

1 S.160

2 Introduced by Senators White and Benning

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; regulated drugs; regulation and taxation of marijuana

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a study  
7 committee for the regulation and taxation of marijuana.

8 An act relating to a study committee on the regulation and taxation of  
9 marijuana

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

11 Sec. 1. STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE REGULATION AND TAXATION  
12 OF MARIJUANA

13 (a) Creation. There is created a Study Committee on the Regulation and  
14 Taxation of Marijuana to provide recommendations to the General Assembly  
15 on legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in Vermont.

16 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following six  
17 members:

18 (1) Three current members of the House of Representatives who shall be  
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

1           (2) Three current members of the Senate who shall be appointed by the  
2 Committee on Committees.

3           (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the implementation of  
4 legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana in Vermont and make  
5 recommendations on the following:

6           (1) A process for licensing growing facilities, wholesalers, and retailers  
7 of marijuana.

8           (2) Regulation of the retail sale of marijuana and marijuana-infused  
9 products.

10           (3) A taxation structure for the wholesale and retail sale of marijuana  
11 and whether tax exemptions and other state benefits should be extended to  
12 growers of marijuana.

13           (4) Labeling guidelines and quality assurance with respect to marijuana  
14 products sold for consumption.

15           (5) Regulation of the public use of marijuana, including smoking,  
16 vaporizing, and consuming marijuana-infused products.

17           (6) Standards for addressing driving under the influence of marijuana.

18           (7) Whether marijuana growers should be allowed to sell directly to  
19 consumers or ship products.

1           (8) Whether the State should permit individuals to legally possess  
2 marijuana plants and whether growing marijuana for personal consumption  
3 should be regulated.

4           (9) How marijuana used for therapeutic purposes should be treated in  
5 relation to legalized marijuana under the law and through regulation.

6           (10) Whether registered medical marijuana dispensaries should have the  
7 option of becoming recreational marijuana sellers.

8           (11) Whether and to what extent local governments should have the  
9 authority to regulate the local growers and sellers of marijuana.

10          (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,  
11 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal  
12 Office.

13          (e) Report. On or before November 1, 2013 the Committee shall report to  
14 the General Assembly its findings and any recommendations for legislative  
15 action.

16          (f) Meetings.

17           (1) Four members of the Committee shall be physically present at the  
18 same location to constitute a quorum.

19           (2) Action shall be taken only if there is both a quorum and a majority  
20 vote of the members physically present and voting.

21           (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 31, 2014.

1        (g) Reimbursement. For physical attendance at meetings during  
2        adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee  
3        shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses  
4        pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for no more than six meetings.

5        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6        This act shall take effect on passage.