

1 H.354

2 Introduced by Representatives Peltz of Woodbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Frank
3 of Underhill and Orr of Charlotte

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; public schools; school readiness; family-centered mental
7 and physical health services; coordinated and integrated childhood
8 services; health care, nutrition; building bright futures

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a task force to recommend
10 legislation for introduction in the 2010 legislative session that would establish
11 a coordinated, statewide system for early care, health, and education, building
12 on the work of Building Bright Futures.

13 An act relating to a task force on a comprehensive early care, health, and
14 education system

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

16 Sec. 1. EARLY CARE, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION TASK FORCE

17 (a) There is created a task force to examine the current structure of
18 Building Bright Futures and recommend a permanent structure that would
19 ensure a coordinated system of early care, health, and education services to

1 enable Vermont to meet its commitment to the healthy development of its
2 young children.

3 (b) The task force shall consist of:

4 (1) one member each from the house committees on human services, on
5 education, and on commerce and economic development to be appointed by
6 the speaker of the house;

7 (2) one member each from the senate committees on health and welfare,
8 on education, and on economic development, housing and general affairs, to be
9 appointed by the committee on committees;

10 (3) one representative of the Building Bright Futures State Council;

11 (4) one representative of a Building Bright Futures regional council;

12 (5) one representative of a statewide children's and youth advocacy
13 organization;

14 (6) one representative of an organization that provides early childhood
15 services; and

16 (7) one representative of the administration.

17 (c) The task force shall:

18 (1) Review the recommendations of the National Smart Start Technical
19 Assistance Center regarding Vermont's early childhood system;

1 (2) Examine the mission, structure, and accomplishments of Building
2 Bright Futures, including the activities undertaken by the regional councils
3 prior to March 27, 2009;

4 (3) Study options regarding a permanent structure, including nonprofit
5 status and a public/private entity;

6 (4) Develop recommendations regarding a permanent Building Bright
7 Futures structure, state council membership, regional capacity, powers and
8 duties, roles of state departments and draft proposed legislation based on these
9 recommendations.

10 (d) In its deliberations, the task force shall invite the testimony of qualified
11 witnesses and comments from members of the public, and shall have the
12 assistance of the legislative council and joint fiscal staff.

13 (e) Legislative members shall be reimbursed for services, meals, and travel
14 for attendance at the legislative per diem rate under 2 V.S.A. § 406.

15 (f) The task force shall report its findings to the general assembly no later
16 than December 15, 2009.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.