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H.4

Introduced by Representatives Anthony of Barre City and Williams of Barre
City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Transportation; bridges; stream alteration; Barre City

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to add the
removal of the pilings of Bridge 308 to the Agency of Transportation's Rail
Program.

An act relating to the removal of the pilings of Bridge 308

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Ice jams are common during the winter and spring along rivers and
streams in Vermont, and many of the record flood events along major rivers
are the result of ice jams.

(2) Debris jams can occur at any time of year and have the same
implications as an ice jam.

(3) As ice or debris moves downstream it may get caught on any sort of
obstruction to the water flow. When this occurs, water can be held back,

1 causing upstream flooding, and, when the jam finally breaks, flash flooding
2 can occur downstream.

3 (4) Ice and debris jams can cause riverbank erosion, impede migration
4 of aquatic creatures, and adversely impact wildlife habitats. Loss of life has
5 also been attributed to flooding caused by ice and debris jams.

6 (5) Barre City is located in a narrow river valley with the Winooski
7 River running from southeast to northwest and has been greatly affected by
8 flooding since its settlement over 200 years ago.

9 (6) Many historic events have made it clear that Barre City can be
10 vulnerable to flood-related hazards due to ice and debris jam events, not only
11 within the City itself but also upstream in the City of Montpelier.

12 (7) Bridge 308, the trestle bridge over Stevens Branch in Barre City,
13 terminating at Vanetti Place, is no longer operational, but the support pilings
14 remain within the Stevens Branch.

15 (8) The Bridge 308 pilings are a perpetual obstruction to waterflow
16 within the Stevens Branch and a frequent location of ice and debris jams.

17 (9) The Bridge 308 pilings will continue to be an obstruction to
18 waterflow and the likely location of future ice and debris jams if they are not
19 removed.

1 Sec. 2. REMOVAL OF THE PILINGS OF BRIDGE 308

2 The removal of the pilings of Bridge 308, the trestle bridge over Stevens
3 Branch in Barre City, terminating at Vanetti Place, is added to the Agency of
4 Transportation's Rail Program, with a project completion date on or before
5 June 30, 2024. If Bridge 308 is not removed as part of this project, the bridge
6 shall be reengineered to have no structural supports within the Stevens Branch.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.