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**Government Accountability Committee**  
**January 15, 2012 Report**

The Government Accountability Committee (“GAC”) had previously agreed to a temporary suspension of the quarterly progress reports that would have been submitted by the administration in November 2011 and February 2012 pursuant to Nos. 68 (An act relating to challenges for change) and 146 (An act relating to implementation of challenges for change) of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) to give the administration an opportunity to complete a strategic plan. The committee awaits the administration’s strategic plan, which will be presented to the committee in January. The committee also expects the administration to identify possible changes in agency operation as a result of Tropical Storm Irene.

The committee has taken testimony on “Results Based Accountability,” which is being implemented in Connecticut’s House Committee on Appropriations, and on the Pew Center on the States’ “Results First” policy analysis model. Results Based Accountability (RBA) is a system of collecting data that is designed to measure whether goals are being met. Results First is a tool designed to predict — based on the characteristics of a state — which combination of state programs and policies will produce the greatest net benefit in the most cost-effective manner.

The committee supports the house and senate committees on appropriations in taking advantage of the offer of technical assistance from Pew to pilot the “Results First” tool with regard to the criminal justice system.

The committee also supports the house and senate committees on appropriations in their focus on program performance when considering budget appropriations. The committees have advised the administration that in order to transition to their goal that by Fiscal Year 2015, all agencies and departments will present the budget in a results-based program format, for Fiscal Year 2013, the committees are requesting summary sheets from agencies and departments that include a listing of key functions that they perform; the programs they administer; and the measures of program outcomes relative to the goals of the agencies and departments. The new budget development system will be operational for Fiscal Year 2014. The GAC believes budgeting based on results is key to government accountability.

As it has done since its creation, the GAC will continue to recommend mechanisms for state government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the long-term needs of Vermonters.