

1 H.521

2 Introduced by Representatives O'Brien of Richmond, Beck of St. Johnsbury,  
3 Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, and Evans of  
4 Essex

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: General Assembly; Executive; Government Accountability

8 Committee; population-level outcomes and indicators; report

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the  
10 charge of the Government Accountability Committee; amend the State's  
11 population-level outcomes and their related indicators; and change the date by  
12 which the Chief Performance Officer must submit the annual report on those  
13 outcomes and indicators.

14 An act relating to the Government Accountability Committee and the  
15 annual report on the State's population-level outcomes

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

17 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 970 is amended to read:

18 § 970. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

19 (a) There is created a joint legislative Government Accountability  
20 Committee. The Committee shall recommend mechanisms for State

1 government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the  
2 long-term needs of Vermonters. In pursuit of this goal, the Committee shall:

3 (1) Propose areas for the review of statutory mandates for public  
4 services that may result in service duplication and to review the alignment of  
5 financial and staff resources required to carry out those mandates.

6 (2) Review the legislative process for the creation and elimination of  
7 positions and programs and make recommendations for enhancements to the  
8 process that support greater long-range planning and responsiveness to the  
9 needs of Vermonters.

10 (3) Recommend strategies and tools ~~which~~ that permit all branches of  
11 State government to prioritize the investment of federal, State, and local  
12 resources in programs that respond to the needs of the citizens of Vermont in a  
13 collaborative, cost-effective, and efficient manner. Pursuant to those strategies  
14 and tools, functions ~~which~~ that are not critical to an agency or department  
15 mission may be recommended for combination or elimination, while other  
16 functions may be optimized.

17 (4) Review strategies with similar aims in other jurisdictions in the  
18 context of federal, state, and local relationships.

19 (5) Determine that data-based program-level performance measures that  
20 demonstrate program results have been adopted for the programs in each  
21 agency and department.

1           (6) Determine whether each agency and department is taking actions to  
2 achieve the ~~required~~ population-level outcomes set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311  
3 that are relevant to that agency or department, as shown by ~~application of the~~  
4 manner in which the data-based agency's or department's program-level  
5 performance measures inform population-level indicators.

6           (7) Ensure that the report set forth in 3 V.S.A. § 2311 regarding  
7 population-level outcomes; and indicators and each agency's or department's  
8 program-level performance measures, performance data, and descriptions of  
9 actions taken, or proposed to be taken, are transparent and readily accessible to  
10 the public via electronic publication.

11           (8) Assess the effectiveness of ~~the performance measures for~~  
12 population-level indicators in measuring progress in achieving population-level  
13 outcomes, and annually review population-level indicators in the context of  
14 new data development.

15           (9) ~~Recommend~~ Approve the addition, amendment, or elimination of  
16 ~~any performance measures~~ population-level indicators in accordance with  
17 3 V.S.A. § 2311(c).

18           (10) [Repealed.]

19           (11) Assess whether and how the State of Vermont should provide funds  
20 to nonprofit organizations, including whether grants to or contracts with  
21 nonprofit organizations should require results-based accountability.

1 (b)(1) The membership of the Committee shall be appointed each biennial  
2 session of the General Assembly. The Committee shall comprise eight  
3 members:

4 (A) four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
5 Speaker of the House who shall not all be from the same party and at least one  
6 of whom shall be from the Committee on Government Operations; and

7 (B) four members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on  
8 Committees who shall not all be from the same party and at least one of whom  
9 shall be from the Committee on Government Operations.

10 (2) The ~~Governor shall appoint one person to~~ Chief Performance Officer  
11 shall serve as a nonvoting liaison to the Committee.

12 (c) The Committee shall elect two co-chairs and a clerk from among its  
13 members and shall adopt rules of procedure. The co-chairs shall be a House  
14 and a Senate member. The Committee shall keep minutes of its meetings and  
15 maintain a file thereof. A quorum shall consist of five members.

16 (d) During the legislative session, the Committee shall meet ~~at least once a~~  
17 ~~month,~~ at the call of the Co-Chairs. When the General Assembly is not in  
18 session, the Committee may meet monthly at the call of the Co-Chairs and may  
19 meet more often subject to the approval of the Speaker of the House and the  
20 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

1 (e) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in  
2 session, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to  
3 compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses as provided under  
4 section 406 of this title; ~~and nonlegislative members who are not full-time~~  
5 ~~State employees shall be entitled to per diem and expenses as provided in~~  
6 ~~32 V.S.A. § 1010.~~

7 (f) The ~~professional and clerical~~ staff services of the Joint Fiscal Office and  
8 the Office of the Legislative Council shall be available to the Committee.

9 (g) At least annually, by January 15, the Committee shall report its  
10 activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly.  
11 The report shall be in brief summary form. ~~The provisions of subsection 20(d)~~  
12 ~~(expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be~~  
13 ~~made under this subsection.~~

14 (h) [Repealed.]

15 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 2311 is amended to read:

16 § 2311. CHIEF PERFORMANCE OFFICER; ANNUAL REPORT ON  
17 POPULATION-LEVEL OUTCOMES USING INDICATORS

18 (a) Report. Annually, on or before ~~July 30~~ September 30, the Chief  
19 Performance Officer within the Agency of Administration shall report to the  
20 General Assembly on the State's progress in reaching the population-level  
21 outcomes for each area of Vermont's quality of life set forth in subsection (b)

1 of this section by providing data for the population-level indicators that are  
2 ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the process set forth in subsection (c) of this  
3 section.

4 (b) Vermont population-level quality of life outcomes.

5 (1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.

6 (2) Vermonters are healthy.

7 (3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.

8 (4) Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.

9 (5) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.

10 (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential,

11 including:

12 (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.

13 (B) Children are ready for school.

14 (C) Children succeed in school.

15 (D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

16 (E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

17 (7) Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with  
18 mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.

19 (8) Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government ~~at the State~~  
20 ~~and local levels~~ with a supported, motivated, and accountable State workforce.

1           (9) Vermont's State infrastructure meets the needs of Vermonters, the  
2           economy, and the environment.

3           (c) ~~Requesting~~ Approving population-level indicators.

4           (1) Annually, on or before March 1, a standing committee of the  
5           General Assembly having jurisdiction over a population-level quality of life  
6           outcome set forth in subsection (b) of this section or the Chief Performance  
7           Officer may submit to the Government Accountability Committee a request  
8           that any population-level indicator related to that outcome be revised.

9           (2) If that request is approved by the Government Accountability  
10          Committee, ~~the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the~~  
11          ~~House,~~ the Chief Performance Officer shall revise and report on the  
12          population-level indicator in accordance with ~~the request~~ that approval and this  
13          section.

14          (d) The report set forth in this section shall not be subject to the limitation  
15          on the duration of agency reports set forth in 2 V.S.A. § 20(d).

16          Sec. 3. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 186 (an act relating to reporting on  
17          population-level outcomes and indicators and on program-level performance  
18          measures), Sec. 3 is amended to read:

19          Sec. 3. INITIAL POPULATION-LEVEL INDICATORS

20          Until any population-level indicators are ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the  
21          provisions of Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(c) (~~requesting~~ approving

1 population-level indicators), each population-level quality of life outcome set  
2 forth in Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(b) (Vermont population-level  
3 quality of life outcomes), and listed in this section shall have the following  
4 population-level indicators:

5 (1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.

6 (A) percent or rate per 1,000 jobs of nonpublic sector employment;

7 (B) median household income;

8 (C) ~~percent of Vermont covered by state-of-the-art~~  
9 ~~telecommunications infrastructure;~~

10 ~~(D)~~ median house price;

11 ~~(E)~~(D) rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents;

12 (E) annualized unemployment rate;

13 (F) percent of ~~structurally deficient bridges, as defined by the~~  
14 ~~Vermont Agency of Transportation; and~~

15 ~~(G) percent of food total farm sales that come from Vermont farms;~~

16 (G) percent of fruit and vegetable farms by sales outlet;

17 (H) increase in gross working lands income over previous year, for  
18 grantees of Working Lands Program; and

19 (I) number of farmers' markets.

20 (2) Vermonters are healthy.

21 (A) percent of adults 20 years of age or older who are obese;



1 (B) percent of adults smoking cigarettes;

2 (C) number of adults who are homeless;

3 (D) percent of ~~individuals and families~~ population living at different  
4 below the federal poverty levels level;

5 (E) percent of adults at or below 200 percent of federal poverty level  
6 18–64 years of age with health insurance; and

7 (F) ~~percent of adults with health insurance~~ rate of suicide per 100,000  
8 Vermonters;

9 (G) fall-related deaths per 100,000 adults 65 years of age or older;

10 (H) rate of Vermonters with mental health conditions getting help for  
11 those conditions; and

12 (I) number of Vermont food recall incidents.

13 (3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.

14 (A) cumulative number of waters subject to TMDLs or alternative  
15 pollution control plans;

16 (B) percent of ~~water, sewer, and stormwater systems that meet~~  
17 federal and State public drinking water supplies in compliance with  
18 health-based standards;

19 (C) ~~carbon dioxide per capita~~ total greenhouse gas emissions per  
20 capita, in units of annual metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide per  
21 capita; and

1           (D) ~~electricity by fuel or power type~~ percent of Vermont retail  
2 electric sales from renewable energy;

3           (E) percent of river miles with water quality that meets  
4 designated uses;

5           (F) percent of watersheds in Vermont where pollutant loads  
6 are declining;

7           (G) percent of previously impaired waters meeting standards based  
8 on corrective actions;

9           (H) total number of days with air quality alerts;

10          (I) disposal rate of municipal solid waste in pounds per person per  
11 day; and

12          (J) total number of acres that have been or will be cleaned up or  
13 redeveloped based on sites enrolled in the Brownfields Program.

14          (4) Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.

15          (A) rate of petitions granted for relief from domestic abuse per  
16 1,000 residents;

17          (B) rate of violent crime per 1,000 crimes;

18          (C) rate of sexual assault committed against residents per  
19 1,000 residents;

20          (D) percent of residents living in affordable housing;

1 (E) percent or rate per 1,000 people convicted of crimes of  
2 recidivism;

3 (F) incarceration rate per 100,000 residents; ~~and~~

4 (G) percent or rate per 1,000 residents of residents entering the  
5 corrections system for the first time; and

6 (H) percent of population trained in mental health first aid.

7 (5) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.

8 (A) number and rate per 1,000 children of substantiated reports of  
9 child abuse and neglect;

10 (B) number of children who are homeless;

11 (C) number of persons who are homeless (adults and children) in  
12 families that are homeless with at least one child; and

13 (D) number and rate per 1,000 children and youth of children and  
14 youth in out-of-home care.

15 (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential,  
16 including:

17 (A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.

18 (i) percent of women who receive first trimester prenatal care;

19 (ii) percent of live births that are preterm (less than 37 weeks);

20 (iii) rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births;

1 (iv) percent of children at or below 200 percent of federal  
2 poverty level; and

3 (v) percent of children 17 years of age or younger with health  
4 insurance.

5 (B) Children are ready for school.

6 (i) percent of ~~kindergarteners fully immunized with all five~~  
7 ~~vaccines required for school~~ children 19–35 months of age receiving  
8 recommended vaccines;

9 (ii) ~~percent of first-graders screened for vision and hearing~~  
10 ~~problems~~;

11 (iii) percent of children ready for school in all ~~five~~ four domains  
12 of healthy development; and

13 (iv)(iii) percent of children receiving State subsidy enrolled in  
14 high quality early childhood programs that receive at least four out of five stars  
15 under State standards.

16 (C) Children succeed in school.

17 (i) rate of school attendance per 1,000 children;

18 (ii) percent of children below the basic level of fourth grade  
19 reading achievement under State standards; and

20 (iii) rate of high school graduation per 1,000 high school students.

21 (D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

- 1 (i) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females 15–17 years of age;
- 2 (ii) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females 18–19 years of age;
- 3 (iii) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 smoking cigarettes;
- 4 (iv) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who used marijuana in  
5 the past 30 days;
- 6 (v) percent of adolescents who reported ever using a prescription  
7 drug without a prescription;
- 8 (vi) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who drank alcohol in  
9 the past 30 days; and
- 10 (vii) number and rate per 1,000 minors of minors who are under  
11 the supervision of the Department of Corrections.
- 12 (E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.
- 13 (i) percent of high school seniors with plans for education,  
14 vocational training, or employment;
- 15 (ii) percent of graduating high school seniors who continue their  
16 education within six months of graduation;
- 17 ~~(iii) percent of all deaths for youths 10–19 years of age;~~
- 18 ~~(iv) rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;~~
- 19 ~~(v) percent of adolescents with a suicide attempt that requires~~  
20 medical attention;

1           ~~(vi)~~(iv) percent of ~~high school graduates entering~~ students who  
2 graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary  
3 education, work, or training within 16 months after high school graduation;

4           ~~(vii)~~(v) percent of ~~completion of postsecondary education~~ students  
5 who graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in  
6 postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation, and  
7 persisted in postsecondary education for at least three semesters within two  
8 academic school years; and

9           ~~(viii)~~(vi) ~~rate of high school graduates entering a training program~~  
10 ~~per 1,000 high school graduates~~ percent of students who graduated with a  
11 regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within  
12 16 months after high school graduation and graduated from an institution of  
13 higher education within six academic school years.

14           (7) Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with  
15 mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.

16           (A) rate of confirmed reports of abuse and neglect of vulnerable  
17 adults per 1,000 vulnerable adults;

18           (B) percent of elders living in institutions versus receiving home  
19 care; ~~and~~

1           (C) number of people with disabilities and people with mental  
2 conditions receiving State services living in each of the following: institutions,  
3 residential or group facilities, or independently;

4           (D) percent of people served in Choices for Care who are living in  
5 each of the following: institutions, residential or group facilities, or  
6 independently;

7           (E) number and percent of adults with severe, persistent mental  
8 illness who are living in each of the following: institutions, residential or  
9 group facilities, or independently;

10           (F) employment rate of people with disabilities who are of working  
11 age; and

12           (G) employment rate of people 65 years of age or older.

13           (8) Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government ~~at the State~~  
14 ~~and local levels~~ with a supported, motivated, and accountable State workforce.

15           ~~(A) percent of youth who spoke to their parents about school~~ State  
16 employees participating in the voluntary employment engagement survey who  
17 responded that:

18           (i) they are satisfied overall with their job;

19           (ii) they would recommend the State as a great place to work;

20           (iii) they are encouraged to share ideas on efficiency;

1                    (iv) their supervisor regularly provides timely and useful  
2                    feedback; and

3                    (v) their performance evaluations are completed annually;

4                    ~~(B) percent of youth who report they help decide what goes on in~~  
5                    ~~their school~~ State employees who voluntarily leave State service;

6                    (C) percent of ~~eligible population~~ registered voters voting in the  
7                    ~~general elections~~ election;

8                    (D) percent of ~~students volunteering in their community in the~~  
9                    ~~past week~~ State contracts that include performance measures;

10                    (E) percent of ~~youth who feel valued by their community~~ grants  
11                    awarded that include performance measures; and

12                    (F) ~~percent of youth that report their teachers care about them and~~  
13                    ~~give them encouragement~~ number of Lean events successfully completed.

14                    (9) Vermont's State infrastructure meets the needs of Vermonters, the  
15                    economy, and the environment.

16                    (A) percent of Vermont covered by state-of-the-art  
17                    telecommunications infrastructure; and

18                    (B) percent of structurally-deficient bridges, as defined by the  
19                    Agency of Transportation.

20                    Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

21                    This act shall take effect on passage.