

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016**

Bill Number: H.868 Name of Bill: Omnibus Economic Development

Agency/ Dept: ACCD Author of Bill Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Bill Review: 5/9/2016 Related Bills and Key Players: Reps Botzow, O'Sullivan, Ancel. Sens Mullin and Ashe

Status of Bill: (check one):  Upon Introduction  As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body  As passed by both

Recommended Position:

Support  Oppose  Remain Neutral  Support with modifications identified in #8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

- 1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*  
Amendments to various existing economic development programs. Some policy changes requested by the Administration and some initiated by Legislature. Very few new initiatives and no new funding.  
Summary (Sections refer to Senate Passed Version):  
A.1–A.7: VEDA; B.1: Cooperatives; Electronic Voting; **C.1–C.2: Converting RPC/RDC Contracts to Grants**;  
D.1: **Vermont Training Program**; E.1–E.4: Corporations, LLCs, and Business Organizations; F.1–F.9: Vermont State Treasurer; G.1: Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities; H.1–H.9: VEGI “Re-write;” H.10–H.12: Transition to VEGI “re-write on January 1, 2017 and **Sunset of VEGI program** on January 1, 2021; H.13–14: VEGI Program Reviews; I.1: Blockchain Technology; J.1: Study-Internet-Based Lodging Accommodations; K.1–K.3: State Workforce Development Board; L.1–L.2: Vermont Creative Network; O.1–O.2: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Q.2: Vermont Tax Study; R.1: Financial Literacy Commission; T.1–T.4: Workforce Housing Study and Down Payment Assistance Program
- 2. Is there a need for this bill?** *Please explain why or why not.*  
Yes. Bill contains economic development amendments requested by Administration (highlighted in yellow above).
- 3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**  
No fiscal impacts as all funding was removed. Note that of the funding included in Budget bill for the Vermont Arts Council, this bill directs that \$30,000 go to the “Creative Network” created by Secs L.1–L.3. Many agencies will have programmatic changes, including ACCD (VTP, RDC/RPC contracts), VEDA, and VEPC.
- 4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**  
Bill also impacts the Treasurer, DFR, and Labor, but with changes they sought.
- 5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** *(for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)*  
Other impacted entities include cooperatives (Sec B), Vermont businesses converting the selection of corporate type (Sec E), Vermonters working despite a disability (Sec G), and entities filing forms with Vermont courts (Sec I). These are positive changes supported by these various constituencies.
- 6. Other Stakeholders:**

*Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to [Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov) & [Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)*

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?**

Businesses and business organizations- Changes to VTP, VEGI, VEDA, and biz registration changes  
Cooperatives- Changes to voting rules  
Creative Economy entities- Creation of network  
ABLE-eligible Vermonters

**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?**

Opponents of business incentive programs – extension of VEGI

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.*

Bill contains economic development amendments sought by Administration. While complete re-Write of VEGI program was not sought, changes were managed so they are acceptable. Administration sought elimination of VEGI program sunset; bill contains compromise of program sunset in 2021.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

**9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?**

Sec F1 reinstates the Public Retirement Plan Study Committee which ceased to exist on Jan 15, 2016. (No gubernatorial appointees).

Sec F4 “mothballs” the Private Activity Bond Advisory Committee (includes representatives of Administration and two members of public appointed by the Governor) upon call of Treasurer.

Sec F9 creates Treasurer’s Local Investment Advisory Committee (no gubernatorial appointees).

Sec K1 makes changes to the State Workforce Development Board, including adding Secretary of ACCD and Secretary of Education. The description of membership, including the Governor’s appointees, is amended, but the number of appointees stays the same.

Sec R1 amends appointments to the Financial Literacy Commission (9 VSA §6002(7)) to add a second representative from a non-profit entity that provides financial literacy and related services to low income people. One appointed by Governor and one appointed by OEO. Previous language did not indicate who appointed the single non-profit representative.

**Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_