

1 S.55

2 Introduced by Senators Pollina, Ayer, French, McAllister, and White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Government operations; finance and lending efficiency task force;

6 study

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
8 finance and lending efficiency task force to evaluate the costs and benefits of
9 consolidating into one entity state finance and lending operations, investing,
10 grant-making, and banking.

11 An act relating to increasing efficiency in state government finance and
12 lending operations

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. STATE FINANCIAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

15 (a) Creation of task force. There is created a State Financial and Lending
16 Efficiency Task Force to evaluate the costs and benefits of consolidating into a
17 single entity multiple state government operations relating to finance and
18 lending, grant-making, investing, and banking.

19 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following
20 members:

1 (1) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or
2 designee.

3 (2) The President of the Vermont Community Foundation or designee.

4 (3) A business entrepreneur with relevant financial services experience,
5 appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

6 (4) A current officer or executive of a Vermont-based banking
7 institution, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

8 (5) The Vermont State Treasurer.

9 (6) One member of the Vermont House of Representatives, appointed by
10 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

11 (7) One member of the Vermont Senate, appointed by the Senate
12 President Pro Tempore.

13 (8) The Executive Director of the Vermont Economic Development
14 Authority or designee.

15 (9) The executive director of a nonprofit with expertise in designing
16 lending and banking services, appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore.

17 (10) A municipal employee whose official duties involve local
18 economic development, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives.

20 (11) The Director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics or
21 designee.

1 (c) Powers and duties.

2 (1) The Task Force shall study ways to increase efficiency and reduce
3 costs in government financial operations, including:

4 (A) the number, nature, and scope of lending, loan servicing,
5 investing, grant-making, and related operations performed by the state and its
6 instrumentalities, and the costs and benefits of consolidating these activities
7 into a single state entity or office;

8 (B) the costs and benefits of contracting out banking services,
9 including fees, transaction costs, debt service, lost profit opportunities,
10 opportunities to increase local investing, and administrative savings:

11 (i) to a single private institution; or

12 (ii) through one or more new or existing state entities; and

13 (C) the costs and benefits of consolidating Vermont tax receipts, fees,
14 and certain other revenues, including impacts on debt service, and access to
15 capital for Vermont economic development activities and higher education
16 investments:

17 (i) into one or more Vermont-based private banking

18 institutions; or

19 (ii) into an existing or new public institution.

1 (2) For purposes of its study of these issues, the Task Force shall have
2 administrative, policy, and legal support from the legislative Joint Fiscal Office
3 and the Office of Legislative Council.

4 (d) Report. On or before January 15, 2014, the Task Force shall report to
5 the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations its findings and
6 any recommendations for legislative action.

7 (e) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the
8 General Assembly, legislative members of the Task Force shall be entitled to
9 compensation and reimbursement for expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406;
10 and other members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State of
11 Vermont shall be reimbursed at the per diem rate set in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 plus
12 mileage reimbursement.

13 (f) Appropriation. The sum of \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the General
14 Fund in fiscal year 2014 to the Department of Finance and Management for per
15 diem and expenses of the State Financial and Lending Efficiency Task Force
16 under this section.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.