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H.905

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Browning of Arlington and Sullivan of Dorset
Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: State Auditor; climate change legislation; rulemaking; enforcement

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to have the State Auditor perform a public accountability and oversight function and have enforcement authority concerning rules that an agency or department is required to promulgate pursuant to potential legislation to adopt a plan to address climate change. The State Auditor shall review any proposed rules and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for effectiveness and issue a report within three months. Should the proposed rules be deemed insufficient by the Auditor and if the selectboards of at least 20 municipalities within the State within 30 days of the issuance of the Auditor's report request that the Auditor file suit, the Auditor shall file suit asking that a court direct the relevant agency or department to rewrite the rules. Any amended rules shall have to be approved by the court after a hearing. After rules have been in effect for three years, the Auditor shall evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the rules in reducing emissions. If the Auditor determines that the rules are ineffective in reducing emissions and if the selectboards of at least 20 municipalities within

1 the State within 30 days of the issuance of the Auditor's report request that the
2 Auditor file suit, the Auditor shall file suit asking that a court direct the
3 relevant agency or department to rewrite the rules. Any amended rules must
4 be approved by the court after a hearing.

5 An act relating to the Vermont State Auditor and potential legislation and
6 rules concerning climate change

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

8 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)