

H.474

An act relating to amending the membership and charge of the Government Accountability Committee

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

Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 970 is amended to read:

§ 970. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

(a) There is created a joint legislative ~~government accountability committee~~ Government Accountability Committee. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall recommend mechanisms for state government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the long-term needs of Vermonters. In pursuit of this goal, the ~~committee~~ Committee shall:

(1) Propose areas for the review of statutory mandates for public services that may result in service duplication and to review the alignment of financial and staff resources required to carry out those mandates.

(2) Review the legislative process for the creation and elimination of positions and programs and make recommendations for enhancements to the process that support greater long-range planning and responsiveness to the needs of Vermonters.

(3) Recommend strategies and tools which permit all branches of state government to prioritize the investment of federal, state, and local resources in programs that respond to the needs of the citizens of Vermont in a collaborative, cost-effective, and efficient manner. Pursuant to those strategies

and tools, functions which are not critical to an agency or department mission may be recommended for combination or elimination, while other functions may be optimized.

(4) Review strategies with similar aims in other jurisdictions in the context of federal, state, and local relationships.

(5) Determine that data-based performance measures have been adopted for each agency and department.

(6) Determine whether each agency and department is taking actions to achieve the required outcomes, as shown by application of the data-based performance measures.

(7) Ensure that outcomes, measures, performance data, and descriptions of actions taken, or proposed to be taken, are transparent and readily accessible to the public via electronic publication.

(8) Assess the effectiveness of the performance measures for measuring progress in achieving outcomes.

(9) Recommend the addition, amendment, or elimination of any performance measures.

(10) ~~By November 1 of each year, report to the general assembly its findings.~~ [Repealed.]

(11) Assess whether and how the State of Vermont should provide funds to nonprofit organizations, including whether grants to or contracts with nonprofit organizations should require results-based accountability.

(b)(1) The membership of the ~~committee~~ Committee shall be appointed each biennial session of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall comprise ~~12~~ eight members: ~~six~~

(A) four members of the ~~house of representatives~~ House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House who shall not all be from the same party: and at least one of whom shall be from the ~~committee on government operations, one from the committee on human services, one from the committee on appropriations, one from the committee on ways and means, one from the committee on education, and one from the committee on corrections and institutions, appointed by the speaker of the house~~ Committee on Government Operations; and ~~six~~

(B) four members of the ~~senate~~ Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees who shall not all be from the same party: and at least one of whom shall be from the ~~committee on government operations, one from the committee on health and welfare, one from the committee on appropriations, one from the committee on finance, one from the committee on education, and one from the committee on institutions, appointed by the committee on~~ Committee on Government Operations.

(2) The ~~governor~~ Governor shall appoint one person to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the ~~committee~~ Committee.

(c) The ~~committee~~ Committee shall elect ~~a chair, vice chair, two co-chairs~~ and a clerk from among its members and shall adopt rules of procedure. The ~~chair~~ co-chairs shall ~~alternate biennially between the house and the senate members~~ be a House and a Senate member. The ~~committee~~ Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof. A quorum shall consist of ~~seven~~ five members.

(d) During the legislative session, the ~~committee~~ Committee shall meet at least once a month, at the call of the ~~chair; and when~~ co-chairs. When the legislature General Assembly is not in session, the ~~committee~~ Committee may meet monthly, at the call of the ~~chair~~. ~~The committee~~ co-chairs and may meet more often subject to the approval of the ~~speaker of the house~~ Speaker of the House and the ~~president pro tempore of the senate~~ President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(e) For attendance at a meeting when the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly is not in session, legislative members of the ~~committee~~ Committee shall be entitled to compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under ~~subsection 406(a)~~ section 406 of this title; and nonlegislative members who are not ~~full-time~~ full-time state employees shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(f) The professional and clerical services of the ~~joint fiscal office~~ Joint Fiscal Office and the ~~legislative council~~ Office of the Legislative Council shall be available to the ~~committee~~ Committee.

(g) At least annually, by January 15, the ~~committee~~ Committee shall report its activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly. The report shall be in brief summary form.

(h)(1) On or before January 1, 2014, the Committee shall:

(A) review whether and under what conditions or situations the State of Vermont, through its agencies and other instrumentalities, should provide funding, grants, or other financial awards to a nonprofit organization subject to requirements for results-based accountability from the organization;

(B) if, after completion of its review under subdivision (1)(A) of this subsection (h), it determines that results-based accountability should be required as a condition of a financial award from the State to a nonprofit organization, review whether a special fund should be created to provide nonprofit organizations with funding to develop capacities and other resources to support results-based accountability at an organizational level; and

(C) if it determines that a special fund should be established under subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection (h), examine how the special fund would be financed, including whether a fee or assessment on a nonprofit organization would be an appropriate funding mechanism.

(2) On or before January 15, 2014, the Committee shall submit its findings or recommendations under this subsection to the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations.

Sec. 2. REPEAL; GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW OF
FUNDING OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS UNDER
RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

2 V.S.A. § 970(h) (results-based accountability; funding of nonprofit organizations) shall be repealed on January 16, 2014.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.