

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 title, any expenses incurred that are associated with carrying out its duties, and
2 any expenses incurred by the Treasurer’s office in support of the Commission.

3 ~~(3)~~(2) The Attorney General shall serve as legal advisor to the
4 Commission.

5 Third: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.
6 4a to read as follows:

7 * * * Commission on Women Quorum * * *

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

9 § 5025. THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

10 * * *

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

15 * * *

16 Fourth: By adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be
17 Secs. 123a and 123b to read as follows:

18 * * * Regional Emergency Management Committees Quorum * * *

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

20 § 6. LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

21 * * *

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

3 * * *

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

6 * * *

7 (C) Meeting quorum requirement. A regional emergency
8 management committee may vote annually, at the committee’s final meeting of
9 the calendar year, to modify its quorum requirement for meetings in the
10 subsequent year; provided, however, that the quorum shall be not fewer than
11 20 percent of voting members.

12 * * *

13 Sec. 123b. INTERIM QUORUM

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

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

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

1 Fifth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec.
2 139a to read as follows:

3 * * * State Ethics Commission Report on Municipal Ethics * * *

4 Sec. 139a. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ETHICS

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

17
18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Senator _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE