

DRAFT – July 30, 2010 **(updated 1/4/2011)**
2010 INTERIM LEGISLATIVE STUDIES AND REPORTS

VERMONT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

The following is a list of major interim studies and reports required for the 2010 legislative interim that involve legislators, legislative committees, or the staff of the Office of Legislative Council or the Joint Fiscal Office, and includes any requirements for legislative appointments.

The list may be supplemented or amended during the interim.

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1. AGRICULTURE

Interim Studies with Legislators

BIOMASS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP See *NATURAL RESOURCES*

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY
See *GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS*

2. COMMERCE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Interim Studies with Legislators

STIMULUS OVERSIGHT Act No. 1 (H.441) of the 2009 Special Session, Sec. D.111 directs two legislators to serve as liaisons between the Office of Economic Stimulus and Recovery and the Legislature and to ensure there is legislative oversight over ARRA grants. As provided in Sec. D.111:

(a) The Vermont office of economic stimulus and recovery shall prepare status reports to be posted on the web and electronically mailed or emailed to the legislative joint fiscal office and other interested parties. The reports shall be posted once every two weeks and shall include:

(1) Notification and summaries of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) state grant proposals under development and any related timelines, discussion meetings, or other opportunities for input;

(2) A list of grants submitted by state agencies, amounts solicited, description of purpose and activities to be carried out, and their status;

(3) Grants received by budget function or policy area.

(b) The president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house shall each designate a legislative representative to the office of economic stimulus and recovery. The legislative representatives shall carry out the following:

(1) Serve as a communication link between the legislature and office of economic stimulus and recovery;

(2) Provide a legislative role in insuring oversight, public information, and quality use of available ARRA funding;

(3) Provide support to the joint fiscal committee in consideration of accepted grants.

(c) Legislative representatives shall be entitled to compensation under 2 V.S.A. § 406(a) for attendance at meetings. This designation shall continue until December 31, 2010.

Legislative Appointments: Senator Kitchel; Representative Ancel

Staff: Maria Royle and David Hall (LC - monitoring); Nathan Lavery and Catherine Benham (JFO)

SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE Act No. 120 (S.290) of 2010, Sec. 11 directs two Senators and two Representatives to work with others to study the feasibility of enacting a self-employment assistance program. .

Legislative Appointments: Senators [redacted] and [redacted];
Representatives [redacted] and [redacted]

Staff (monitoring): Mike Hoyt (LC); Mark Perrault (JFO)

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

VERMONT , PROGRAM Act No. 78 (S.288) of 2010, Sec. 14a requires the Joint Fiscal Office to prepare a training program performance report with the assistance of the Secretary of Commerce and Community Affairs. The first report is due by January 15, 2011 and a final report is due January 15, 2016 to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and the House Committee on Commerce.

Staff: Stephen Klein, Maria Belliveau, and Steve Gold (JFO); Maria Royle (LC - monitoring)

STATE AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES; OVERSIGHT PANEL Act No. 146 (H.792) of 2010, Sec. G6 creates an oversight panel to work with the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development to develop outcomes and performance measures for the Agency and to identify Agency functions that relate to regional development and planning services. The panel is also required to identify a process for developing a comprehensive statewide economic development plan and report its findings to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and the House Committee on Commerce by January 15, 2011.

Other (Non-Legislative) Appointments:

Appointments by the Speaker (representatives of business or employers): [redacted] and [redacted]

Appointments by the President Pro Tempore (representatives of business or employers): [redacted] and [redacted]

Appointments by the Governor: [redacted] and [redacted]

Appointments jointly by the Speaker, President Pro Tempore, and Governor (have a background in municipal planning and don't currently serve on an RDC or RPC): [redacted] and [redacted]

STUDY; REGIONAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS Act No. 146 (H.792) of 2010, Sec. G16 provides for a regional workforce development study. The Workforce Development Council, in consultation with the Boston regional office of the United States Department of Labor, representatives of the business and economic development community, the Department of Education, regional technical centers, the Lake Champlain workforce investment board, and a designee from each regional workforce investment board that chooses to participate, shall have the authority to undertake a study of Vermont's regional workforce development service delivery system. The study may address:

(A) the original intent and purpose of the Workforce Development Act to ensure close collaboration and communication between business, workforce development, and education;

(B) how other state structures have been developed or modified to create a system that fosters this type of collaboration; and

(C) how such a system can be effectively and most efficiently implemented in Vermont, including examination of co-location with chambers of commerce, regional planning commissions, regional technical centers, regional development corporations, or other regional service providers.

(3) Results of a study undertaken pursuant to this section should be reported on or before January 15, 2011, to the senate committee on economic development, housing and general affairs and the house committee on commerce and economic development.

Staff (monitoring): Maria Royle and David Hall (LC); Catherine Benham (JFO)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY
See *GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS*

3. CORRECTIONS

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

See *JUDICIARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, COURTS*

4. EDUCATION

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

BLUE RIBBON TAX STRUCTURE COMMISSION See *TAXATION AND FISCAL*

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

PREKINDERGARTEN – 16 COUNCIL Act No. 133 (H.709) of 2010, Sec. 2 creates a new Prekindergarten-16 Council in 16 V.S.A. § 2905 and Sec. 4 repeals the Commission on Higher Education Funding (16 V.S.A. § 2886)(CHEF). The new Council is created to coordinate and better align the efforts of the prekindergarten-12 education system with the higher education community in order to increase postsecondary aspirations, enrollment, and completion rates and to increase public awareness of the economic, intellectual, and societal benefits of higher education. The former duties of CHEF in connection with the Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund will be performed by the Secretary of Administration and a subcommittee of the new Council. All members must be selected by August 1, 2010; the Commissioner of Education will call the first meeting by September 1, 2010, and they meet at least quarterly. A report is due to the House and Senate Committees on Education and State Board of Education each January.

Legislative Appointments: Senator Miller; Representative Peltz (no per diem / expenses / etc.)

Staff: Donna Russo-Savage (LC); Rachel Levin (CA); Mark Perrault (JFO)

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES COUNCIL and **BUDGETS** See *HEALTH, WELFARE, AND HUMAN SERVICES*

5. EDUCATION FINANCE

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

BLUE RIBBON TAX STRUCTURE COMMISSION See *TAXATION AND FISCAL*

6. ENERGY

Interim Studies with Legislators

BIOMASS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP See *NATURAL RESOURCES*

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

JOINT ENERGY COMMITTEE 2 V.S.A. §§ 601-603. The Joint Energy Committee is created to:

- (1) carry on a continuing review of all energy matters in the state and in the northeast region of the United States including energy

sources, energy distribution, energy costs, energy planning, energy conservation and pertinent related subjects; [and]

(2) work with, assist, and advise other committees of the general assembly, the executive, and the public in energy-related matters within their respective responsibilities.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Ayer, Illuzzi, Lyons, and MacDonald; Representatives Canfield, Edwards, Klein, and Krawczyk

Staff: Aaron Adler (LC); Catherine Benham, Sara Teachout (JFO); Lynn Hegamy (CA)

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY
See *GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS*

7. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND OPERATIONS

Interim Studies with Legislators

QUARTERLY REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHALLENGES

Act No. 146 (H.792) of 2010, Sec. H4 requires quarterly reporting to committees of jurisdiction, the Government Accountability Committee, and the Joint Fiscal Committee, on implementation of Challenges activity:

(a) On a quarterly basis, beginning with July 1, 2010, the administration shall report to the chairs of the house and senate committees of jurisdiction, the joint legislative government accountability committee, and the joint fiscal committee. Each report shall include a statement of the measures and milestones summarized by the government accountability committee for that Challenge, a brief summary of milestones met and progress made in that Challenge, and the data collected to measure that progress. Reports shall also include any modifications or additions proposed for the plan of implementation, and how these modifications or additions are designed to achieve the outcomes for that Challenge.

(b) The committees of jurisdiction may meet during the interim at the call of the chair to receive and discuss the reports required under this section, and may report each quarter to the government accountability committee as to whether satisfactory progress is being made on each Challenge, and whether any proposed changes in the plan of implementation appear designed to achieve the required outcomes.

Staff: Various attorneys as required (LC); Nathan Lavery, Stephen Klein (JFO); committee assistants as required (CA)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES 3 V.S.A. § 817.

(a) There is created a joint legislative committee to be known as the legislative committee on administrative rules. The legislative committee on administrative rules shall be composed of eight members of the general assembly to be appointed for two-year terms ending on February 1 of odd-numbered years as follows: four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house, not all from the same party, and four members of the senate to be appointed by the senate committee on committees, not all from the same party. The committee shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among its members.

* * *

(c) The legislative committee on administrative rules may hold public hearings on a proposed or previously adopted rule on its own initiative.

* * *

Legislative Appointments: Senators MacDonald, Ayer, Cummings, and Snelling; Representatives French, Marek, Milkey, and Myers

Staff: Brian Leven (LC); Katie Pickens (CA)

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Act No. 146 (H.792) of 2010, Sec. H2, codifies the Government Accountability Committee as of July 1, 2010, and adds new members and new responsibilities.

(a) The membership of the committee shall be appointed each biennial session of the general assembly. The committee shall be comprised of twelve members: six members of the house of representatives who shall not all be from the same party: one 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; and six members of the senate who shall not all be from the same party: one 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 committees. The governor shall appoint one person to serve as a nonvoting liaison to the committee.

(c) The committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, and clerk from among its members and shall adopt rules of procedure. The chair shall alternate biennially between the house and the senate members. The committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof. A quorum shall consist of seven members. *[effective July 1, 2010, per Act No. 153 of 2010 (H.66) Sec. 23(c)]*

(d) During the legislative session, the committee shall meet at least once a month, at the call of the chair; and when the legislature is not in session, the committee may meet monthly, at the call of the chair. The committee may meet more often subject to the approval of the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate.

(e) For attendance at a meeting when the general assembly is not in session, legislative members of the committee shall be entitled to compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under subsection 406(a) of this title; and nonlegislative members who are not 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 and the legislative council shall be available to the committee.

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

Legislative Appointments: Senators Snelling (Chair), Cummings, Doyle, White; Representatives Sweaney (Vice Chair), and Obuchowski

Additional Legislative Appointments by July 1, 2010: Senators Lyons, and Starr; Representatives Browning, Donovan, Haas and Manwaring

Staff: Brian Leven (LC); Nathan Lavery, Stephanie Barrett, Stephen Klein (JFO); Rosalind Daniels, Jan Westervelt (CA)

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY
3 V.S.A. § 23. The Commission monitors and analyzes the impacts of international trade agreements on state law and issues of state sovereignty and federalism. As provided in subsection (c):

(1) The commission shall conduct an annual assessment of the legal and economic impacts of international trade agreements on state and local laws, state sovereignty, and the business environment.

(2) It shall provide a mechanism for citizens and legislators to voice their concerns, which it shall use to make policy recommendations to the general assembly, to the governor, to Vermont's congressional delegation, or to the trade representatives of the United States government. Recommendations shall be designed to

protect Vermont's job and business environment, and state sovereignty from any negative impacts of trade agreements.

(3) It may recommend legislation or preferred practices and shall work with interested groups in other states to develop means to resolve the conflicting goals and tension inherent in the relationship between international trade and state sovereignty.

(4) In response to a request from the governor or the general assembly, or on its own initiative, the committee shall consider and develop formal recommendations with respect to how the state should best respond to challenges and opportunities posed by a particular international agreement. Formal recommendations on the specific international agreement shall be submitted to the governor and the house and senate committees on judiciary, on government operations, and on natural resources and energy, and to the house committee on commerce and the senate committees on finance and on economic development, housing and general affairs.

Legislative Appointments: Senator Lyons; Representative Keenan

Staff: Michael O'Grady, Robin Lunge (LC); Rosalind Daniels, Didi Brush (CA); Neil Schickner (JFO)

8. HEALTH, WELFARE, AND HUMAN SERVICES

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

BASIC NEEDS BUDGETS. In every odd-numbered year, beginning January 1, 2007, the joint fiscal office shall issue a report on or before January 15. The report shall be updated as needed on or before January 1 of the interim year to reflect any significant economic, policy, or statutory changes that substantially affect the information in the previous report. Report is made to the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

Staff: Sara Teachout (JFO).

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Act No. 128 (S.88) of 2010, Sec. 6 directs the Joint Fiscal Committee, with a recommendation from the Health Care Reform Commission, to hire a consultant to create at least three design options for a health care system in Vermont. The act contains the goals and principles of reform, a lengthy description of the design elements, and requirements for the report. The consultant may request assistance from Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office. A draft of the final report is due by January 1, 2011; the final report is due by February 1, 2011.

Staff (monitoring): Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil, Stephen Klein (JFO); Jim Hester, Director (HCRC)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES; RULEMAKING; REPORT Act No. 142 (H.647) of 2010, Secs. 18-20 require rulemaking by the Commissioner of Health regarding emergency medical services certification requirements. Sec. 20 of the act also requires a study on the statewide licensing of emergency medical services providers due by January 15, 2011.

Appointments: a representative of three of Vermont's existing 13 EMS districts chosen jointly by the speaker of the house and the president pro tempore of the senate, one of whom shall be a medical director and one of whom shall be a volunteer certified emergency medical technician

Staff (monitoring): Maria Royle (LC)

HIGH RISK HEALTH INSURANCE POOL Act No. 156 (H.789) of 2010, Sec. E.230 directs BISHCA to provide the Joint Fiscal Committee (JFC) with the high risk pool application which will be submitted to U.S. Department of House and Human Services for comment. Acceptance of funds must be approved by the JFC. The JFC may also temporarily waive certain eligibility requirements in Catamount Health, VHAP, and ESI in order to accept the federal funding and expand eligibility to meet the requirements of the high risk pool.

Staff (monitoring): Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil (JFO)

BUDGETS Act No. 156 (H.789) of 2010, Sec. E.230 directs the Agencies of Administration and of Human Services and the Department of Education to collaborate with each other and with the Joint Fiscal Office to prepare their FY 2011 budgets and to identify "projected savings, reductions in trend, and avoided costs that may be used to offset the state's share of expenditures resulting from the requirement that health insurance plans provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders."

Staff: Nolan Langweil, Mark Perrault, Maria Belliveau (JFO)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

HEALTH ACCESS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 2 V.S.A. §§ 851-853 creates the Committee to monitor and oversee issues related to Medicaid and Vermont's Medicaid waiver programs; the Committee submits an annual report by January 15.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Kitchel, Kittell, Racine, Ayer, and Mullin; Representatives Maier, Minter, O'Donnell, Pugh, and Wizowaty

Staff: Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil (JFO); Lynn Hegamy (CA)

COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM 2 V.S.A. §901-903 (Sunsets July 1, 2011). The Commission monitors and oversees the implementation of health care reform and performs studies to further Vermont's health care reform efforts. This summer there will be substantial monitoring of the implementation efforts of the federal health care reform initiatives which go into effect in 2010.

Sec. 6 of Act No. 128 (S.88) of 2010 also requires the Commission to make a recommendation to the Joint Fiscal Committee on hiring the consultant to do the design. Joint Fiscal makes the final hiring decision. The Commission is also required to monitor the study to design the health care system options for Vermont throughout the summer and fall. The Commission, however, is prohibited from influencing the outcome of the study and is to provide information and resources to the consultant.

The Commission will also receive reports on the primary care workforce study (Sec. 31 of Act No. 128 (S.88) of 2010) and the Attorney General's Obesity Prevention Report, both on November 15, 2010.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Kitchel, Cummings, Mullin, and Racine; Representatives Maier, Larson, McFaun, and Till

Other Appointments: Two new public members with experience in health care will be appointed pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of Act No. 128 (S.88) of 2010.

Staff: Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil (JFO); Jim Hester, Director (HCRC); Loring Starr (CA)

MENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT COMMISSION Sec. 141c of Act No. 122 of 2004, as amended by Sec. 293a of Act No. 215 of 2006 and by Sec. 124b of Act No. 65 of 2007. The Commission ensures that consumers have access to a comprehensive and adequate continuum of mental health services, including oversight of issues relating to the Vermont State Hospital. The Commission may meet six times in each interim, and provides an annual progress report.

In addition, during the 2010 interim, the Commission will receive a progress report on the analysis and design of the integration of the services provided in the adult outpatient program (AOP) and the community rehabilitation and treatment (CRT) program provided for in Sec. C27 of Act No. 146 (H.792) of 2010 ("Challenges II") and a report regarding the Vermont State Hospital pursuant to Sec. 37 of Act No. 161 (H.790) of 2010 (Capital Bill).

Legislative Appointments: Senators Mullin, Racine, White, and Choate; Representatives Fisher, Koch, M. Johnson, and Donahue

Staff: Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil, Stephanie Barrett (JFO); Lynn Hegamy (CA)

VERMONT CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL Act No. 68 of 2007 (Sunsets June 30, 2018). The Council examines child poverty in Vermont and makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on methods of improving the financial stability and well-being of children. The council is required to develop a ten-year plan to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state by at least 50 percent. The council may meet up to six times in an interim, and creates yearly progress reports on the plan.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Racine (Co-Chair), Giard, and Kitchel; Representatives Pugh (Co-Chair), Donovan, and Partridge

Staff: Robin Lunge (LC); Nolan Langweil, Maria Belliveau (JFO); Rosalind Daniels (CA)

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES COUNCIL 33 V.S.A. chapter 46 codifies the Building Bright Futures Council, which includes legislative, executive, and community members. The Council is required to report annually to the committees of jurisdiction regarding the Building Bright Futures program.

Legislative Appointments: Senator Claire Ayer; Representatives Howard Crawford and Bill Frank

Staff: Robin Lunge (LC)

9. HOUSING

Interim Studies with Legislators

COMMISSION ON FINANCING AND DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CONSERVATION Act No. 156 (H.789) of 2010, the appropriations bill, Sec. E.810.4, establishes an 8-member commission to review statewide housing and conservation efforts and report its findings and recommendations by January 15, 2011, to the house committees on appropriations, on government operations, and on general, military affairs and housing; and the senate committees on appropriations, on government operations, and on economic development, housing and general affairs. The commission is directed to meet up to six times during the interim and to hold at least one public hearing. The commission's charge is to:

- (1) identify the state requirements for housing and conservation programs and services administered by the Vermont state housing authority, the Vermont housing finance agency, the Vermont housing and conservation board and the Vermont department of economic development, housing and community development ("statewide entities");
- (2) determine whether the statewide entities are taking the following steps to meet their respective state requirements:

(A) assembling multiple funding sources to address a full range of housing needs, including emergency, transitional, assisted living, multi-family rental, and homeownership;

(B) leveraging federal, state, private, and philanthropic resources;

(C) serving Vermonters with the lowest incomes and special needs;

(D) promoting housing and economic development in downtowns and village centers;

(3) review the report required by Executive Order Number 02-10 (March 18, 2010) that addresses the potential merger or consolidation of the statewide entities;

(4) determine the impact of a merger or consolidation of the statewide entities on the production of permanently affordable housing, land conservation, and historic preservation; and

(5) with respect to the Vermont housing and conservation board, determine whether it is fulfilling its statutory mission to develop permanently affordable housing and protect at-risk housing; to conserve Vermont's working landscape, important natural areas, and historic properties; and to build effective community-based nonprofit capacity to advance these goals.

(c) The commission may meet up to six times while the general assembly is not in session and shall hold at least one public hearing. The legislative council shall provide legal and administrative support to the commission. Commission members who are not state employees are entitled to compensation and reimbursement of expenses as provided under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 to be paid for equally by the statewide entities. By January 15, 2011, the commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the house committees on appropriations, on government operations, and on general, military affairs and housing; and the senate committees on appropriations, on government operations, and on economic development, housing and general affairs.

Legislative Appointments: Rep. [REDACTED]; Sen. [REDACTED]

Staff: Michael Hoyt, Aaron Adler (LC); Maria Belliveau (JFO); Jessica Chaves (CA)

Other (Non-legislative Appointments):

Three appointments by the Speaker (experienced in affordable housing or land and housing conservation): [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

Three appointments by the Committee on Committees (experienced in affordable housing or land and housing conservation): [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

One appointment (from among 6 citizen appointments above) by the Speaker and the Committee on Committees to chair the commission:



10. JUDICIARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS, AND COURTS

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

CIVIL IMMUNITY FOR EMPLOYERS Act No. 157 (S.292) of 2010, Sec. 19 requires the Legislative Council to review the impacts on hiring practices in Vermont if current, former, and potential employers received immunity from civil liability for disclosing or requesting information concerning conduct that jeopardizes the safety of a minor or vulnerable adult.

Staff: Erik FitzPatrick (LC)

JUDICIAL RESTRUCTURING Act No. 154 (H. 470) of 210, Sec. 236 directs the Legislative Council to make revisions to the statutes necessary to effect the purpose of the judicial restructuring act, including making the conforming language amendments necessary as a result of the changes to the court system made in the act. The chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees have requested Legislative Council to begin the revision process over the summer, and to determine whether legislation will be needed to implement the revisions during the next biennium.

Staff: Erik FitzPatrick (LC); Maria Belliveau (JFO - monitoring)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RULES 12 V.S.A. § 3. Meets periodically to review rules proposed and promulgated by the Advisory Committees on Civil Rules, Criminal Rules, Evidence, Family Court Rules, Probate Rules, the Judicial Conduct Board, and the Board of Bar Examiners.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Campbell, Carris, Illuzzi, Sears;
Representatives Lippert, Grad, Kilmartin and Haas

Staff: Erik FitzPatrick, Michele Childs (LC); Katie Pickens (CA)

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RETENTION 4 V.S.A. § 607. Preparation for the 2011 judicial retention vote on five Supreme Court justices and ten Superior Court judges.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Campbell, Nitka, Mullin and Kichel;
Representatives Jewett, Clarkson, Flory, and Martin

Staff: Michele Childs and Erik FitzPatrick (LC); Debbie Curtis (CA)

JOINT LEGISLATIVE CORRECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2 V.S.A. ch. 23. This joint committee of five representatives (one each from appropriations, judiciary, human services, and institutions and one “at large”) and five senators (one each from appropriations, judiciary, health and welfare, and institutions and one “at large”) was created in to oversee the Department of Corrections, to provide assistance to legislative committees, and to make recommendations regarding department policy and budget proposals. Also, as provided in Act No. 58 (S.125) of 2009, Sec. 25:

(a) The joint committee on corrections oversight shall consider:

(1) how to employ strategies that facilitate community reintegration that do not unduly burden the services and budgets of communities with a large number of supervisees; and

(2) issues related to the operation of the sex offender Internet registry, including the accuracy of the information it contains.

(b) The committee shall include recommendations on the issues described in subsection (a) of this section in its annual report to the general assembly.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Sears, Bartlett, Choate, Scott, and Flanagan; Representatives Emmons, Lippert, Flory, Heath, Haas

Staff: Michele Childs, Erik FitzPatrick (LC); Maria Belliveau, Stephanie Barrett (JFO); Katie Pickens (CA)

11. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

STATUTORY REVISION AND CODIFICATION COMMITTEE Codifies and, with the publisher, edits for printing in the Vermont Statutes Annotated all the codified acts of the current session; corrects statutory sections containing errors that are within the statutory authority of the Legislative Council to correct; and prepares replacement volumes for 3 to 4 existing cloth bound books based on current length, legislative action, and date of last replacement. During the 2010 interim, the committee will also work with the legal and support staff, and others to finalize the draft version of the drafting manual.

The 2010 Legislature specifically directed certain revisions in Sec. 38a of Act No. 128 (S.88) (Robin Lunge); Sec. 236 of Act No. 154 (H.470) (Erik FitzPatrick), and Secs. 27 and 39 of Act No. 160 (H.783) (New Tax Attorney).

Statutory Revision Committee: Jen Carbee, Michael Chernick, Erik FitzPatrick, Brian Leven, Donna Russo-Savage (chair), and Jessica Chaves (editor).

12. NATURAL RESOURCES

Interim Studies with Legislators

BIOMASS ENERGY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP Act No. 37 of 2009 (H.152), Sec. 1 creates a working group that is directed to issue two interim reports (11/09 & 11/10) and one final report (11/15/11) regarding recommendations for biomass energy production in the state. As provided in Sec. 1:

(a) The biomass energy development working group is established to enhance the growth and development of Vermont's biomass industry while also maintaining forest health. In order to meet these goals, the working group shall analyze current issues in the biomass industry in order to develop a coherent body of recommendations. These recommendations may include incentives, harvesting guidelines, and procurement standards for the development and operation of biomass energy in the state of Vermont.

* * *

(b) The working group is authorized to operate for a **maximum of three years** in order to review the adequacy of its initial recommendations, continue research and analysis, and make additional recommendations to the legislature. The working group is authorized to hold **four meetings each year during the interim** between sessions of the general assembly.

* * *

Legislative Appointments: Representative Christopher Bray (Chair); Senator Virginia Lyons

Other Appointments: Jonathan Wood, Co-Chair, Rocky Bunnell, Paul Cate, Peter Condaxis, Jamey Fidel, Ehrhard Frost, Bill Keeton, Bill Kropelin, Kelly Launder, Ben Machin, Sam Miller, Chris Recchia, and Robert Turner

Staff: Michael O'Grady, Aaron Adler (LC); Maria Belliveau, Catherine Benham (JFO); Catherine Russell (CA)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY
See *GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS*

13. TAXATION AND FISCAL

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND MODELING Act No. 124 (S.290) of 2010, Sec. 10 requires the Joint Fiscal Office to work with the Department of Labor to develop JFO's ability to model changes to the unemployment insurance fund. No deadline given / report required.

Staff: Mark Perrault, Catherine Benham (JFO)

STATE OF STATE TAX EXPENDITURES Act No. 160 (H.783) of 2010, Sec. 2 requires Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office to assist the Department of Taxes to prepare the report due on January 15, 2012.

Staff: (New Tax Attorney) (LC); Sara Teachout (JFO)

BLUE RIBBON TAX STRUCTURE COMMISSION Act No. 1 (H.441) of the 2009 Special Session, Sec. H.56 created the Commission. **The Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Governor each appointed one member** the members were permitted to appoint up to two additional members. In addition to other duties the Commission was required to prepare a work plan including a delivery date prior to February 1, 2011 for examining tax expenditures, fees, consumption taxes, and business taxes.

Act No. 160 (H.783) of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010), Sec. 46, requires the Commission to perform additional tasks: (1) in consultation with the Committees on Education, Finance, and Ways and Means the Commission must identify the five most important short-term and five most important long-term goals for an education system by April 1, 2011; (2) the Commission must report its evaluation of education finance and governance systems by June 1, 2011; and (3) the Commission must propose changes to the education finance and governance systems and analyze the appropriate balance of education funding from various sources by September 15, 2011.

Other (Non-Legislative) Appointments:

Appointment by Governor: William Sayre

Appointment by Pro Tem: Kathy Hoyt

Appointment by Speaker: William Schubart

Staff: Michael Costa, Stephen Klein, Sara Teachout (JFO); (New Tax Attorney), Donna Russo Savage (LC - monitoring)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

TAX EXPENDITURE REPORT Act No. 160 (H.783) of 2010, Sec. 1 requires Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office to assist in preparing the Vermont Tax Expenditure Biennial report.

Staff: (New Tax Attorney) (LC); Sara Teachout (JFO)

14. TRANSPORTATION

Interim Studies/Reports with No Legislators

IGNITION INTERLOCK RESTRICTED DRIVER'S LICENSES; IMPLEMENTATION Act No. 126 (S.103) of 2010, Sec. 12(a)-(c) requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to study issues regarding the implementation of ignition interlock restricted driver's licenses. The report is due to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and on Transportation by January 15, 2011.

Staff (monitoring): Helena Gardner (LC)

IGNITION INTERLOCK RESTRICTED DRIVER'S LICENSES; EFFECTIVENESS Act No. 126 (S.103) of 2010, Sec. 14 requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to study the effectiveness of ignition interlock restricted driver's licenses. The report is due to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and on Transportation by January 15, 2013.

Staff (monitoring): Helena Gardner (LC)

Ongoing Committees that Meet During the Interim

JOINT TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE 19 V.S.A. § 12b. The Joint Transportation Oversight Committee meets as needed at the chair's discretion, and, when practicable, meetings are coordinated with the regular meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee. The chair of the Committee is the chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation during the 2009-2010 biennium.

Legislative Appointments: Senators Bartlett, Cummings, and Mazza;
Representatives Heath, Obuchowski, and Brennan

Staff: Helena Gardner (LC); Neil Schickner (JFO); Theresa Utton-Jerman (CA)