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H.169

Introduced by Representatives Patt of Worcester, Martin of Wolcott, and
Woodward of Johnson

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Land use; municipal and regional planning and development; bylaws;
permissible types of regulations; regulating commercial building
facades

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow
municipalities to adopt land use bylaws for the purpose of regulating
commercial building facades in designated areas to ensure the facades are not
left in a state of disrepair.

An act relating to allowing municipalities to adopt bylaws regulating
commercial building facades

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 4414(15) is added to read:

(15) Facades in designated downtowns and village centers. A
municipality may adopt bylaws for the purpose of regulating the appearance of
building facades in a downtown development district designated pursuant to

1 section 2793 of this title and in a village center designated pursuant to section
2 2793a of this title.

3 (A) These bylaws shall be limited to:

4 (i) requiring the maintenance and repair of the facade to ensure the
5 building's interior is not open to the weather and elements for longer than six
6 consecutive months;

7 (ii) prohibiting a facade from having broken windows for longer
8 than six consecutive months; and

9 (iii) prohibiting windows and doors from being covered with
10 boards or similar materials for longer than six consecutive months.

11 (B) A bylaw under this subdivision shall not apply to one- and
12 two-family dwellings.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.