

From: [Alex Weinhagen](#)
Subject: VPA Legislative Update - 4/16/18

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See below for updates on the eight bills that have seen movement or have upcoming testimony. Nothing to report on the other five bills we are following. See the 4/9/18 legislative update for a list of the 13 bills we are following.

Bill Updates

H.233 - Act 250 forest resources - passed the House - now in Senate Natural Resources. Committee discussion and possible vote – April 18 (morning)
- <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.233>

H.576 - Stormwater for 3-acre impervious sites - passed the House - now in Senate Natural Resources. Committee discussion and possible vote – April 19 (morning)
- <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.576>

H.663 - Accessory on-farm businesses - passed the House - now in Senate Agricultural & Senate Natural Resources. Senate Ag. Committee has completed their discussion, and is expected to vote the bill out of its committee on April 17 (Tuesday morning). The bill then heads to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, who will discuss it on April 19 (morning). Senate Ag. amended the bill, but thanks in part to testimony from various groups (including VPA), the change is expected to be minor – less than earlier proposed. Farm stays will likely be added to the definition, along with a pretty tight definition. I'll forward the revised draft once it is available. There may be more opportunity to add further clarity to the definition language via discussion in the Senate Natural Resources Committee; however, the coalition of groups working on this bill is trying keep the bill intact and largely "as is" in order to facilitate passage as the legislative session winds down -
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/H.663>

S.101 - Forestry protection from nuisance lawsuits - passed the Senate – passed the House on April 13 with an amendment. Given there was an amendment, this bill should either be heading to the Senate for concurrence or to a House-Senate conference committee. More later when the path is known. Either way, it looks like this one will eventually make it to the Governor - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/s.101>

S.204 - Short term rental registration – passed the Senate - now in House General, Housing, and Military Affairs. More discussion and possible markup of the bill scheduled for April 17 (Tuesday afternoon). Unsure when the committee will vote on this
- <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/s.204>

S.260 - Clean water fund and board creation - passed the Senate - now in House Natural Resources, but likely headed to House Ways and Means. LOTS of discussion to date. The bill has been substantially revised in House. See the VLCT 4/13/18 weekly legislative report for a great explanation - https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/wlr_15.pdf. This is a hot button bill with lots of legislative support, and a veto threat from the Governor. Unsure if it will make it to the Governor - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/s.260>

S.273 - Law enforcement municipal plan requirement - passed the Senate - now in House Government Operations. No recent discussion or any on the schedule for this week, but Charlie Baker (CCRPC) confirmed that the municipal plan element has been removed from the current draft of this bill. A good development -
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/s.273>

S.276 - Rural economic development - passed the Senate - now in House Agriculture. A

fair amount of discussion to date, and more scheduled for this week – April 17 (Tuesday afternoon), April 19 (Thursday afternoon), April 20 (Friday morning). Unsure when the committee will vote on this - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/s.276>

As always, let me know if you have questions about any legislation.

Alex Weinhagen, Legislative Liaison
Vermont Planners Association
aweinhagen@vermontplanners.org
<http://www.vermontplanners.org>
802-777-3995 (cell/text)
