

1 H.642

2 Introduced by Representatives Botzow of Pownal and Marcotte of Coventry

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Executive; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; working group

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
7 working group to study and make recommendations concerning the appropriate
8 location for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

9 An act relating to a working group concerning the Division of Vocational
10 Rehabilitation

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

12 Sec. 1. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP

13 (a) Creation. There is created the Vocational Rehabilitation Working
14 Group to study and make recommendations concerning the most appropriate
15 location for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and whether the
16 Division should be transferred from the Agency of Human Services to the
17 Department of Labor.

18 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
19 five members:

20 (1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;

1 (2) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

2 (3) the Commissioner of Finance or designee;

3 (4) the Commissioner of Labor or designee; and

4 (5) the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

5 (c) Powers and duties.

6 (1) The Working Group shall study:

7 (A) the best organizational structure and most appropriate placement
8 for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and

9 (B) whether the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation should be
10 housed within the Department of Labor.

11 (2) If the Working Group determines that the Division of Vocational
12 Rehabilitation should be housed within the Department of Labor, the Working
13 Group shall develop a plan to transfer the Division from the Agency of Human
14 Services to the Department of Labor. The plan shall include:

15 (A) the appropriate time frame for the transfer;

16 (B) an analysis of the steps necessary to carry out the transfer;

17 (C) an analysis of potential costs and savings associated with
18 the transfer;

19 (D) an analysis of any potential impact upon employees and
20 customers, and recommendations as to how to minimize any potential negative
21 impacts; and

1 (E) an analysis of any other issue that the Working Groups deems
2 appropriate.

3 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
4 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Labor. The Working
5 Group may consult with any stakeholders or persons it deems appropriate.

6 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2016 the Working Group shall
7 submit a written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
8 Development and on Government Operations, and the Senate Committees on
9 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government
10 Operations. The report shall set forth:

11 (1) The results of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) of
12 this section.

13 (2) The Working Group's recommendation as to whether the Division of
14 Vocational Rehabilitation should be housed within the Department of Labor.

15 (3) If the Working Group recommends that the Division of Vocational
16 Rehabilitation should be housed within the Department of Labor, the Working
17 Group's plan to transfer the Division from the Agency of Human Services to
18 the Department of Labor. The Working Group's plan shall address the issues
19 set forth in subdivision (c)(2) of this section and make recommendations as to
20 any legislation necessary to implement the transfer.

21 (f) Meetings.

1 (1) The Secretary of Administration shall call the first meeting of the
2 Working Group to occur on or before August 1, 2016.

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

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

6 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 1, 2016.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.