



STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE CHAMBER
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Government Operations; Luke Martland
From: Senate Committee on Government Operations
Date: April 16, 2014
Subject: H.585

We are writing to follow up on H.585, as passed by House. That version of the bill would require a legislative study of multiple issues relating to law enforcement structure in the State.

We agree that it is necessary to review the disparities in the authority of the different law enforcement agencies in this State in order to determine how to provide more effective and efficient law enforcement coverage, while also acknowledging the different governance structures of those agencies.

However, since 1947 when the State Police was formed, there have been numerous studies relating to the structure of law enforcement authority in the State. It is our belief that prior to undertaking a new study of this issue, the General Assembly should review past studies of the issue, the recommendations from those studies, and whether any of those recommendations have been enacted into law.

Therefore, in lieu of pursuing H.585, by this memo we are requesting that the Office of Legislative Council review studies related to the structure of law enforcement authority in the State that have been submitted to the General Assembly since 1995 and, in a report to our committees submitted on or before January 15, 2015, the Legislative Council summarize the recommendations made in those studies related to law enforcement structure. In summarizing those recommendations, we are asking that the Legislative Council specifically note whether the studies address the issues enumerated in H.585, as passed by House, and to also provide details of studies related to the role of the Department of Public Safety. Moreover, we are requesting that the Legislative Council specifically describe whether any study's recommendations have been enacted into law.

Once we receive that information, our committees should have a better understanding of how to reform the law enforcement structure in the State and pursue legislation to enact those reforms.

Please do not hesitate to contact our committee if you would like to discuss this issue further. Thank you.