



WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' **Weekly Legislative Report** is published each Friday during Vermont's legislative session.

VLCT 89 Main Street, Suite 4 Montpelier, VT 05602-2948 Tel. 802-229-9111 Fax 802-229-2211 Email info@vlct.org Web www.vlct.org	Follow VLCT Advocacy on facebook twitter Karen Horn , Public Policy and Advocacy Director Gwynn Zakov , Municipal Policy Advocate David Gunn , Editor To contact your legislators, find their email addresses on the legislative website (http://legislature.vermont.gov) or call the Sergeant-at-Arms (802-828-2228).
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2017 State Budget

Governor Peter Shumlin presented his last budget to the legislature on Thursday. He began by saying, "This will be my sixth budget that does not increase income, sales, or rooms and meals tax rates that are already too high." The governor has never included property taxes in his list of broad-based taxes that he has been unwilling to raise nor, appropriately in his introduction, did he mention property taxes. Local officials know too well that the burdens and obligations on local governments have increased steadily and that in most towns the only source of revenue to pay for those mandates has been the property tax.

Over the last few years, the Education Fund has picked up the responsibility to pay (1) retired teachers' health premiums, which in 2014 were estimated to cost \$27.8 million; (2) half of the cost of dual enrollment (the ability for high school students to enroll in college courses); and (3) full implementation of Act 166 (provision of ten hours of pre-kindergarten for 35 weeks annually for all 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds not enrolled in kindergarten). The appropriations bill directed a study committee to come up with a recommendation for funding Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Payments in Lieu of Taxes and implemented a system of payments at a rate of 0.5 percent of fair market value, a significant reduction for many towns. Last year, Act 64, the water quality bill, imposed new requirements for municipal roads permits, management of stormwater from impervious surfaces, improvements to wastewater treatment facilities, and basin planning, the full costs of which are as yet unknown. The act also substantially increased permit fees payable to ANR for stormwater- and water management-related fees, initially estimated to raise \$1,557,716 in FY16. Only now are municipalities beginning to realize the enormous increases some of those new fees represent. As local officials have said repeatedly, *all* of these initiatives are good ideas. However, paying for state initiatives with local property tax dollars merely shifts the burden to the local tax base and presents unsustainable increases to property tax payers.

At the same time, local governments face the kinds of increases that the business community and the State face. For instance, as the governor said, "In the last 10 years, health care costs have doubled. Without systematic change, premiums could nearly double in the next decade."

The governor recommended closing the work camp at the St. Johnsbury correctional facility because of falling inmate populations and using those savings to fund his proposed Step Up program. He also proposed funding to make permanent the naloxone pilot program (an opioid overdose prevention program), keep needle exchange programs operating, and open a new treatment hub in the northwestern part of the state to treat 400 Vermonters. He would also fund positions at the Department for Children and Families, the judiciary, the offices of the state’s attorneys and defender general, as well as safety improvements for state employees working to address any fallout from the opiate crisis.

The governor’s budget would also increase General Fund support of teachers’ retirement by \$9.56 million and increase funds to the Municipal Mitigation Grant Program administered by the Agency of Transportation from \$650,000 to \$2,910,000 to address stormwater management programs on the local transportation network. As the table below shows, most other municipal programs are level-funded.

—Karen Horn

Municipal Funding Priorities in Fiscal Year 2017 Budget (in Millions)		
Budget Line Item	FY16 Approved	FY17 Governor’s Recommend
Homeowner Rebate - municipal	\$18.20	\$16.20
Renter Rebate ¹	\$2.91	\$3.12
Current Use – Municipal	\$14.98	\$15.32
PILOT – State Buildings ²	\$6.40	\$6.40
PILOT – Montpelier ²	\$0.18	\$0.18
PILOT – Corrections Facilities ²	\$0.04	\$0.04
Special Investigative Units	\$1.68	\$1.84
General Fund Transfer to Education Fund ³	\$303.34	\$305.90
General Fund Support of Teachers’ Retirement System	\$73.10	\$82.66
General Fund Support of Retired Teachers’ Health Benefits	\$15.58	\$18.32
PILOT – ANR Lands	\$2.29	\$2.38
Town Highway Structures	\$9.48	\$6.33
Local Technical Assistance Program (a.k.a. Vermont Local Roads)	\$0.39	\$0.38
Class 2 Highway Paving and Rehabilitation	\$7.25	\$7.25
Town Bridge Grants ⁴	\$21.63	\$18.82
Town Highway Aid Program	\$25.98	\$25.98
Town Highway Aid Program – Class 1 Supplemental	\$0.13	\$0.13
State Aid for Nonfederal Disasters	\$1.15	\$1.15
State Aid for Federal Disasters	\$1.44	\$1.28
Municipal Mitigation Grant Program	\$0.65	\$2.91
Total Local Highway Aid	\$68.10	\$64.23
Total	\$506.80	\$516.59
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The budget detail states that \$3.120 is from the General Fund and \$7.280 is from the Education Fund. 2. Figures for all years are all from local options tax sharing and no state monies. 3. Required by statute to increase by New England economic project cumulative price index for government purchases (16 V.S.A. § 4025(a)(2)). In 2010 and 2011, the legislature reduced this with “Notwithstanding” language. The 2011 legislature re-calibrated the amount of aid to be adjusted annually that will cost an additional \$27.5 million in property taxes having to be raised in FY13 and each succeeding year. 4. Includes state and federal aid only, no local match (which comes from the property tax). 		

Siting of Energy Facilities

On Wednesday, local officials and concerned citizens visited the State House for the specific purpose of impressing upon legislators the need to make changes to the way the Public Service Board considers applications and issues approvals of energy generation projects. In all, 11 local officials – from selectboard members to town administrators, from planning commissioners to zoning administrators – gave thoughtful testimony about the experiences in their towns with the Public Service Board (PSB) permitting process and the very short shrift that the PSB gives to municipal concerns. They offered to both the Senate and House Natural Resources and Energy committees many recommendations for improving that legalistic and developer-oriented process. Local officials who testified included Jared Cadwell (Fayston Selectboard Chair and VLCT President), Russ Hodgkins (Westminster Town Administrator), Stephen Marx (Strafford Selectperson), Larry Labor (Morgan Selectperson), Brian Fecher (Irasburg Selectperson), Joel Clark (Swanton Selectperson), Mary Boyer (Windham Selectperson), Chris Violette (Barre Town Zoning Administrator) Joel Cope (Brighton Town Administrator) Jamieson Heins (Shelburne Planning Commissioner), and Don Chioffi (Rutland Town Selectperson). You can read their testimonies at the websites for the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Natural Resources and Energy committees.

It was very clear to all who attended the meetings that those local officials who testified are committed to their Vermont towns. They all expressed their support for renewable energy. But when proposals for development of specific energy generation projects have been unveiled in their communities, they have been amazed to discover the recommendations of local officials and the adopted municipal plans count for very little.

According to the Department of Public Service, there were 1461 applications for solar facilities in Vermont through the end of last November, 1,215 for installations of less than 15 kilowatts (kW). According to the newly adopted Comprehensive Energy Plan, Vermont has 4,996 solar sites that generate 94,860 kW of electricity and 13 wind turbines that generate more than 100 kW. The governor has said that he expects the number of solar installations will double in 2016. This success in deploying solar and wind moves Vermont toward the goal of getting 90 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources by 2050. However, it does not serve all people in all situations or areas of the state. In this context, Vermont needs to get the siting process right – now.

As local officials have said many times, today there is not a balance between the public good that is renewable and reliable energy production and the public good of thoughtful land use and other priorities on the local level that reflect state goals of compact settlements surrounded by rural countryside. Clearly,



that message is resonating in the State House, where eight new bills that address the regulation of renewable energy siting have been introduced since last week, bringing the total this session to 30. Some call for the banning of industrial wind, others for returning permitting of energy generation facilities to Act

On Wednesday, Fayston Selectboard Chair and VLCT President Jared Caldwell testified before the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee regarding energy generation.

250. Several would give municipal plans a larger role in the process, and some others would prohibit the use of a site if the developer had ignored requirements for hearings, communication with local officials and citizens, or notifications of siting meteorological towers.

VLCT's 2016 Municipal Policy, adopted by its members last October, calls on the legislature to *[e]nsure that Vermont's energy supply remains reliable and that the Public Service Board restores balance between the transition to renewable energy and the protection of land use priorities established in municipal plans and state land use goals.*

It also calls for *[accordi]ng automatic party status to affected adjacent municipalities as well as host municipalities in Section 248 proceedings. In the certificate for public good (CPG) process, the PSB should give "substantial deference" to municipal concerns and determinations. In doing so, the PSB should include all local decisions concerning the project within the PSB docket, formulate areas of inquiry based on concerns raised in the local hearing process, and address concerns raised in local determinations and adopted municipal plans in its CPG decision.*

Urge your legislators to establish substantial deference as the standard for evaluating municipal plans and recommendations in the Section 248 permitting process and to define the term in statute. Make sure that they are familiar with project proposals that have been made in your cities and towns and the way in which the Public Service Board has handled those proposals.

—Karen Horn

Councils of Governments

The House Government Operations Committee is poised to vote out H.249, a bill that would provide for a regional commission to be dissolved and turned into a Council of Governments (COG) upon a vote of between 60 and 67 percent of the legislative bodies of member municipalities and its board of directors. Outside of this committee, there has been very little discussion of the concept of morphing a regional commission into a COG or what that means for the member municipalities.

Councils of Governments are regional governing bodies, generally controlled by their member governments, that can offer specified planning, coordination, and program administration services to their member municipalities. As H.249 is currently drafted, "all the assets and property of the regional planning commission, both real and personal and of whatever kind, nature and description, shall become vested in and become assets and property of the regional council of governments without any further act, deed or instrument being necessary." A regional COG could "exercise any power, privilege, or authority capable of exercise by a member municipality and necessary or desirable for dealing with problems of local or regional concern."

The concept of councils of regional governments – or metropolitan districts – is sound and has been used in many states. In 2009, VLCT wrote a report titled "[Vermont Governance for the 21st Century](#)" after we facilitated a meeting with the school boards association and supervisory unions in which a potential long-term direction was identified: "A new plan for regional governance should be developed that coordinates services to achieve economy of scale by preserving and strengthening local participation in governance." We recommended that this take place in the context of a constitutional convention.

In the meantime, the legislature has approved numerous municipal charters as well as charters for the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (M-17) and a Communications Union District as part of Act 41 (Section 20 and following), both in 2014. The union municipal district statute has been in place for decades and provides a process for establishing governmental units to share services such as police, dispatch, water supply and wastewater management, recreation, solid waste, and schools. A union

municipal district could be multi-purpose. As well, many towns use inter-local agreements to share services. Participation in union municipal districts or inter-local agreements is completely voluntary on the part of the member municipalities.

Sharing services can be tremendously beneficial to the municipalities that *choose* to do so. However, the new draft of H.249 does not reflect some very important COG attributes of Councils of Government as they are adopted and implemented around the country, not the least of which is the issue of choice.

VLCT's membership adopted two platforms regarding municipal authority at its Annual Meeting last October:

1.08 A. Municipal charters and amendments thereto, properly adopted by cities, towns, and villages, should take effect one year after their approval without a vote by the legislature, unless both houses of the legislature vote by majority to take up the municipal charter or amendment for consideration. Upon enactment of this provision, the legislature could vote to take up the charter or amendment only if the proposal contains provisions never previously approved by the legislature.

1.08 B. Any enabling authority to create new general purpose regionally based governmental entities must ensure that:

- 1. To be eligible to serve on the new regional governance entity's governance board, a person must be elected to or appointed by the local legislative body.*
- 2. The new regional governance entity is created by vote of municipalities who choose to be members, with the governance structures determined by those member municipalities.*
- 3. Enabling authority is made part of the union municipal district statute (24 V.S.A. Chapter 121).*

H.249 proposes major changes in the governance structure of Vermont. If the committee moves ahead with the bill, it should include allowing a municipality that chooses to not be part of the new COG to withdraw. The statute needs to ensure that the governance structure of any new COG is established by the member municipalities. It needs to be clear that the COG may not exercise the same authority as a union municipal district, which has been established pursuant to Title 24 Chapter 121. Legislation should clarify that municipalities may *also* use the union municipal district statute to create a council of governments.

Local officials should review H.249 carefully. Discuss with your legislators the appropriate structure of a governmental entity such as a COG and under what circumstances a municipality might choose to participate in one.

—Karen Horn

Governor's Proposed FY17 Transportation Budget

The governor's proposed FY17 Transportation Budget is \$618 million, a mere \$2 million increase (0.3 percent) from FY16. State funds from both the Transportation Fund and Transportation Infrastructure Bond increased by \$13.5 million (5 percent) over FY16. The new federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) has helped provide modest increased funding totaling an additional \$100 million plus over federal FY16-FY20.

Following are some highlights of the Governor's FY17 proposed budget:

- \$28.9 million for the **Department of Motor Vehicles**: \$1.9 million increase over FY16.
- \$111.1 million for **paving**: \$11.1 million increase over FY16.

- \$105.1 million for **bridges**: \$11.1 million decrease from FY16. The decrease is attributed to the completion of Irene-related bridge projects and fewer available federal funds.
- \$31.1 million for **roadways**: \$12.3 million decrease from FY16.
- \$17.4 million for **traffic and safety**: \$620,000 decrease from FY16.
- \$2.6 million for **park-and-ride facilities**: \$73,000 decrease from FY16.
- \$10.1 million for **bicycle and pedestrian facilities**: \$3.9 million increase over FY16.
- \$4.6 million for **transportation alternatives**: \$192,000 decrease from FY16.
- \$550,000 for **highway rest areas**: \$75,000 decrease from FY16.
- \$91.6 million for **maintenance**: \$4.5 million increase over FY16. The increase is largely attributable to increases in material, equipment, and personnel costs.
- \$31.2 million for **public transit**: \$4.1 million increase over FY16. The increase reflects the need to begin replacing older vehicles.
- \$20 million for **aviation**: \$5.3 million increase over FY16. The increase is \$4.2 million in federal funds and is needed to correct a deficient runway as mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration and make numerous improvements at two airports.
- \$33.9 million for **rail**: \$1.3 million decrease from FY16.
- \$2 million for **transportation building facilities**: level-funded from FY16.
- \$74.4 million for **town highway programs**: \$27 million decrease from FY16. This decrease is attributed to a \$23 million decrease in Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Grants associated with Irene and 2013 disasters, and a \$3.2 million decrease to Town Highway Structures associated with a one-time budget adjustment that shifted \$3.2 million from FY15 to FY16. The program is restored to the customary annual level of appropriation. Other proposed changes to town highway programs include:
 - **Town Highway Aid Program** is level-funded at \$26 million.
 - **Town Highway Aid for Non-Federal Disasters** is level-funded at \$1.15 million.
 - **Town Highway Aid for Federal Disasters** is reduced to \$1.28 million from \$1.44 million.
 - **Town Highway Structures** is level-funded at \$6.3 million.
 - **Town Highway Class 2 and Class 1 Supplemental grant programs** are level-funded at \$7.2 million and \$128,750, respectively.
 - **Town Highway Bridges** funding is decreased by \$2.9 million from FY16.

The Administration and the Agency of Transportation did an excellent job of putting together a budget that is fiscally sound, while still ensuring that our transportation system is well maintained, well run, and cost-effective. Nevertheless, in order to comply with the mandates established in 2015's Act 64, municipalities need substantial increases to Town Highway Aid programs, Class 1 Local Highways, Class 2 Paving and Town Highway Structures grant programs, and the Town Highway Bridge Program in order implement water quality improvement and protection projects. VLCT believes that the legislature should institute a temporary increase to the gas tax during a time where gas prices are at their lowest in eight years, and revenues need to be dedicated to meeting the Act 64 mandates.

A summary of the governor's proposed transportation budget for FY2017 is posted [here](#).

—Gwynn Zakov

Revenue Forecast Update

This week, the House and Senate Ways and Means committees heard revenue forecast updates and economic reviews for FY16 and FY17 provided for the Vermont Emergency Board and Joint Fiscal

Office by Tom Kavet, economist for the State Legislature. His report, the [January 2016 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast Update](#), indicated that total state revenues have generally been on target for the first half of FY16, though there are very slight negative adjustments to General and Education Fund revenues and very slight increases in Transportation Fund revenues. The total revenue forecast recommendation is 0.25 percent below prior July forecasts for FY16 and 0.44 percent below FY17.

Total forecast adjustment recommendations are slightly negative due to a poor start to the winter tourism season, global economic sluggishness, slightly lower yields from new taxes, and assorted technical issues associated with individual revenue categories. Transportation Fund increases reflect slightly higher gasoline and diesel consumption as a result of lower prices and higher revenues from newer car purchases and associated registration revenues.

Revenue and Budget Highlights

Vermont Wages and Jobs. According to the report, Vermont, at 3.7 percent, had the 10th lowest unemployment rate in the country and was second to New Hampshire's 3.2 percent in the region. Initial claims for unemployment insurance in Vermont recently dropped to their lowest level in more than 25 years. Although improvements have been made at the state and federal level with regard to the labor market, real wage and income growth have remained flat or negative for lower income groups, with most gains in income accruing at the highest income quintile. Although most recent Vermont statistics have not been released, Vermont will presumably show a continuation of the long-term trend of ever-increasing income concentration in the top quintile and above.

Real Estate. U.S. and Vermont real estate markets continue to improve. For the sixth consecutive quarter, housing prices in the U.S. have increased on a year-over-year basis in every state. Residential real estate experience its best year since the Great Recession in 2015 with sales increasing and prices overall remaining unchanged or inching upward. Sellers have received 90.5 percent of the original list price, up from 88.6 percent in 2011 and inventory for homes for sale has decreased, perhaps indicating the market is getting closer to an increase in new home builds in coming years.

Slow Start to the Ski Season. The brown and warm holiday season dampened prospects for FY16 meals and rooms receipts as well as sales and use and other tourism-affected tax sources because of reduced numbers of ski visits. Although the season likely saw a modest rebound over the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend, FY16 revenue for meals and rooms is likely to decrease by more than \$2 million.

Corporate Tax. Corporate tax revenues closed \$6 million above targets. That being said, this volatile revenue sources is expected to drop at least 25 percent over the next several years before stabilizing at about \$90-\$100 million in FY18.

Personal Income Tax. Personal income tax revenues missed targets slightly in FY15 and Vermont will need a record April tax season to meet FY16 expectations. Total revenues are expected to top \$760 million in FY16. However, until revenue experience from actual receipts associated with tax law changes made during the 2015 legislative session become available, any forecast is considerably uncertain.

Transportation and Gas Prices. Low gas prices have led to an increase in fuel consumption for the first time in ten years; therefore, revenues have increased modestly. Low oil and gas prices will also benefit Vermont consumers who may stand to save more than \$700 million in home heating oil, gasoline, and other petroleum products purchased in 2016.

Fun Fact! The billion-dollar-plus Powerball jackpot this month stimulated about \$1 million in State Lottery sales, resulting in an FY16 revenue upgrade of about \$400,000.

—Gwynn Zakov

Legalization of Marijuana

This week, the discussions and debate around whether Vermont should become the fifth state in the country to legalize recreational marijuana spread beyond the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate Finance Committee took up the matter and heard testimony that focused on concerns around banking, insurance, and taxation as they pertain to legalizing recreational marijuana. The committee also heard from representatives from other states that have legalized marijuana: The Director of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board and a staff member from the Colorado Legislative Council talked at length about their respective experiences and lessons learned. The Senate Health and Welfare Committee also heard testimony from officials at the Vermont Department of Health and other medical experts about the health impacts of marijuana use on children, youth, and adults.

The Senate Government Operations and Judiciary committees both heard testimony from VLCT advocacy staff for the first time this session about S.95 and S.241, two bills that would legalize the personal possession and cultivation of cannabis. As we explained in last week's [Weekly Legislative Report](#), VLCT members opposes the legalization of marijuana because of the negative impacts legalization will have on local school populations, law enforcement, first responders, zoning and land use, municipal ordinance and local government's budgets.

Nonetheless, there was indication that the Senate may be moving forward with some variation of legalization legislation. Both committees were eager to hear *how* VLCT would like to see legalization occur from a municipal perspective *if* they were to move forward with such legislation. The conversation moved beyond our overall position of opposing the legalization of recreational marijuana and into a dialogue about the concerns that need to be resolved before any legislation is finalized. If efforts to legalize marijuana are to remain viable this year, senators seemed to believe that a bill would need to be finalized and approved *soon* – within the next week or two.

—Gwynn Zakov

Tax Department to Present New Training Session at Local Government Day

This year, VLCT's Local Government Day in the Legislature, scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, will feature a new training session. After lunch, attendees can either return to the State House for committee meetings and observe floor action or stay at the Capitol Plaza for a training session presented by the Vermont Department of Taxes. Douglas Farnham, Director of Property, Valuation and Review, and Candace Morgan, Director of Policy, Outreach, and Legislative Affairs, will present an overview of the Vermont Department of Taxes' new website and discuss the changes to the processing of property transfer tax returns as a result of their new integrated tax system. This session is especially important for clerks and listers because they are involved with these processes and will need to know how to navigate the Tax Department's website. Visit www.vlct.org/eventscalendar to register and learn more about Local Government Day.

Local Government Day is co-sponsored by the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association and the Vermont Assessors and Listers Association.

BILL NUMBER	SUMMARY OF NEW BILLS	CURRENT LOCATION
H.574	Would amend statutes governing the Vermont Economic Development Authority.	House Commerce & Econ. Development
H.575	Would eliminate town service officers' role in administering General Assistance benefits.	House Human Services
H.577	Would modify the statutory provisions that require voter approval before a municipal electric department or cooperative purchases electricity from outside Vermont.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.578	Would require the Secretary of Natural Resources to issue a potable water supply or wastewater system permit within 30 days of receipt of the permit application.	House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources
H.581	Would allow municipalities to install signs, inside or outside a highway right-of-way, that direct travelers to a downtown development district, village center, new town center, or growth center designated under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 76. VTrans approval would be required before installation inside the right-of-way.	House Transportation
H.583	Would amend Act 46 of 2015 to remove the requirement that newly merged districts formed pursuant to Act 46 have a minimum average daily membership of 900.	House Education
H.584	Would amend multiple requirements related to timber harvesting, forestry operations, and State lands to (1) provide that certain forestry operations would not be subject to liability as a public or private nuisance, (2) require land owners to notify the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation of a proposed timber harvest operation on their land, and (3) increase the tapping fees for licenses issued by the Department for maple sap collection on State lands.	House Agriculture and Forest Products
H.586	Would require that the Vermont Pension Investment Committee divest from publically traded companies that earn more than half of their annual revenue from coal mining.	House Government Operations
H.589	Would prohibit the installation of industrial wind generation.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.590	Would provide the same monetary benefit currently available to survivors of firefighters and emergency personnel to survivors of law enforcement officers.	House Government Operations
H.592	Would prohibit the deposit, transfer, or appropriation of transportation-related tax, fee, and penalty revenues, and of other monies received by the State for transportation projects and activities, for purposes that are not transportation-related, except as specifically authorized by law.	House Transportation
H.595	Would require the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt rules allowing the use of a surface water as a supply source for a potable water supply of an individual residential dwelling.	House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources
H.596	Would enable local bylaws for review and approval or denial of proposed electric generation facilities, except for small solar and wind generation. The review would be by a panel designated by the municipality such as the development review board or planning commission. The panel's decision would be subject to a petition for review by the municipality's legislative body. Would bar the Public Service Board from issuing a certificate of public good for an electric generation facility in a municipality that has adopted a bylaw unless the municipality has approved the facility.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.597	Would require the Public Service Board, before issuing a certificate of public good for an in-state facility, to consider any energy siting standards in the municipal plan and to consider the land use bylaws of the municipality.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.598	Would give adjoining municipalities and property owners the right to be a party to energy siting proceedings before the Public Service Board. Would require 15 days' notice of hearings in those proceedings.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.599	Would increase public notice and access to information before an applicant files for approval from the Public Service Board to site an energy facility.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.600	Would limit the requirement that public cemeteries be fenced to instances in which	House Gen., Housing

BILL NUMBER	SUMMARY OF NEW BILLS	CURRENT LOCATION
	the adjoining property has livestock on it.	and Military Affairs
H.601	Would allow municipalities to retain certain sources of education funding when the school district in that town merges with other districts.	House Education
H.602	Would provide that the solid waste franchise tax will not be imposed on waste collected outside the state, shipped into the state for processing, and then shipped out of state for final disposition.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.605	Would clarify that, in a telecommunications siting proceeding before the Public Service Board, the default is that the board yields to the plans and recommendations of the municipality unless the board determines that the evidence demonstrates the applicant cannot achieve service objectives that promote the general good of the State by constructing facilities that comply with those plans and recommendations.	House Commerce & Econ. Development
H.606	Would allow an applicant for a land use permit under Act 250 relief from the settlement patterns criterion if physical constraints prevent siting the development in an existing settlement or other location in the county.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.607	Would increase the cumulative capacity cap on net metering systems within a utility's service territory to 25 percent.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.608	Would exempt solid waste collected as part of a litter collection event operated or administered by a nonprofit organization or municipality from the requirements to separate mandated recyclables, leaf and yard residuals, and food residuals.	House Natural Resources & Energy
H.609	Would prohibit a municipal corporation from establishing rates for the supply of water to customers based on the assessed value of the property to be served.	House Government Operations
H.610	Would clarify current law relating to the procedure and implementation of the Agency of Natural Resource's Water Pollution Control Grant Program and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.	House Corrections and Institutions