CONFIDENTIAL

LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015

Bill Number: H.363 **Name of Bill:** Petroleum Cleanup Fund

Agency/ Dept: ANR/DEC **Author of Bill Review:** Chuck Schwer

Date of Bill Review: 1/25/16 **Related Bills and Key Players:** Representatives Sharpe and Baser

Status of Bill: (check one): _____ Upon Introduction _____ As passed by 1st body _X_ As passed by both

Recommended Position:

X Support _____Oppose _____Remain Neutral _____Support with modifications identified in #8 below

Analysis of Bill

Summary of bill and issue it addresses.

1. This bill proposes to amend the Petroleum Cleanup Fund UST (Underground Storage Tank) and AST (Aboveground Storage Tank) residential grant program by increasing both the amount of the grants, currently set at $2,000, and the annual limit. The bill proposes to increase individual grants to $2,000, $3,000 and $4,000, depending on the type of tank; and proposes to increase from $350,000 to $400,000 the amount of assistance the Secretary of Natural Resources may authorize from the Heating Fuel Account of the Fund for underground and aboveground heating fuel tanks in any one fiscal year.

2. **Is there a need for this bill?** Yes. The annual demand on the PCF for these grants continues to exceed the annual cap. In addition, the amount of the individual grants needs to be increased to keep up with the cost for this work.

3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** The fiscal implications of this bill are minimal. The bill proposes to increase the annual limit by only $50,000. The Agency manages this fund and will only utilize this increase if the fund balance can support it.

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?**

   This bill should not impact other state agencies.

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)*

   This bill should not negatively impact others but will only help to continue to upgrade aging tanks before they leak.

6. **Other Stakeholders:**

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6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why? Low income tank owners will support this bill as it provides additional funds to assist in tank upgrades. Fuel dealers support this bill as it provides the needed funds to upgrade aging tanks before there is a leak.

6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why? There has been no identified opposition to this bill.

7. **Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.* The residential grant program has been a very successful program by helping low income Vermonters replace their tanks before they leak. This prevention program has helped reduce the number of leaks the fund pays to remediate each year .

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.*
   ANR supports this bill without modification.

9. **Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?** N/A

Commissioner has reviewed this document: _____ ***Date:*** 1/27/16

Secretary has reviewed this document: _____ ***Date:*** 1/28/16

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