

1 Sec. XX. PROPERTY TAX APPEALS STUDY COMMITTEE

2 (a) Creation. There is created a Property Tax Appeals Study Committee to
3 study two issues in regard to the statewide education property tax: (1) how a
4 reduction in listed property value affects towns, and (2) the costs to towns of
5 defending property tax appeals.

6 (b) Membership. The Committee shall have five members:

7 (1) one current members of the House of Representatives, who shall be
8 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9 (2) one current members of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
10 Committee on Committees;

11 (3) the Commissioner of Taxes or his or her designee;

12 (4) a representative of local government appointed by the Vermont
13 League of Cities and Towns; and

14 (5) a representative of assessing officials appointed by the Vermont
15 Assessors and Listers Association.

16 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the following issues:

17 (1) The Committee shall analyze the process by which towns are
18 compensated for a reduction in listed value under 32 V.S.A. § 5412 and
19 suggest ways to make that process more equitable.

1 (2) The Committee shall analyze the current costs to towns of defending
2 property tax valuations that benefit the Education Fund, and suggest ways to
3 make the cost of defending property tax appeals more equitable.

4 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
5 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council, the Joint Fiscal
6 Office, and Department of Taxes.

7 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a
8 report to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways
9 and Means with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

10 (f) Meetings.

11 (1) The Committee shall meet no more than six times. The Committee
12 shall select a chair and vice chair from among its legislative members at the
13 first meeting.

14 (2)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically
15 present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

16 (B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting
17 location.

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

20 (D) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2015.

21 (g) Reimbursement.

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

5 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
6 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
7 attendance shall be entitled to compensation pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for
8 no more than six meetings.

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