

1 H.463

2 Introduced by Representatives Weston of Burlington, Barnard of Richmond,

3 Cheney of Norwich, Edwards of Brattleboro, Johnson of South

4 Hero, Larson of Burlington, Lippert of Hinesburg, Lorber of

5 Burlington, Mitchell of Barnard, Pearson of Burlington and

6 Trombley of Grand Isle

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Conservation and development; environmental justice

10 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to establish an environmental justice

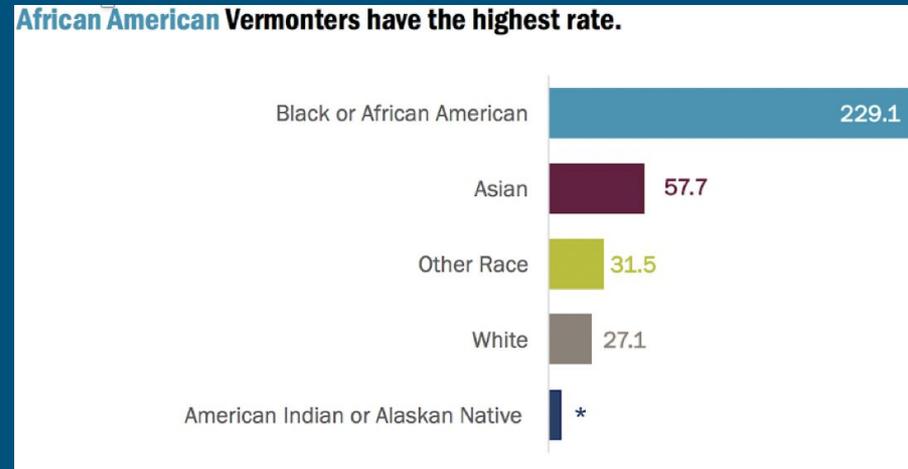
11 policy for the state of Vermont and would establish an advisory committee on

12 environmental justice within the agency of natural resources to advise the state

13 on environmental justice issues.

Background

- Vermont is one of the last states in the US with no EJ policy
- Mobile home communities were the first to receive federal EJ grants 20 years ago
- EPA required EJ framework in 2015 ANR performance agreement
- Environmental health is public health, but these efforts are siloed
- Vermont has some of the greatest racial disparities in land access and homeownership in the country
- A quarter of Vermonters lack access to transportation to go to a doctor's appointment or grocery store



What is Environmental Justice Policy?

Equal access to...

Clean Air

Clean Water

Outdoor Recreation

Healthy Homes

Health Care

Fresh Food

SUBSTANTIVE

Enhancing...

Public Participation

Access to Information

Language Access

PROCEDURAL

Ensuring...

No discrimination based on
race, national origin,
disability or income

Equal distribution of
environmental burdens and
benefits

DISTRIBUTIVE

What is Environmental Justice?

All individuals are afforded the right to equitable access to environmental benefits; proportionate distribution of environmental burdens; fair and equitable treatment and meaningful participation in decision-making processes and the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies; and recognition of the unique needs of individuals of all racial and ethnic groups, cultures, incomes, and national origins. Environmental justice redresses structural and institutional racism, colonialism, and other systems of oppression that result in the marginalization, degradation, disinvestment, and neglect communities of Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color. Environmental justice requires prioritizing resources for community revitalization, ecological restoration, resilience planning, and a just recovery to communities most impacted by environmental injustices and natural disasters.

Definition section includes environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and meaningful participation.

Environmental Justice Bill

- Findings & Definitions
- EJ in mission, framework of the state agencies with reporting requirement
- Environmental Justice Advisory Group
- ANR Officer of Civil Rights
- Use of mapping tool to identify environmentally distressed communities

EJ Mapping Tool

