

Journal of the House

Thursday, March 29, 2012

At twelve o'clock and fifty-five minutes in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Peter Plagge of the Waterbury Congregational Church, Waterbury, VT.

Joint Assembly

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the hour for the Joint Assembly having arrived, pursuant to the provisions of Joint resolution, entitled

J.R.S. 50. Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly to vote on the retention of three Superior Judges;

The Senate appeared in the Hall of the House.

Thereupon, the Joint Assembly having concluded its session, at two o'clock o'clock and five minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker resumed the Chair.

Message from the Senate No. 34

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 115. An act relating to ineffective assistance claims against assigned counsel.

S. 238. An act relating to expanding access to driving privileges in Vermont.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

House Bill Introduced

H. 787

By Reps. Hooper of Montpelier and Kitzmiller of Montpelier,
House bill, entitled

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the city of Montpelier;

To the committee on Government Operations.

Senate Bills Referred

Senate bills of the following titles were severally taken up, read the first time and referred as follows:

S. 115

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to ineffective assistance claims against assigned counsel;

To the committee on Judiciary.

S. 238

Senate bill, entitled

An act relating to expanding access to driving privileges in Vermont;

To the committee on Transportation.

Committee Appointment

The Speaker appointed **Rep. O'Brien of Richmond** to the committee on Government Accountability.

Bill Amended; Third Reading Ordered

H. 496

Rep. Stevens of Shoreham, for the committee on Agriculture, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to preserving Vermont's working landscape

Reported in favor of its passage when amended by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. chapter 207 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 207. PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF VERMONT FOODS AND PRODUCTS

Subchapter 1. Agricultural Practices and Production

* * *

Subchapter 2. The Vermont Working Lands Enterprise Program

§ 4603. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The general assembly finds:

(1) The report issued by the Council on the Future of Vermont indicates that over 97 percent of Vermonters polled endorsed the value of the “working landscape” as key to our future.

(2) Vermont’s unique agricultural and forest assets—its working landscape—are crucial to the state’s economy, communities, character, and culture. These assets provide jobs, food and fiber, energy, security, tourism and recreational opportunities, and a sense of well-being. They contribute to Vermont’s reputation for quality, resilience, and self-reliance.

(3) Human activity involving Vermont’s agricultural and forestland has been integral to the development of Vermont’s economy, culture, and image. Sustainable land use will need to balance economic development demands with the other services the land provides, many of which have economic benefits beyond the agriculture and forest product sectors. Some of these benefits include clean air and water, recreational opportunities, ecosystem restoration, scenic vistas, and wildlife habitat.

(4) The agriculture and forest product sectors are similar and share many of the same challenges. There are potential benefits to be realized by the joining of these sectors in development planning and coordination, making policy decisions, and leveraging economic opportunities.

(5) The agriculture and forest product sectors provide renewable and harvestable products that form the basis of Vermont’s land-based economy. The conversion of these raw commodities into value-added products within our borders represents further economic and employment opportunities.

(6) Vermont is in the midst of an agricultural renaissance and is at the forefront of the local foods movement. The success has been due to the efforts of skilled and dedicated farmers, creative entrepreneurs, and the strategic investment of private and public funds.

(7) State investment in a given industry or economic sector is often essential to stimulate and attract additional private and philanthropic investment. The combination of public, private, and foundation support can create enterprise opportunities that any one of them alone cannot. Grants issued as a result of No. 52 of the Acts of 2011 helped create jobs and economic activity in the agricultural sector. They also leveraged private and foundation investments.

(8) Vermont’s land-based economy has proven to be a driver for Vermont’s ongoing economic recovery.

(9) Value-added and specialty Vermont products are a growing source of revenue for Vermont's agricultural producers, many of whom have benefited from the existing infrastructure requirements of commodity producers. Both export and instate markets are necessary options for the agriculture and forest product sectors' economic development.

(10) The Vermont brand is highly regarded both nationally and internationally. Forest management is seen as crop management by those active in the forest product industry. An actively managed forest is a healthy and productive one.

(11) Vermont's agriculture and forest product sectors have not been perceived or treated as businesses by the traditional business and lending communities. They often lack available capital and financial package options that match their stage of development.

(12) Financial service and workforce development programs need to be customized to meet the unique needs of Vermont's agriculture and forest product sectors. Landowner education and labor skills training are also important for future productive management of forestlands.

(13) Scale is an important determining factor for the successful development of businesses that utilize Vermont's agriculture and forest products. Other limiting factors include labor and transportation costs, support services, resource base, and the regulatory environment.

(14) Workers' compensation, health care, energy costs, and regulatory requirements are a major concern to the agriculture and forest product sectors. For example, workers' compensation premiums for loggers may run as high as 48 percent of each dollar of wages.

(15) The amount of land in Vermont is finite, and part of its community and economic value is tied to the way it is used. Farmland and forestland that are developed for other uses affect the future viability of remaining farms and forest enterprises.

(16) A forestland owner is often not the person actively engaged in the business of land management, such as planning, harvesting, or marketing the raw product, whereas in agricultural operations, the farmer often owns both the land and the business. Many farm operations have woodlots that have traditionally been used for syrup, timber, and firewood production.

(17) Vermonters' perception of and support for local wood and forest products is not at the same level as it is for local food. Public outreach and education efforts need to be created to address the public's perception of actively managed working lands and the people who perpetuate them. Over

the last decade, consumers of wood products have become more interested in production and management methods, certification programs, and the source of the raw materials.

(18) Vermont's forest products industry has been in decline for many years, in part due to rising costs, a poor housing market, and a lack of manufacturing. The total value of the forest product industry has dropped from \$1.8 billion to \$1.3 billion since 2007. If wood chips were priced at the equivalent BTU replacement value of oil, they would command a higher price. The number of active sawmills has also declined to fewer than 20 today.

(19) The average age of Vermont's farmers and loggers is over 55 years and the average age of forestland owners is over 65. Attention needs to be brought to efforts that will ensure intergenerational succession and lower those averages. Economically viable farm and forest-based operations are critical to that goal. "Legacy" skills such as farming and logging are disappearing, as the children of those making a living from those skills often aspire to different employment opportunities.

(20) Access to land is a challenge for many, especially younger, people who want the opportunity to make a living from productive use of the land. Farm and forestland ownership is often out of reach for young people who do not have some sort of assistance.

(21) The Vermont forest product sector contains approximately 7,000 jobs, and approximately 57,000 jobs are in Vermont's food system.

(22) Regulations for forest product enterprises need to reflect a balance between economic development and responsible land use practices. There is a need to assess regulations involving the primary processing and transportation elements of the forest product sector.

(23) Seventy-six percent of Vermont's 4.5 million acres is forested, 84 percent of which is privately owned. Sustainable management of state-owned forestlands represents an opportunity for private sector forest businesses.

(24) Forest product sector representatives have identified needs for their industry including market development, additional secondary processing facilities, lower energy and transportation costs, and capital for growth enterprises as well as research and development for new and improved value-added products that make use of Vermont's forest resources. Factors such as health care, labor, and energy policies in Canada contribute to the northward flow of Vermont logs. Research is needed in order to develop strategies that will help keep Vermont's forest product sector competitive.

(25) Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) Program is critically important to every component of Vermont's agriculture and forest product sectors. It also helps keep Vermont forestland productive and healthy through the requirement of active forest management plans.

(26) Dairy enterprises remain Vermont's leading source of agricultural revenues, with an estimated annual economic impact of over \$2 billion or approximately 75 percent of total gross agricultural output.

(27) Recent grants and educational programs have started to address the lack of slaughter and meat-processing facilities in the state; however, there continues to be a strong need to further these efforts.

§ 4604. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the general assembly in adopting this subchapter to:

(1) stimulate a concerted economic development effort on behalf of Vermont's agriculture and forest product sectors by systematically advancing entrepreneurship, business development, and job creation;

(2) recognize and build on the similarities and unique qualities of Vermont's agriculture and forest product sectors;

(3) increase the value of Vermont's raw and value-added products through the development of in-state and export markets;

(4) attract a new generation of entrepreneurs to Vermont's farm, food system, forest, and value-added chain by facilitating more affordable access to the working landscape;

(5) provide assistance to agricultural and forest product businesses in navigating the regulatory process;

(6) use Vermont's brand recognition and reputation as a national leader in food systems development, innovative entrepreneurship, and as a "green" state to leverage economic development and opportunity in the agriculture and forest product sectors;

(7) promote the benefits of Vermont's working lands, from the economic value of raw and value-added products to the public value of ecological stability, land stewardship, recreational opportunities, and quality of life;

(8) increase the amount of state investment in working lands enterprises, particularly when it leverages private and philanthropic funds; and

(9) support the people and businesses that depend on Vermont's renewable land-based resources and the sustainable and productive use of the land by coordinating and integrating financial products and programs.

§ 4605. VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE FUND

There is created a special fund in the state treasury to be known as the "Vermont working lands enterprise fund." Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5:

(1) the fund shall be administered and the monies of the funds shall be expended by the Vermont working lands enterprise board created in section 4606 of this title;

(2) the fund shall be composed of moneys from time to time appropriated to the fund by the general assembly or received from any other source, private or public, approved by the board, and unexpended balances and any earnings shall remain in the fund from year to year; and

(3) the board shall make expenditures from the fund consistent with the duties and authority of the board established by section 4607 of this title.

§ 4606. VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE BOARD

(a) Creation and purpose. There is created a Vermont working lands enterprise board, which for administrative purposes shall be attached to the agency of agriculture, food and markets. The board shall:

(1) serve as a driving force for working lands enterprise development in Vermont;

(2) systematically advance entrepreneurship, business development, and job creation in the agricultural and forest product sectors by:

(A) supporting development of new land-based and value-added businesses;

(B) supporting the expansion of existing businesses and potentially high-growth enterprises;

(C) providing infrastructure investments that will support cluster development and spur business success and rural prosperity;

(D) acting as a clearinghouse of support for innovation and growth in the food, farm, forest product and biomass energy sectors including:

(i) regulatory issues;

(ii) financial and investment opportunities; and

(iii) technical assistance services;

(E) supporting outreach and communication of enterprise opportunities;

(3) evaluate quality and breadth of workforce development, technical assistance, and investment service programs to the agriculture and forest product service sectors;

(4) target financial products that are in line with infrastructure investment priorities;

(5) establish and evaluate criteria and benchmarks of investments and actions; and

(6) solicit appropriate perspectives and information from experts.

(b) Organization of board. The board shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the secretary of agriculture, food and markets or designee, who shall serve as chair;

(2) the secretary of commerce and community development or designee;

(3) the commissioner of forests, parks and recreation or designee;

(4) eleven members appointed by the Vermont agriculture and forest products development board as follows:

(A) four members each representing one of the four highest-grossing agricultural commodities produced in Vermont as determined on the basis of annual gross cash sales;

(B) three members representing the forest products industry; and

(C) four members each representing one of the following four sectors:

(i) energy;

(ii) workforce development;

(iii) private capital; and

(iv) distribution and marketing;

(5) two members, one appointed by each of the two largest membership-based agricultural organizations in Vermont;

(6) the following three members, who shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members:

(A) the manager of the Vermont economic development authority or designee;

(B) the executive director of the Vermont sustainable jobs fund or designee; and

(C) the executive director of the Vermont housing conservation board or designee.

(c) Members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b)(4) and (b)(5) of this section shall serve a term of three years or until his or her earlier resignation or removal for cause by a two-thirds vote of the sitting members of the board. A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. A member shall not serve more than three consecutive three-year terms.

(d) The board may elect officers, establish one or more committees or subcommittees, and adopt such procedural rules as it shall determine necessary and appropriate to perform its work.

(e) A majority of the sitting members shall constitute a quorum, and action taken by the board may be authorized by a majority of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present.

(f) Private-sector members shall be entitled to per diem compensation authorized under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for each day spent in the performance of their duties, and each member shall be reimbursed from the fund for his or her actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out his or her duties.

§ 4607. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VERMONT WORKING LANDS

ENTERPRISE BOARD

The Vermont working lands enterprise board shall have the authority:

(1) to establish an application process and eligibility criteria for awarding grants, loans, incentives, and other investment in agricultural and forestry enterprises and in food and forest systems;

(2) to award grants and loans and to recommend incentives that support the purposes of the board under section 4606(a) of this title;

(3) to develop application criteria that will encourage individuals and enterprises that have not availed themselves of these opportunities in the past to apply for such grants, loans, and incentives;

(4) to give priority for awarding grants, loans, and incentives to applicants who have not recently received the same from the state or a state-funded entity;

(5) to establish formal public-private partnerships, coordinate the joint provision of investment and services with public or private entities, and enter into performance contracts with one or more persons in order to provide investment and services to agricultural and forestry enterprises, including:

(A) technical assistance and product research services;

(B) marketing assistance, market development, and business and financial planning;

(C) organizational, regulatory, and development assistance; and

(D) feasibility studies of facilities or capital investments to optimize construction and other cost efficiencies;

(6) to identify workforce needs and programs in order to develop training and incentive opportunities for the agriculture and forest product sectors;

(7) to identify strategic statewide infrastructure and investment priorities considering:

(A) leveraging opportunities;

(B) economic clusters;

(C) return-on-investment analysis; and

(D) other considerations the board determines appropriate;

(8) to pursue and accept grants or other funding from any public or private source and to administer such grants or funding consistent with their terms;

(9) to promote the products and services it provides to as many people and land-based enterprises as possible;

(10) to use the services and staff of the agency of agriculture, food and markets to assist in the performance of the board's duties, with the concurrence of the secretary of agriculture, food and markets; and

(11) to contract for support, technical, or other professional services necessary to perform its duties pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO VERMONT WORKING LANDS

ENTERPRISE BOARD

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

(1) the initial members of the Vermont working lands enterprise board to be appointed pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 4606(b)(4)–(5) shall be appointed as follows:

(A) of the eleven members of the board appointed by the Vermont agriculture and forest products development board:

(i) four members shall be appointed to an initial term of one year;

(ii) four members shall be appointed to an initial term of two years; and

(iii) three members shall be appointed to an initial term of three years; and

(B) of the two members appointed by the two largest membership-based agricultural organizations in Vermont:

(i) the member representing the organization with the largest membership shall be appointed for an initial term of two years; and

(ii) the member representing the organization with the second largest membership shall be appointed for an initial term of three years; and

(2) the initial one-year and two-year member terms authorized in subdivisions (1)(A) and (1)(B) of this section shall not qualify as a full-term for purposes of the three-term limit established in 6 V.S.A. § 4606(c).

Sec. 3. 6 V.S.A. chapter 162, subchapter 1 (Vermont agricultural innovation center) is repealed.

Sec. 4. 6 V.S.A. § 2966 is amended to read:

§ 2966. AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD; ORGANIZATION; DUTIES AND AUTHORITY

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to create a permanent Vermont agricultural and forest products development board that is authorized and empowered as the state's primary agricultural and forest products development entity.

(1) The board is charged with:

(A) optimizing the agricultural and forestry use of Vermont lands and other agricultural resources;

* * *

(2) The board shall:

(A) review existing strategies and plans and develop, ~~implement~~, and continually update a comprehensive statewide plan to guide and encourage agricultural and forest products development and new and expanded markets for agricultural and forest products;

(B) advise and make recommendations to the secretaries of relevant state agencies, the governor, the director of the state experiment station, the University of Vermont extension service, and the general assembly on the adoption and amendment of laws, regulations, and governmental policies that affect agricultural development, land use, access to capital, the economic opportunities provided by Vermont agriculture and forest products, and the well-being of the people of Vermont;

(C) monitor and report on Vermont's progress in achieving the agricultural economic development goals identified by the board; and

(D) balance the needs of production methods with the opportunities to market products that enhance Vermont agriculture and forest products.

(b) Board created. The Vermont agricultural and forest products development board is hereby created. The exercise by the board of the powers conferred upon it in this section constitutes the performance of essential governmental functions.

(c) Powers and duties. The board shall have the authority and duty to:

* * *

(5) obtain information from other planning entities, including the ~~farm to plate~~ farm to plate investment program;

* * *

(d) Comprehensive agricultural and forest products economic development plan.

(1) Using information available from previous and ongoing agricultural and forest products development planning efforts, such as the ~~farm to plate~~ farm to plate investment program's strategic plan, and the board's own data and assumptions, the board shall develop and implement a comprehensive agricultural and forest products economic development plan for the state of Vermont. The plan shall include, at minimum, the following:

(A) an assessment of the current status of agriculture and forestry in Vermont;

(B) current and projected workforce composition and needs;

(C) a profile of emerging business and industry sectors projected to present future agricultural and forest products economic development opportunities, and a cost-benefit analysis of strategies and resources necessary to capitalize on these opportunities;

(D) a profile of current components of physical and social infrastructure affecting agricultural and forest products economic development;

(E) a profile of government-sponsored programs, agricultural and forest products economic development resources, and financial incentives designed to promote and support agricultural and forest products economic development, and a cost-benefit analysis of continued support, expansion, or abandonment of these programs, resources, and incentives;

(F) the use of the Vermont brand to further agricultural and forest products economic development;

* * *

(2) Based on its research and analysis, the board shall establish in the plan a set of clear strategies with defined and measurable outcomes for agricultural and forest products economic development, the purpose of which shall be to guide long-term agricultural and forest products economic development policymaking and planning.

* * *

(4) The board shall conduct a periodic review and revision of the comprehensive agricultural and forest products economic development plan as often as is necessary in its discretion, but at minimum every five years, to ensure the plan remains current, relevant, and effective for guiding and evaluating agricultural and forest products economic development policy.

* * *

(e) Annual report. The board shall make available a report, at least annually, to the administration, the house committee on agriculture, the senate committee on agriculture, the house committee on commerce and economic development, the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs, and the people of Vermont on the state's progress toward attaining the goals and outcomes identified in the comprehensive agricultural and forest products economic development plan.

(f) Composition of board.

(1) The board shall be composed of ~~12~~ 16 members. In making appointments to the board pursuant to this section, the governor, the speaker of

the house, and the president pro tempore of the senate shall coordinate their selections to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that the board members selected by them reflect the following qualities:

(A) proven leadership in a broad range of efforts and activities to promote and improve the Vermont agricultural and forest products economy and the quality of life of Vermonters;

(B) demonstrated innovation, creativity, collaboration, pragmatism, and willingness to make long-term commitments of time, energy, and effort;

(C) geographic, gender, ethnic, social, political, and economic diversity;

(D) diversity of agricultural and forest products enterprise location, size, and sector of the for-profit agricultural and forest products business community members; and

(E) diversity of interest of the nonprofit or nongovernmental organization community members.

(2) Members of the board shall include the following:

(A) ~~four~~ five members appointed by the governor:

(i) a person with expertise in rural economic development issues;

(ii) an employee of a Vermont postsecondary institution experienced in researching issues related to agriculture;

(iii) a person familiar with the agricultural tourism industry; ~~and~~

(iv) an agricultural lender; and

(v) a person with expertise and professional experience in forest products manufacturing.

(B) ~~four~~ six members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives:

(i) a person who produces an agricultural commodity other than dairy products;

(ii) a person who creates a value-added product using ingredients substantially produced on Vermont farms;

(iii) a person with expertise in sales and marketing; ~~and~~

(iv) a person representing the feed, seed, fertilizer, or equipment enterprises;

(v) a forester; and

(vi) a sawmill operator.

(C) ~~four~~ five members appointed by the committee on committees of the senate:

(i) a representative of Vermont's dairy industry who is also a dairy farmer;

(ii) a person with expertise in land planning and conservation efforts that support Vermont's working landscape;

(iii) a representative from a Vermont agricultural advocacy organization; ~~and~~

(iv) a person with experience in providing youth with educational opportunities enhancing understanding of agriculture; and

(v) a logger.

(3) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets or his or her designee shall be a nonvoting, ex officio member. The secretary may provide staff support from the agency of agriculture, food and markets as resources permit.

(4) The secretary of commerce and community development or his or her designee shall be a nonvoting, ex officio member.

* * *

Sec. 5. APPROPRIATIONS

(a) The amount of \$1,850,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the Vermont working lands enterprise fund established in 6 V.S.A. § 4605 in the amounts and for the purposes as follow:

(1) \$600,000.00 for enterprise grants to entrepreneurs, including grants to leverage private capital, jump-start new businesses, help beginning farmers access land, and support diversification projects that add value to farm and forest commodities. This initial sum is intended to fund an enterprise grant pilot program, and it is the intent of the general assembly to commit additional investment in subsequent years upon demonstration of success of the program.

(2) \$350,000.00 for wraparound services to growth companies, including technical assistance, business planning, financial packaging, and other services required by companies ready to transition to the next stage of growth. This initial sum is intended to fund a growth company services pilot program, and it is the intent of the general assembly to commit additional investment in subsequent years upon demonstration of success of the program.

(3) \$900,000.00 for state infrastructure investments, including investment in private and nonprofit sectors for creative diversification projects, value-added manufacturing, processing, storage, distribution, and collaborative ventures. This initial sum is intended to fund an infrastructure investment pilot program, and it is the intent of the general assembly to commit additional investment in subsequent years upon demonstration of success of the program.

(b) The amount of \$382,400.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the agency of agriculture, food and markets to provide funding for support staff, including a wraparound services advisor and regulatory ombudsman, and for fiscal management and operations costs. The agency shall utilize the funds appropriated to perform its full duties to the Vermont working lands enterprise board.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) This section and Secs. 1, 2, 4, and 5 shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 3 (repeal of agriculture innovation center) shall take effect on March 31, 2013.

and that when so amended the bill ought to pass.

Rep. Johnson of South Hero, for the committee on Appropriations, recommended that the bill ought to pass when amended as recommended by the committee on Agriculture and when further amended as follows:

In Sec. 5, in subsection (a), by striking “\$1,850,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,700,000.00” and in subdivision (a)(1), by striking “\$600,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$550,000.00” and in subdivision (a)(3), by striking “\$900,000.00” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$800,000.00”

The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time, report of the committees on Agriculture and Appropriations agreed to.

Pending the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? **Rep. Marek of Newfane** demanded the Yeas and Nays, which demand was sustained by the Constitutional number. The Clerk proceeded to call the roll and the question, Shall the bill be read a third time? was decided in the affirmative. Yeas, 131. Nays, 5.

Those who voted in the affirmative are:

Ancel of Calais	Bartholomew of Hartland	Botzow of Pownal
Andrews of Rutland City	Batchelor of Derby	Bouchard of Colchester
Aswad of Burlington	Bissonnette of Winooski	Branagan of Georgia
Atkins of Winooski	Bohi of Hartford	Browning of Arlington

Burke of Brattleboro	Helm of Fair Haven	Myers of Essex
Buxton of Tunbridge	Higley of Lowell	Nuovo of Middlebury
Campion of Bennington	Hooper of Montpelier	Olsen of Jamaica
Canfield of Fair Haven	Howrigan of Fairfield	O'Sullivan of Burlington
Cheney of Norwich	Jerman of Essex	Partridge of Windham
Christie of Hartford	Jewett of Ripton	Pearson of Burlington
Clarkson of Woodstock	Johnson of South Hero	Peaslee of Guildhall
Conquest of Newbury *	Johnson of Canaan	Peltz of Woodbury *
Consejo of Sheldon	Keenan of St. Albans City	Perley of Enosburgh
Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford	Kilmartin of Newport City	Poirier of Barre City
Corcoran of Bennington	Kitzmiller of Montpelier	Potter of Clarendon
Courcelle of Rutland City	Klein of East Montpelier	Pugh of South Burlington
Crawford of Burke	Koch of Barre Town	Ralston of Middlebury
Dakin of Chester	Komline of Dorset	Ram of Burlington
Davis of Washington	Krebs of South Hero	Russell of Rutland City *
Deen of Westminster	Krowinski of Burlington	Savage of Swanton
Degree of St. Albans City	Kupersmith of South Burlington	Scheuermann of Stowe
Devereux of Mount Holly	Lanpher of Vergennes	Shand of Weathersfield
Dickinson of St. Albans Town	Larocque of Barnet	Shaw of Pittsford
Donaghy of Poultney	Lawrence of Lyndon	Smith of New Haven
Donahue of Northfield	Lenes of Shelburne	South of St. Johnsbury
Donovan of Burlington	Leriche of Hardwick	Spengler of Colchester
Eckhardt of Chittenden	Lewis of Berlin	Stevens of Waterbury
Edwards of Brattleboro	Lewis of Derby	Stevens of Shoreham
Ellis of Waterbury	Lippert of Hinesburg	Strong of Albany
Emmons of Springfield	Macaig of Williston	Stuart of Brattleboro
Evans of Essex	Malcolm of Pawlet	Sweaney of Windsor
Fagan of Rutland City	Manwaring of Wilmington	Taylor of Barre City *
Fisher of Lincoln	Marcotte of Coventry	Till of Jericho
Frank of Underhill	Marek of Newfane	Townsend of Randolph
French of Shrewsbury	Martin of Springfield	Trieber of Rockingham
French of Randolph	Martin of Wolcott	Waite-Simpson of Essex
Gilbert of Fairfax	Masland of Thetford	Webb of Shelburne
Grad of Moretown	McCullough of Williston	Wilson of Manchester
Greshin of Warren	McNeil of Rutland Town	Wizowaty of Burlington
Haas of Rochester *	Miller of Shaftsbury	Woodward of Johnson
Head of South Burlington	Mook of Bennington	Wright of Burlington
Heath of Westford	Moran of Wardsboro	Yantachka of Charlotte
Hebert of Vernon	Mrowicki of Putney	Young of Glover
	Munger of South Burlington	Zagar of Barnard *

Those who voted in the negative are:

Acinapura of Brandon	Hubert of Milton	Turner of Milton
Burditt of West Rutland	Pearce of Richford	

Those members absent with leave of the House and not voting are:

Brennan of Colchester	Clark of Vergennes	Condon of Colchester
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Howard of Cambridge	Morrissey of Bennington	Toll of Danville
Lorber of Burlington	O'Brien of Richmond	Winters of Williamstown
McAllister of Highgate	Reis of St. Johnsbury	
McFaun of Barre Town	Sharpe of Bristol	

Rep. Conquest of Newbury explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

I voted ‘yes’ for H.496 because it is an economic development bill, a jobs bill, that just happens to be aimed at the agriculture and forest products sectors. Vermont has the land, the reputation and the people that make the investments envisioned in this bill investments with the greatest potential return to Vermont’s economy.”

Rep. Haas of Rochester explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

When the Rural Economic Development Group began meeting in 2005, we knew that ‘value-added’ was the secret to Vermont’s future. We should make artisan cheese, not simply ship milk out of state. We should make custom furniture, not just ship logs. This bill finally takes a real step to support that vision. I am proud to have the opportunity to vote for it.”

Rep. Peltz of Woodbury explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

From the state seal to views many of us see from our front yards, H.496 will preserve these treasured resources, while strengthening Vermont’s economic future.”

Rep. Russell of Rutland City explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

As a representative of the people of Rutland City, home of Vermont’s largest farmers’ market, I proudly vote ‘yes’ for agriculture and jobs!”

Rep. Taylor of Barre City explained her vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

H.496 is an investment in the future of Vermont’s economy. It creates numerous job opportunities, opportunities for future generations. It helps keep Vermonters working in Vermont. I say ‘yes’ to this bill as it benefits all Vermonters.”

Rep. Zagor of Barnard explained his vote as follows:

“Mr. Speaker:

Vermont’s farms and forests and the people and families that work them are this state’s most valuable assets. By supporting them, we are helping to ensure economic and food security for all Vermonters, building a more resilient and independent Vermont, strengthening community ties, and maintaining and advancing the health and well-being of our families, neighbors and environment.”

Message from the Senate No. 35

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. Marshall, its Assistant Secretary, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House that:

The Senate has on its part passed Senate bills of the following titles:

S. 89. An act relating to Medicaid for Working Persons with Disabilities.

S. 138. An act relating to calculation of criminal sentences and record keeping for search warrants.

S. 179. An act relating to amending perpetual conservation easements.

S. 209. An act relating to naturopathic physicians.

S. 222. An act relating to cost-sharing for employer-sponsored insurance assistance plans.

In the passage of which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The Senate has considered joint resolution originating in the House of the following title:

J.R.H. 33. Joint resolution authorizing the state of Vermont to accept a reprint of an engraving of Thaddeus Stevens for the state house art collection.

And has adopted the same in concurrence.

Favorable Report; Third Reading Ordered

H. 766

Rep. Head of South Burlington, spoke for the committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

Rep. Acinapura of Brandon, for the committee on Appropriations, to which had been referred House bill, entitled

An act relating to the national guard

Reported in favor of its passage. The bill, having appeared on the Calendar one day for notice, was taken up, read the second time and third reading ordered.

Adjournment

At three o'clock and thirty-five minutes in the afternoon, on motion of **Rep. Turner of Milton**, the House adjourned until tomorrow at eight o'clock in the forenoon.