

2017 VT Legislation Impacting Energy and Climate
Updated 3-28-2017



Bill:	Subject(s):	Sponsor(s):	Bill Summary:	Committee(s):	Hearing Date:	Status:
S.21	Solar	Sen. Ayer	Creates a committee to make recommendations requiring the installation of solar on or at large buildings that are heated or cooled	S. Natural Resources and Energy	2-2-2017	In Committee
S.32	State procurement	Sen. Lyons	Requires the Secretary of Administration to include climate change considerations from Executive Order 03-75 in the State procurement process	S. Government Operations, S. Institutions		In Committee - Bill committed to Committee on Institutions
S.34	Commerce and Development	Sen. Sirotkin	Directs the Governor's Development Cabinet to review State incentive programs to cross-promote relevant State policies, including renewable energy policies	S. Committee on Agriculture, S. Finance, S. Appropriations		In Senate – Passed 3 rd Reading
S.43	Conservation and development; soil	Sen. Champion	Adds support for soil management practices that increase carbon sequestration to definition of "energy transformation projects" in Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 8002	S. Natural Resources and Energy	2-2-2017	In Committee
S.51	Renewable energy	Sen. Bray	Establishes in statute the 90% total renewable energy goal. Also establishes supporting goals, and requires State plans that affect energy to recommend measures to achieve the goals	S. Natural Resources and Energy	2-3-2017 & ongoing	In Committee
H.316	Conservation and development; energy; natural resources; renewable	Rep. Sullivan	Proposes to establish a statutory goal that, by 2050, 90 percent of Vermont's total energy consumption be from renewable energy. Also establishes additional supporting goals and requires State plans to meet these goals.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee

	energy; 90 percent goal					
S.63	Energy; conservation and development; land use; Act 250; meteorological stations	Sen. Rogers	Proposes to move siting jurisdiction for temporary meteorological stations to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151(Act 250) and to enable local regulation of these stations	S. Natural Resources and Energy		In Committee
H.338	Energy; conservation and development; land use; Act 250; meteorological stations	Rep. Lefebvre	Proposes to move siting jurisdiction for temporary meteorological stations to 10 V.S.A. chapter 151(Act 250) and to enable local regulation of these stations	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
S.106	Conservation and development; natural resources; land use; Act 250; energy; electric generation	Sen. Rodgers	Proposes to place electric generation facilities under the jurisdiction of Act 250, and to allow municipal land use regulation of electric generation facilities.	S. Finance		In Committee
S.115	Energy; public service; electric generation and transmission; facility; siting; curtailment	Sen. Rodgers	Prohibit the Public Service Board from issuing a certificate of public good for new electric generation, other than net metering systems, that will connect to a transmission line if existing generation connected to the line has been subject to curtailment by the Independent System Operator of New England.	S. Finance		In Committee

S.118	Energy; public service; real property; building energy labeling and benchmarking	Sen. Bray	Requires the disclosure of informational materials related to energy use when a single-family dwelling is sold. Also allows the owner of a multiunit building to obtain anonymized aggregated data on the building's energy use for the purpose of energy benchmarking or labeling.	S. Finance, S. Natural Resources and Energy		In Committee – S. Natural Resources and Energy
S.137	Commerce and trade; workforce development	Senator Ashe	Proposes to create a Department of Labor and Workforce Development, require a Memorandum of Understanding among workforce education and training providers in State government and create an Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program.	S. Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs		In Committee
H.39	stormwater; permitting threshold	Rep. Sheldon	Lowers the threshold when a State operational stormwater permit is required from construction or redevelopment of one acre of impervious surface to construction or redevelopment of one-half of an acre or more of impervious surface	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife, H. Ways and Means		In Committee - H. Ways and Means
H.87	Energy; siting; municipal and regional plans	Rep. Sullivan	Requires in energy siting cases that the Public Service Board presume that municipal and regional plans and recommendations are valid and reasonable and to place the burden of persuasion on the party asking the Board to decide the case differently from those plans and recommendations	H. Energy and Technology	2-7-2017	In Committee
H.92	Hydro	Rep. Deen	Requires a person who owns legal title to a dam register the dam with the Department of Environmental Conservation	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife – amended & approved, H. Ways and Means	Referred to Ways & Means Committee on 2 nd reader.	In Committee – Ways & Means
H.209	Land use; natural resources; Act	Rep. Dickinson	Proposes to reform various land use and environmental permit processes, including requiring applicants to demonstrate that their	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee

	250; permit process; appeals		projects “will not have an undue adverse effect on the scenic or natural beauty or aesthetics of the municipality” under Act 250			
H.227	Utilities, alternative regulation	Rep. Browning	Repeals statute permitting alternative forms of regulation for an electric or natural gas company	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.251	Conservation and development; energy; fish and wildlife; wind generation;	Rep. Browning	Requires that a certificate of public good may be issued for a wind generation facility exceeding 500 kilowatts only if the applicant demonstrates the proposed location does not drain into waters that provide habitat for native eastern brook trout or are managed as fisheries for wild brown trout.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.273	Conservation and development; air pollution; climate change; energy; greenhouse gases; cap and trade	Rep. Burke	Proposes to enable Vermont to participate in a multijurisdictional cap and trade program for greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation, heating, cooling, and ventilation.	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.322	Public Service Board	Rep. Masland	Proposes to change the name of the Public Service Board to the Public Utility Commission	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.337	Conservation and development; agriculture; air quality; methane digesters; fees	Rep Smith	Exempts anaerobic digesters of agricultural products from air contaminant source fees.	H. Agriculture and Forestry		In Committee
H.357	Taxation; biomass;	Rep. Helm	Exempts indoor commercial and residential advanced wood boilers from the sales and use tax	H. Ways and Means		In Committee

	advanced wood boilers					
H.359	natural resources; land use; public service; local zoning; Clean Energy Development Fund	Rep. Olson	Allows a municipality to fully regulate the siting of solar and wind electric generation under its land use bylaws, if the municipality makes a payment into the Clean Energy Development Fund based on its share of the electrical energy to be obtained from distributed renewable generation under the Renewable Energy Standard. Further, the Clean Energy Development Fund shall only use those contributions to support installation of distributed renewable generation in that municipality for three years.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.360	municipal bylaws; electric generation	Rep. Gamache	Permits municipalities to adopt bylaws regulating electric generation facilities	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.389	Conservation and development; land use; municipal and regional 7 planning and development	Rep. Stuart	Requires owners of mobile home parks, apartment complexes and other associations to provide notice to the owners of dwelling units within structures on properties adjoining new developments	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.394	carbon tax; cap and trade; study	Rep. Burke	Requires the Joint Fiscal Office to study the costs and benefits to Vermont of carbon pricing and cap and trade models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.395	Net metering	Rep. Buckholz	Restores the rights of preexisting net metering systems (application filed before January 1 2017) to the bill credit structure in existence prior to January 1, 2017.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.396	Net metering, renewable energy credits	Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman	Proposes to create an option to allow net metering customers to retain and retire the renewable energy credits (RECs) from their	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee

			renewable energy generation. Also reduces electricity providers' required amount of distributed renewable generation based on the amount which the providers' net metering customers retain and retire RECs			
H.398	economic development	Rep. Burke	Provides \$300,000 in funding to the Vermont Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program to grow entrepreneurial opportunities and provide a network for businesses whose products and services aim to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change.	H. Commerce and Economic Development		In Committee
H.410	commerce and trade; energy efficiency standards	Rep. Gardner	Amends Vermont's energy efficiency standards to add the following products not currently covered by federal energy efficiency standards: computers and monitors; "high CRI" linear fluorescent lamps; deep dimming fluorescent ballasts; faucets, urinals, and water closets; portable electric spas; commercial hot food holding cabinets; and water dispensers.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.411	Commerce and trade; energy efficiency standards	Rep Gardner	Adopts current federal lighting standards into Vermont statute, and adopts federal lighting standards scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 1 2020 into Vermont statute.	H. Energy and Technology, S. Natural Resources and Energy		Passed House, Referred to S. Natural Resources and Energy
H.413	Taxation and finance; income tax, weatherization, rental	Rep. Ode	Proposes to provide a tax credit for the weatherization to reduce total energy expenditures of rental units rented to tenants receiving federal or state housing assistance.	H. General, Housing, and Military Affairs		In Committee
H.420	Solar siting, natural resources,	Rep. Sheldon	Requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt site management practices to be employed by solar sites with a generation	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee

	certificate of public good		capacity that is greater than 15 kilowatts and located in an undeveloped area. Further, a vegetation management plan for native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat shall be a requirement for a project to receive a Certificate of Public Good.			
H.421	Conservation and development; land use; local bylaws	Rep. Ode	Amends 24 V.S.A. § 4472 to allow the Environmental Division to hear statutory challenges to the validity of a local land use bylaw or municipal plan.	H. Judiciary		In Committee
H.431	Utilities; electric; grid; cyber attack; manual backup	Rep. McCormack	Requires all electric utilities to take measures to ensure the safety of the electrical power grid in the event of a cyber attack or an electromagnetic pulse attack or severe solar storm, including the installation of a manual control backup system.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
H.444	Environmental enforcement, law enforcement officers	Rep. Noyes	Provides law enforcement authority to Agency of Natural Resources environmental enforcement officers.	H. Judiciary		In Committee
H.449	Workforce development; career technical education	Rep. O'Sullivan	Directs the Agency of Education to design programs and conduct a pilot project to expand career pathways for high-skill, high-demand occupations.	H. Education		In Committee

Other Bills of Interest

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S.41	Corporate income taxation	Sen. Ashe	Disallows corporate income tax deductions for the payment of compensatory and punitive damages to a government	S. Finance	2-2-2017	In Committee

S.85	Commerce, government operations	Sen. Pearson	Proposes to direct the Secretary of State and government partners to design a system to simplify interactions with small businesses and Vermonters starting new businesses.	S. Economic Development, Housing, and General Affairs		In Committee
H.45	Conservation and development; Act 250	Rep. Potter	Amends the settlement patterns criterion of Act 250 (10 V.S.A. chapter 151), known as Criterion 9L.	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.95	Property transfer tax; water	Rep. Dickinson	Redirects 13% of the property transfer tax from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to the Clean Water Fund for the 20 years	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife	2-2-2017	In Committee
H.110	Taxation	Rep. Scheuermann	Excludes capital gains reinvested in Vermont from Vermont's income tax	H. Ways and Means		In Committee
H.193	Electric lines, liability	Rep. Till	Requires the Public Service Board to adopt rules to ensure that a customer is not liable for damage to a customer-owned, underground electric service line caused by third party excavation activities.	H. Energy and Technology		In Committee
	Conservation and development; land use; Act 250; forest fragmentation ; working forests; habitat connectivity	Rep. Sheldon	Proposes to amend the criteria and jurisdiction of Act 250 to protect forest resources in order to support the forest economy, water quality, and habitat.	H. Agriculture and Forestry		In Committee
H.244	environmental health; schools	Rep. Townsend	Requires each school or school district in the State to develop, adopt, and ensure the enforcement of an environmental health plan for each school. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt by rule minimum requirements for inclusion in a school environmental health plan, including sound levels.	H. Committee on Education		In Committee
H.288	Commerce and trade,	Rep. Marcotte	Proposes to prohibit the retention of any amount of payment due and owing for materials delivered for a construction project.	H. Committee on Commerce and		In Committee

	construction contracts			Economic Development		
H.289	Conservation and development	Rep. Sullivan	Proposes to establish a registry for conservation rights and interests, including trail easements.	H. Committee on Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.321	Conservation and development; Act 250	Rep. Conquest	Clarifies Act 250 jurisdiction over the construction of improvements when the construction involves land in a so-called “10-acre town” and land in a “one-acre town.”	H. Committee on Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.344	Airports; zoning	Rep. Savage	Amends the definition of “airport hazard area” to encompass a zone within 10 nautical miles of any public airport. Prohibits construction or alteration of projects at or above 100 feet from ground level, or any projects that could interfere with radar within those areas.	H. Committee on Transportation		In Committee
H.362	Conservation and development; natural resources; land use; energy; telecommunications; utility poles	Rep. Van Wick	Proposes to exempt new or replacement utility poles less than 50 feet tall within a highway right of way from Act 250	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.424	Conservation and development; natural resources; land use; Act 250	Rep. Sheldon	Creates a commission to review and make recommendations on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Act 250.	H. Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife		In Committee
H.430	Agriculture	Rep Sheldon	Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets to establish a regenerative agriculture program.	H. Agriculture and Forestry		In Committee

H.442	Commerce and trade, economic development	Rep. Masland	Proposes to establish the Pathways to Prosperity in Vermont	H. Commerce and Economic Development		In Committee
H.453	Commerce and trade, economic development	Rep. McFaun	Proposes to provide economic and tax incentives to businesses that locate in “Tax Free VT” areas to promote economic development throughout Vermont	H. Commerce and Economic Development		In Committee
H.454	Waste, economic development	Rep. Cina	Establishes a committee to study how Vermont can begin to transition to a zero waste economy.	H. Commerce and Economic Development		In Committee
H.455	Education, career technical education	Rep. Stuart	Extends career technical education programming to students in grades 9 through 12, provides additional salary assistance funding to school districts that operate a career technical center, and creates a Career Technical Education Study 14 Committee.	H. Education		In Committee
H.473		Rep. Pugh	Requires the Secretary of Administration to include considerations for socially responsible businesses in the State procurement process.	H. Government Operations		In Committee
S.101	Conservation and development; forestry; judiciary	Sen. Rodgers	Exempts certain forestry operations from liability as a public or private nuisance if practices are conducted in compliance with the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont as adopted by the Commissioner	S. Judiciary		In Committee