

DRAFT WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY REPORT LANGUAGE

December 2025

Sec. AA. INCREASING WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE CAPACITY REPORT

- (a) The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall convene a task force to report on increasing Vermont's capacity for wildland fire response.*
- (b) The task force shall examine available information on wildland fire incidence and existing response capacity, and shall make recommendations regarding staffing, funding, equipment, supplies, and infrastructure, including vehicles, necessary to increase wildland fire response capacity.*
- (c) The task force shall also identify any potential policy or statutory changes needed to improve wildland fire response capacity, clarify statewide roles and responsibilities among State, municipal, and federal entities, and recommend any coordination and communication improvements.*
- (d) The task force shall include representatives from the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Vermont Emergency Management, the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire Safety, the Green Mountain National Forest, and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and no more than two municipal fire chiefs.*
- (e) On or before July 15, 2027, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall submit the report to the House Committees on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry and on Government Operations & Military Affairs, and to the Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Government Operations.*
- (f) In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund in fiscal year 2027 for the Department to enter to contract for the development of the report.*

BIG BILL SUGGESTED TEXT

- (a) In fiscal year 2027, funds are appropriated from the General Fund for new and ongoing initiatives as follows:
 - (1) \$25,000 to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to conduct a study on improving wildland fire response capacity.**