

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative David Durfee, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry

DATE: January 4, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Reports Repeal Bill

In 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the General Assembly established an intent to repeal certain reporting requirements after five years. Additionally, the law requires the Office of Legislative Counsel to prepare a list of the reports subject to repeal in each biennium. [2 V.S.A. § 20\(d\)](#) reads:

(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that, except for reports required by interstate compacts and except as otherwise provided by law, whenever an agency is required by law to submit an annual, biennial, or other periodic report to the General Assembly, that requirement shall no longer be required after five years or after five years from the last date that the statutory or session law section containing the report was amended, whichever date is later. In each biennial session, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall prepare for the General Assembly's review a list of the reports subject to this subsection. A report requirement shall only expire pursuant to legislative enactment.

The attached spreadsheet identifies reports that are subject to the five-year repeal from 2017-2026 and cover subject matter within your committee's jurisdiction.

If a report requirement is repealed, the information that report provides will remain available to committees pursuant to committee request. There should be no reduction in accountability from any State agency. **The question is whether a legislatively required ongoing report is necessary for legislative work.** Eliminating unnecessary ongoing reports will allow agency staff to redirect their efforts to more substantive work.

We suggest that the question for each committee is, "*Have you used and will you need to use these reports in legislative decisions?*" Please review the spreadsheet and identify those reports you still need. Three columns are provided for your response (please mark only one):

- 1) The report is no longer useful and therefore the requirement should be repealed;
- 2) The report is useful but not of permanent importance and therefore the requirement should continue until a future reports review in 2026; or
- 3) The report is fundamental and therefore should be permanently required.

Please return the survey to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs by January 19, 2024. Failure to respond by January 19th will be taken to mean that the report requirement should be repealed. We will then prepare the 2024 Reports Repeal Bill to reflect committee feedback. Thank you for your time and cooperation.