

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 225 entitled “An act relating to early retirement allowance”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 459 is amended to read:

8 § 459. NORMAL AND EARLY RETIREMENT

9 * * *

10 (d) Early retirement allowance.

11 * * *

12 (2)(A)(i) Upon early retirement, a group F member, except facility
13 employees of the Department of Corrections and Department of Corrections
14 employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders
15 under supervision in the community ~~and~~, Woodside facility employees,
16 dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety, and Vermont State Hospital
17 employees or employees of its successor in interest who provide direct patient
18 care, shall receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to the
19 normal retirement allowance reduced by one-half of one percent for each
20 month the member is under ~~age~~ 62 years of age at the time of early retirement.

1 (ii) Group F members who have 20 years of service as facility
2 employees of the Department of Corrections, as Department of Corrections
3 employees who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders
4 under supervision in the community ~~or~~, as Woodside facility employees, as
5 dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety, or as Vermont State Hospital
6 employees, or as employees of its successor in interest, who provide direct
7 patient care shall receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to
8 the normal retirement allowance at ~~age~~ 55 years of age without reduction;
9 provided the 20 years of service occurred in one or more of the following
10 capacities as an employee of the Department of Corrections, Woodside facility,
11 dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety, or the Vermont State Hospital,
12 or its successor in interest: facility employee, community service center
13 employee, or court and reparative service unit employee.

14 (B) Upon early retirement, a group F member first included in the
15 membership of the system on or after July 1, 2008, except facility employees
16 of the Department of Corrections and Department of Corrections employees
17 who provide direct security and treatment services to offenders under
18 supervision in the community ~~and~~, Woodside facility employees, dispatchers in
19 the Department of Public Safety, and Vermont State Hospital employees or
20 employees of its successor in interest who provide direct patient care, shall

1 receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to the normal
2 retirement allowance reduced by:

3 * * *

4 Sec. 2. EARLY RETIREMENT; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

5 (a) Creation. There is created an Early Retirement Study Committee to
6 study the issue of early retirement benefits for the employees described in
7 subsection (c) of this section.

8 (b) Membership. The Early Retirement Study Committee shall be
9 composed of the following nine members:

10 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
11 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
13 Committee on Committees;

14 (3) four members appointed by the Vermont State Employees
15 Association;

16 (4) the State Treasurer or his or her designee;

17 (5) the Commissioner of Human Resources or his or her designee; and

18 (6) one member appointed by the State Treasurer.

19 (c) Powers and duties.

20 (1) The Committee shall study the issue of early retirement benefits for
21 each of the following types of employees:

- 1 (A) employees of the Department of Corrections;
2 (B) employees of the Woodside facility;
3 (C) dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety;
4 (D) direct care providers at the Vermont Veterans' Home; and
5 (E) the following types of employees of the Vermont State Hospital:
6 (i) facility employees;
7 (ii) community service center employees; and
8 (iii) court and reparative service unit employees.

9 (2) In studying the issue of early retirement benefits for the employees
10 set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Committee shall examine:

- 11 (A) each of those types of employees independently and not on the
12 basis of providing early retirement benefits to all of those types of employees;
13 (B) existing retirement laws and proposed legislation in other states;
14 (C) the appropriateness and legality of mandatory retirement; and
15 (D) any other issues relevant to early retirement benefits.

16 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
17 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal
18 Office.

19 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a
20 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations
21 with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

1 (f) Meetings.

2 (1) The State Treasurer or his or her designee shall be the Chair of the
3 Committee.

4 (2) The Committee shall convene on or before September 1, 2014 at the
5 call of the Chair, and the Chair shall call any subsequent meetings.

6 (3)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically
7 present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

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

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

12 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on the date it submits its report
13 under subsection (e) of this section.

14 (g) Reimbursement.

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

18 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
19 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
20 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
21 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

1 Sec. 3. REPORT; STATE TREASURER; EFFECT OF SEC. 1

2 After five years have passed since the effective date of Sec. 1 of this act and
3 on or before January 15, 2020, the State Treasurer shall report to the Senate
4 and House Committees on Government Operations regarding any effect
5 Sec. 1 of this act had on the retention of dispatchers in the Department of
6 Public Safety.

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

9

10 (Committee vote: _____)

11

12

Senator [surname]

13

FOR THE COMMITTEE