

H.258

Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Shoreham, Ainsworth of Royalton,
Lawrence of Lyndon, Malcolm of Pawlet, Martin of
Springfield, Masland of Thetford, McAllister of Highgate,
McNeil of Rutland Town, Moran of Wardsboro, Pellett of
Chester, Stevens of Waterbury, Taylor of Barre City and Toll of
Danville

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Agriculture; statewide food system; Vermont farm viability
enhancement advisory board

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to direct the Vermont farm viability
enhancement advisory board to gather information about food production,
processing, and marketing in Vermont and to make recommendations on how
to strengthen Vermont's food system.

An act relating to strengthening Vermont's statewide food system

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

Sec. 1. STRENGTHENING VERMONT'S FOOD SYSTEM; FARM

VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD; STUDY

(a) The farm viability enhancement advisory board created in 6 V.S.A.

1 § 4710(b) shall:

2 (1) Gather existing information about the components of Vermont's
3 food system, including:

4 (A) what kinds of food are produced in Vermont, how many
5 producers of each kind of food exist in Vermont; how much of each kind of
6 food is produced in Vermont; and the financial viability of each of the
7 food-producing sectors;

8 (B) what types of food processors exist in Vermont; how much of the
9 food produced in Vermont the processors purchase; and the financial viability
10 of the food processing industry in Vermont;

11 (C) what markets Vermont food producers and processors access to
12 sell their products.

13 (2) Use the information gathered to identify what is needed to strengthen
14 the links among the three components of the Vermont food system listed in
15 subdivision (1) of this subsection. The board may consider the need for more
16 farms, processors, or markets; different types of farms, processors or, markets;
17 and need for more or different farms, processors, or markets in specific
18 geographic regions of the state.

19 (3) Determine how much is needed to finance strengthening of
20 Vermont's food system and recommendations for how to raise the needed
21 funds.

1 (b) The secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall provide staff
2 services to the advisory board for the purposes of this section.

3 (c) The advisory board shall report its findings to the general assembly on
4 or before January 15, 2010.