

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.

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12 (2)(A) 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, shall  
16 receive an early retirement allowance which shall be equal to the normal  
17 retirement allowance reduced by one-half of one percent for each month the  
18 member is under ~~age~~ 62 years of age at the time of early retirement. Group F  
19 members who have 20 years of service as facility employees of the Department  
20 of Corrections, as Department of Corrections employees who provide direct  
21 security and treatment services to offenders under supervision in the

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
21 President Pro Tempore;

1           (3) four members appointed by the Vermont State Employees

2           Association;

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

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

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

6           (c) Powers and duties.

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

9           (A) employees of the Department of Corrections;

10          (B) employees of the Woodside facility;

11          (C) dispatchers in the Department of Public Safety;

12          (D) direct care providers at the Vermont Veterans' Home; and

13          (E) the following types of employees of the Vermont State Hospital:

14            (i) facility employees;

15            (ii) community service center employees; and

16            (iii) court and reparative service unit employees.

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

19            (A) each of those types of employees independently and not on the  
20          basis of providing early retirement benefits to all of those types of employees;

21            (B) existing retirement laws and proposed legislation in other states;

1           (C) the appropriateness and legality of mandatory retirement; and

2           (D) any other issues relevant to early retirement benefits.

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

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

9           (f) Meetings.

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

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

14           (3)(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           (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on the date it submits its report  
21           under subsection (e) of this section.

1           (g) Reimbursement.

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

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 per diem compensation and reimbursement of  
8           expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

9           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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14          (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator [surname]

FOR THE COMMITTEE