2008

VPA Legislative Committee Members : Chair: Dana Farley. Fred Dunnington (VT Legislative Liaison), Sharon Murray (NNECAPA Legislative Liaison), Sarah Hadd , Scott Gustin, Mike Munson , Deb Sachs, Peg Elmer.

On the House Calendar Tuesday 3/18/08

H.863 VT Neighborhoods Bill:

H. 863 Affordable Housing and Smart Growth Development..
Rep. Head for General, Housing and Military Affairs
Rep. Klein for Natural Resources and Energy.
Rep. Peterson for Ways and Means
Rep. Heath for Appropriations..
Rep. Head Amendment..

Amendment to be offered by Rep. Head of South Burlington to H. 863 Moves, in substitution for the recommendations of the Committees on General, Housing and Military Affairs, Natural Resources and Energy, Ways and Means and Appropriations, to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following: *[combined bill]*

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/calendar/hc080318.htm>

S.304 Groundwater protection; groundwater withdrawal

On Senate Notice Calendar 3-18-08

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2008/calendar/SC080318.htm>

H.685 Environmental Enforcement Bill (In Approps)

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/calendar/hc080317.htm>

H.537 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (The Big Bill)

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-537.htm>

H.881 AN ACT RELATING TO THE ROLE OF ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES IN FACILITATING THE DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Introduced by Committee on Commerce

Subject: Public service; telecommunications; broadband; access to facilities and easements

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to facilitate the deployment of communications facilities throughout the state.

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

The general assembly finds that:

(1) No. 79 of the Acts of 2007 stated that the universal availability of mobile telecommunications and broadband services is essential.

(2) Electric and gas companies have networks that extend throughout the state. These networks can be leveraged to improve the economics of deploying mobile telecommunications and broadband service throughout the state.

(3) Electric and gas companies hold easements that allow for specific utility use, but these easements may not allow the installation of communications facilities.

(4) Therefore, it is the goal of the general assembly to ensure that:

(A) Electric and gas utilities have a duty to allow and enable access to their facilities and easements to communications companies as a necessary element of serving the public good;

(B) All new electric and gas utility easements shall include the right to install communications facilities; and

(C) There is an expedited mechanism for companies to add the right to install communications facilities to existing easements.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-881.htm>

H.885 AN ACT RELATING TO DEVELOPING CONSISTENT MEASUREMENT STANDARDS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Introduced by Committee on Commerce

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a process for the selection of economic performance measures and benchmarks.

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-885.htm>

COMMITTEE AGENDAS – of note –

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

- 10:00AM **Floor**
- 1:00PM **Caucus**
- 2:30PM **H.549 Establishing Waterfront Buffer Zones**
Rep. David Deen, Chairman, House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and
Water Resources
- 3:00PM **Committee Discussion**
OMYA report
Annette Smith, Executive Director, Vermonters for a Clean
Environment

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

- 9:00AM **Committee Discussion**
OMYA report

SENATE FINANCE

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

- **S.350 Energy Independence and Economic Prosperity - Mark up and Vote**
Senate convenes at 1:30 p.m.; Finance Committee convenes when Senate adjourns

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

- 10:00 **FLOOR**
am
- 11:00 **H. 515- Collection and Disposal of Mercury Added Thermostats**
am *Bill Intro and Overview*
Jeremy Hoff, Leg. Counsel
- 11:00 **H. 557- Postponing the Sunset of the Fish and Wildlife Board's Authority**
am **to Adopt Rules Regulating the Deer Herd**
Bill Intro and Overview
Jeremy Hoff, Leg. Counsel
- 11:00 **H. 788- Awarding Moose Permits to Vermont Veterans of Afghanistan**
am **and Iraq**
Bill Intro and Overview
Jeremy Hoff, Leg. Counsel
- 11:00 **H. 806- Public Water Systems**
am *Bill Intro and Overview*

Jeremy Hoff, Leg. Counsel

12:00 **Caucus**
pm

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

9:00 **S. 368 The Addition of New Types of Disinfectants to Public Water**
am **Systems**

Commissioner Laura Pelosi, Department of Environmental
Conservation

9:15 **H. 515 The Collection and Disposal of Mercury-Added Thermostats**
am

Michael Bender, Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution
Karen Knaebel, Department of Environmental Conservation
Matt Chapman, DEC
Allison DeMag, National Electrical Manufacturers Association

1:30 **FLOOR**
pm

Thursday, March 20, 2008

10:30 **Joint Assembly**
am *Judicial Retention*

11:30 **FLOOR**
am

Friday, March 21, 2008

9:00 **H. 806 Public Water Systems**
am

Karen Horn, VT League of Cities and Towns
Rep. Sonny Audette
Eric Blatt, Water Supply Division, ANR
Gary Schultz, Acting Director, Water Supply Division

Links to VPA's bills of interest

As amended and on Notice Calendars:

H.863 AN ACT RELATING TO CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SMART GROWTH DEVELOPMENT

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/calendar/hc080317.htm>

H.685 Environmental Enforcement Bill

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/calendar/hc080317.htm>

S.304 Groundwater protection; groundwater withdrawal

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-304.HTM>

H.669 Downtown Program designation renewals 3yrs to 5yrs - passed House – in Senate EDH&GA

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-669.htm>

As introduced – but not making ‘crossover’ - committee :

S.267 Potential traffic impact - notice to potential interested parties - SNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-267.htm>

S.268 – Act 250 Criterion 9B - SNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-268.htm>

S.287 -State planning coordination bill - SNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-287.htm>

S.300 - Conservation; Act 250; smart growth principles and state funding -SNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-300.htm>

S.317 – Chapter 117 Technical Corrections SNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-317.htm>

S.325 – TIF (Tax Increment Financing) technical corrections bill -SEDH&GA

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/S-325.htm>

H. 561 - tourism directional / off premises business signs - HNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-561.HTM>

H.594 - Chapter 117 interested person status; conservation commission – HGov Ops

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-594.htm>

H.694 AN ACT RELATING TO ALLOWING MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY MAJORITY VOTE, A QUORUM BEING PRESENT – HGov Ops

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-694.htm>

H.696 AN ACT RELATING TO GIVING ACT 250 APPLICANTS THE OPTION OF ON-THE-RECORD REVIEW - HNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-696.htm>

H.697 AN ACT RELATING TO REQUIRING THAT JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PLANNING AND ZONING CHAPTER DECISIONS IN TOWNS OF MORE THAN 5,000 PERSONS BE CONDUCTED ON THE RECORD - HNR&E

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-697.htm>

H.698 AN ACT RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM FEE-SETTING PROCEDURE FOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW -H Ways+Means

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-698.htm>

H.722 24 V.S.A. § 4454 ENFORCEMENT; LIMITATIONS - actions involving “curb cut” and other permits for working within a town highway right-of-way limited to a 15-year statute of limitations. - **In House Judiciary**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-722.htm>

H.703 AN ACT RELATING TO AMENDING ACT 250 TO AUTHORIZE AN APPLICANT TO MITIGATE THE LOSS OF CERTAIN NECESSARY WILDLIFE HABITAT - **In H F,W&WR**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-703.htm>

H.801 AN ACT RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT - **In H F,W&WR**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-801.htm>

H.792 AN ACT RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL BYLAWS – **HGov Ops**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-792.htm>

H.821 TAX INCENTIVE FINANCING OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION -H Ways+Means

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-821.htm>

H.841 AN ACT RELATING TO A CONCIERGE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SERVICE– **HGov Ops**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-841.htm>

H.828 AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING THAT WILL BE PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE TO LOW INCOME VERMONTERS (statewide 20% inclusionary zoning) SHORT FORM

(still in short form as of 3-17-08) **In House Housing , General & Military Affairs**

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/legdoc.cfm?URL=/docs/2008/bills/intro/H-828.HTM>

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