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H.344

Introduced by Representative Krowinski of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; needle exchange; disposal

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a task force to provide recommendations for designing and implementing a statewide needle education, exchange, and disposal program.

An act relating to the Needle Education, Exchange, and Disposal Task Force

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

Sec. 1. NEEDLE EDUCATION, EXCHANGE, AND DISPOSAL TASK FORCE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a Needle Education, Exchange, and Disposal Task Force to provide recommendations regarding the design and implementation of a statewide needle education, exchange, and disposal program.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following 13 members:

(1) the Chair of the House Committee on Human Services or designee;

- 1           (2) the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or  
2           designee;
- 3           (3) the Commissioner of Health or designee;
- 4           (4) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- 5           (5) the Department of Environmental Conservation Director of Waste  
6           Management and Prevention or designee;
- 7           (6) three representatives of approved needle exchange programs  
8           operating in Vermont pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 4478, provided that each  
9           represents a different approved needle exchange program;
- 10           (7) a representative of Vermont hospitals, appointed by the Vermont  
11           Association of Hospitals and Health Systems;
- 12           (8) a representative of Vermont pharmacists, appointed by the Vermont  
13           Pharmacists Association;
- 14           (9) a representative of municipal police, appointed by the Vermont  
15           Association of Chiefs of Police;
- 16           (10) a representative who is in recovery from injection drug abuse,  
17           appointed by the Vermont Recovery Network; and
- 18           (11) a representative who uses needles, syringes, or other sharps in the  
19           course of treatment for a medical condition, appointed by the Vermont Medical  
20           Society.

1       (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall provide recommendations to  
2       the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on  
3       Health and Welfare regarding the design and implementation of a statewide  
4       needle education, exchange, and disposal program for used needles, syringes,  
5       and other sharps. In preparing its recommendations, the Task Force shall  
6       assess the availability and effectiveness of existing needle education, exchange,  
7       and disposal programs and services in Vermont to determine where  
8       overlapping services or gaps in service may exist.

9       (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,  
10       and legal assistance of the Department of Health.

11       (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a  
12       written report to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate  
13       Committee on Health and Welfare with its findings and recommendations for  
14       legislative action.

15       (f) Meetings.

16               (1) The Commissioner of Health or designee shall call the first meeting  
17       of the Task Force to occur on or before August 1, 2015.

18               (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the  
19       first meeting.

20               (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

21               (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on February 1, 2016.

1        (g) Reimbursement.

2            (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
3        Assembly, legislative members of the Task Force 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 Task Force 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            (h) Definitions. As used in this section, “sharps” means syringes, needles,  
10        lancets, and other sharp items used to treat medical conditions or to inject  
11        drugs of abuse.

12        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.