

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House  
3 Bill No. 125 entitled “An act relating to boards and commissions” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the Senate  
5 propose to the House **that the bill be amended as follows:**

6 **First: In Sec. 2a,** government accountability; Summer Government  
7 Accountability Committee; report, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety  
8 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

9 (c) Powers and duties. The Summer Government Accountability  
10 Committee shall consider the issue of accountability in the Legislative Branch,  
11 including the following:

12 (1) ways to ensure that the Legislative Branch is accountable to the  
13 people of Vermont by creating new processes and metrics by which to measure  
14 accountability;

15 (2) ways to ensure equity in pay across commissions, boards, and joint  
16 legislative committees based on the nature of the service and required skill  
17 level;

18 (3) ways to ensure equitable participation on **boards and commissions**  
19 **and** in any public engagement process mandated by the State or General  
20 Assembly by providing appropriate compensation and material support; and

1           (4) codifying mechanisms for controlling and restraining the increasing  
2           number of commissions, boards, and joint legislative committees.

3           **Second:** By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.  
4           4a to read as follows:

5                           \* \* \* Commission on Women Quorum \* \* \*

6           Sec. 4a. 3 V.S.A. § 5025 is amended to read:

7           § 5025. THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

8                           \* \* \*

9           (e) ~~Nine members~~ A majority of the currently appointed members of the  
10           Commission shall constitute a quorum of the Commission. Once a quorum has  
11           been established, the vote of a majority of the members present at the time of  
12           the vote shall be an act of the Commission.

13                          \* \* \*

14           **Third:** By adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be  
15           Secs. 123a and 123b to read as follows:

16                           \* \* \* Regional Emergency Management Committees Quorum \* \* \*

17           Sec. 123a. 20 V.S.A. § 6 is amended to read:

18           § 6. LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

19                          \* \* \*

20           (d) Regional emergency management committees shall be established by  
21           the Division of Emergency Management.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

\* \* \*

(3) A regional emergency management committee shall consist of voting and nonvoting members.

\* \* \*

(C) Meeting quorum requirement. A regional emergency management committee may vote annually, at the committee’s final meeting of the calendar year, to modify its quorum requirement for meetings in the subsequent year; provided, however, that the quorum shall be not fewer than 20 percent of voting members.

\* \* \*

**Sec. 123b. INTERIM QUORUM**

Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. § 6(d)(3)(C), until December 31, 2023:

(1) not fewer than five voting members of a regional emergency management committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of a meeting; and

(2) a regional emergency management committee may vote at any time to modify its quorum requirement for meetings in 2024; provided, however, that the quorum shall be not fewer than 20 percent of voting members.

Fourth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 139a to read as follows:

\* \* \* State Ethics Commission Report on Municipal Ethics \* \* \*

1 **Sec. 139a. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ETHICS**

2 On or before January 15, 2024, the State Ethics Commission shall report to  
3 the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the  
4 Senate Committee on Government Operations with its recommendations for  
5 creating a framework for municipal ethics in Vermont. The report shall  
6 include a summary of the issues related to creating a framework for municipal  
7 ethics in Vermont and a summary of any relevant input received by the  
8 Commission in drafting the report. The report shall include specific  
9 recommendations on how to best provide cities and towns with informational  
10 resources about basic ethics practices. In drafting the report, the Commission  
11 may consult with any person it deems necessary to conduct a full and complete  
12 analysis of the issue of municipal ethics, including the Vermont League of  
13 Cities and Towns and the Office of the Secretary of State.

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE