

From: Vermont Planners Association <VPA@list.uvm.edu> on behalf of Alex Weinhagen <aweinhagen@HINESBURG.ORG>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 4:12 PM
To: VPA@LIST.UVM.EDU
Subject: [VPA] VPA Legislative Summary - 3/29/24

VPA Members,

Apologies for the long delay in this legislative summary. The last one was over a month ago on 2/26/24. This will be a short one. More helpful bill summary information in the works for next week. A few of the big planning-related bills that are still alive:

[H.687](#) – Act 250 reform bill. Passed by the House on 3/28/24 with several last-minute amendments from the floor. Still waiting for a cleaned-up version to be posted to the bill’s webpage. Headed to the Senate Natural Resources Committee for consideration and merging with other Act 250 and municipal permit reform bills. VT Digger did an excellent article on the bill, the amendments, and where Act 250 permit reform legislation is going next – [click here for the article](#).

[S.311](#) – Act 250 and municipal permit reform. Anticipated to be merged with H.687. Voted out of Senate Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs on 2/16/24, and referred to the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Senate Natural Resources reviewed it this week in preparation for receiving H.687.

[S.213](#) – River corridor, wetland, dam, and flood hazard area permitting. Passed by the Senate on 3/21/24. Headed to the House Environment and Energy Committee for consideration. Creates a new State permitting system for development in a river corridor area. Tightens State wetland permitting rules to require no loss of net wetland area when a permit is issued for wetland impacts – i.e., have to make up for area impacted. Requires a study of flood hazard regulations, and the promulgation of minimum standards for municipal regulations to meet – which might be more stringent than existing National Flood Insurance Program standards. Once again, good coverage by VT Digger on this bill – [click here for the article](#).

NEXT VPA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The VPA Legislative Committee meets next on Monday, April 1 at 2pm. VPA members are welcome to attend. The committee generally meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 2pm during the Vermont legislative session.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84410707401>

Meeting ID: 844 1070 7401

Passcode: 416038

Dial-in option: 646-558-8656

Proposed Discussion Items

Bill Updates:

- Act 250 & Permit Reform
 - H.687 – Passed by the House on 3/28/24; headed to Senate Natural Resources
 - S.311 – to be merged with H.687 by Senate Natural Resources
 - Key changes needed – to highlight with Senate Natural Resources Committee

- S.213 (Wetlands, River Corridors, Dams) – Passed by the Senate on 3/21/24; now in House Environment & Energy

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