

1 H.291

2 Introduced by Representative McCullough of Williston

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Highways; water quality; town road and bridge standards

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
7 municipalities to adopt town road and bridge standards that include best
8 management practices to address water quality and that meet or exceed the
9 minimum requirements of the Agency of Transportation's recommended town
10 road and bridge standards.

11 An act relating to town road and bridge standards and water quality

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

13 Sec. 1. 19 V.S.A. § 303 is amended to read:

14 § 303. TOWN HIGHWAY CONTROL, STANDARDS

15 Town highways shall be under the general supervision and control of the
16 selectmen of the town where the roads are located. Selectmen shall supervise
17 all expenditures. Each municipality shall adopt road and bridge standards that
18 include best management practices to address water quality and that meet or
19 exceed the minimum requirements of the Agency's recommended town road
20 and bridge standards.

1 Sec. 2. 19 V.S.A. § 996 is amended to read:

2 § 996. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR;

3 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

4 (a) ~~The agency of transportation~~ Agency of Transportation shall work with
5 municipal representatives to revise ~~the agency of transportation's~~ its
6 recommended town road and bridge standards in order to incorporate a suite of
7 practical and cost-effective best management practices, as approved by the
8 ~~agency of natural resources~~ Agency of Natural Resources, for the construction,
9 maintenance, and repair of all existing and future state and town highways.

10 These best management practices shall address activities which have a
11 potential for causing pollutants to enter the groundwater and waters of the ~~state~~
12 State, including stormwater runoff and direct discharges to state waters. The
13 best management practices shall not supersede any requirements for
14 stormwater management already set forth in 10 V.S.A. §§ 1264 and 1264a that
15 apply to state and town highways. ~~The agency of transportation shall report to~~
16 ~~the house and senate committees on transportation, the house committee on~~
17 ~~fish, wildlife and water resources, and the senate committee on natural~~
18 ~~resources and energy by January 15, 2011, on the best management practices~~
19 ~~to be incorporated into the agency of transportation's town road and bridge~~
20 ~~standards.~~

1 (b) Beginning January 5, 2013, and every four years thereafter, the
2 ~~secretary~~ Secretary of Transportation in consultation with municipal
3 representatives and with approval from the ~~agency of natural resources~~ Agency
4 of Natural Resources shall review and revise, as appropriate, the Agency of
5 Transportation's recommended town road and bridge standards in order to
6 ensure the standards are protective of water quality.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.