

[not yet reviewed by editorial staff]

1 H.876

2 **Vermont Innovation In Education Task Force**

3 Sec. __. VERMONT INNOVATION IN EDUCATION TASK FORCE;
4 REPORT

5 (a) There is created a Vermont Innovation in Education Task Force to
6 examine barriers to the effective use of technology in Vermont's schools and to
7 support access to that technology through, among other things, the
8 dissemination of best practices and the potential creation of a grant program.

9 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of the following nine members:

10 (1) the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or designee;

11 (2) the Speaker of the House or designee;

12 (3) the Chair of the House Committee on Education or a member of that
13 committee appointed by the Chair;

14 (4) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education or a member of that
15 committee appointed by the Chair;

16 (5) one member appointed by the Governor;

17 (6) The Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as chair;

18 (7) a representative of the postsecondary education community
19 appointed by the Governor;

20 (8) a representative of the Vermont Superintendents Association
21 appointed by the Association; and

[not yet reviewed by editorial staff]

1 (9) a representative of the business and industry community appointed
2 by the Vermont Business Roundtable.

3 (c) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) examine barriers to the effective use of technology in Vermont's
5 schools and solutions to overcome them, including:

6 (A) methods to ensure that both current teachers and students
7 enrolled in teacher preparation programs are able to use technology effectively;

8 (B) strategies to create and procure engaging and cost-effective
9 digital content to inspire Vermont students;

10 (C) strategies to ensure that all students benefit from access to
11 technology, especially students who face learning challenges;

12 (D) methods to increase operating efficiencies and enhance learning
13 opportunities, especially in rural areas, through the use of technology; and

14 (E) best practices to assist districts to prepare students to enter the
15 workforce or pursue postsecondary education or training without the need for
16 remediation; and

17 (2) consider elements necessary for the creation of a grant program to
18 support the effective use of technology in Vermont's schools, including
19 identification of potential funding sources and the criteria on which awards
20 could be based.

[not yet reviewed by editorial staff]

1 (d) The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical, and legal
2 assistance of the Agency of Education. For purposes of preparing
3 recommended legislation, the Task Force shall have the assistance of the
4 Office of Legislative Council.

5 (e) On or before October 1, 2014, the Task Force shall publish on the
6 Agency of Education’s website and submit to the Governor and the House and
7 Senate Committees on Education a written report detailing:

8 (1) the results of its examination under subdivision (c)(1) of this section;

9 (2) the results of its considerations regarding creation of a grant
10 program; and

11 (3) any recommendations for legislative action.

12 (f) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Task Force
13 to occur on or before June 1, 2014.

14 (g) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
15 Assembly, legislative members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem
16 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

17 (h) The Task Force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2015.