

1 H.428

2 Introduced by Representatives Turner of Milton and Beyor of Highgate

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Utilities; transmission; electric; natural gas; Lake Champlain;
6 environmental impact fee; Clean Water Fund

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to assess an
8 environmental impact fee on a natural gas or electric utility that transmits
9 power through any new transmission line that requires an encroachment permit
10 under 29 V.S.A. chapter 11 for encroaching on Lake Champlain. The fee shall
11 be deposited in the Vermont Clean Water Fund.

12 An act relating to an environmental impact fee on utilities and the Vermont
13 Clean Water Fund

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

15 Sec. 1. 29 V.S.A. § 411 is added to read:

16 § 411. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FEE

17 (a) A natural gas or electric utility that transmits energy through a natural
18 gas transmission pipeline or a high-voltage bulk electric (115 kV and above)
19 transmission line that requires an encroachment permit under this chapter shall
20 be assessed an environmental impact fee.

1 (b) The rate of the fee required by this section shall be determined by the
2 Department of Environmental Conservation and shall be commensurate with
3 the amount of power transmitted through the transmission line.

4 (c) Beginning on July 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the fees shall be
5 collected by the Department of Environmental Conservation and deposited into
6 the Vermont Clean Water Fund established under 10 V.S.A. chapter 47,
7 subchapter 7. The fee shall be applied to any utility that transmits power
8 through a transmission line for which an encroachment permit application is
9 pending, or is filed, on or after the effective date of this section.

10 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.