

Vermont Planners Association (VPA) Legislative Report - March 8, 2021

Since Legislators were on break last week for Town Meeting, this report will be short, focusing on the upcoming legislative committee schedule. Bills aiming for passage this year need to make the March 12 crossover deadline so we will watch to see which bills make the move by the end of this week. --Faith Ingulsrud

House Bills

Reported by Alex Weinhagen

In Committee

H. 159 - Better Places Program - The House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development will spend most of the week on this bill. No details were available but [the committee agenda](#) indicates this will now become the Committee's Economic Development Bill. Discussion begins at 9 AM on Tuesday 3/9, resumes at 10:30 AM on Wednesday and through the remainder of the week.

Senate Bills

Reported by Regina Mahoney and Alex Weinhagen

In Committee

S.33 – Project-based TIF – Continued discussion in Senate Economic Development and Housing Committee on Wednesday (March 10) at 8:30am.

S.66 - Electric Bicycles - Senate Transportation Committee will walk through the bill at 11:30 AM on Tuesday March 8. On Wednesday 9 AM the Committee will hear about the MyRide Microtransit Pilot (Montpelier).

S.101 - Smart Growth Housing/Municipal Bylaw Bill - Senator Sirotkin will discuss the bill with the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee on Tuesday (March 9) at 11:45am. The bill is currently in the Senate Economic Development & Housing Committee, and is on their agenda to be discussed again on Wednesday (March 10) at 9:40am. It's listed as "21-0090 - An act relating to promoting housing choice" on the Economic Development & Housing Committee agenda.

Climate Caucus and Council

Reported by Peg Elmer Hough

The Climate Caucus, despite having the date scheduled on their website, did not meet last week. It was town meeting break week for the legislature. Their next meeting is March 18 at noon.

The subcommittees for the Climate Council are actively meeting. The membership can be seen on their website and here:

<https://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/Boards/VCC/VCC%20Subcommittee%20Membership%20FINAL%203-4-21.pdf> (Those in yellow have accepted and are active. Those in green haven't yet accepted)

The next meeting of the full Climate Council is March 22 at 8:30 a.m. The Consensus Building Institute is hired as their facilitation consultant. They are also working for Maine and NY state on their climate action plans. At this point VPA's main interest will be in the Council's draft recommendations, to be distributed for public feedback in June. Reports on the Climate Council are likely to be less frequent until then.