

S.198

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

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

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

§ 970. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

(a) There is created a joint legislative Government Accountability Committee. The Committee shall recommend mechanisms for State government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the long-term needs of Vermonters. In pursuit of this goal, the Committee shall:

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

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

(3) Recommend strategies and tools ~~which~~ that permit all branches of State government to prioritize the investment of federal, State, and local resources in programs that respond to the needs of the citizens of Vermont in a collaborative, cost-effective, and efficient manner. Pursuant to those strategies

and tools, functions ~~which that~~ are not critical to an agency or department mission may be recommended for combination or elimination, while other functions may be optimized.

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

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

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

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

(8) Assess the effectiveness of ~~the performance measures for~~ population-level indicators in measuring progress in achieving population-level

outcomes, and annually review population-level indicators in the context of selecting alternative indicators or planning for new data development.

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

(10) [Repealed.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) At least annually, by January 15, the Committee shall report its activities, together with recommendations, if any, to the General Assembly. The report shall be in brief summary form. ~~The provisions of subsection 20(d)~~

~~(expiration of required reports) of this title shall not apply to the report to be made under this subsection.~~

(h) [Repealed.]

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

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

(a) Report. Annually, on or before ~~July 30~~ September 30, the Chief Performance Officer within the Agency of Administration shall report to the General Assembly on the State's progress in reaching the population-level outcomes for each area of Vermont's quality of life set forth in subsection (b) of this section by providing data for the population-level indicators that are ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the process set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

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

- (1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- (2) Vermonters are healthy.
- (3) Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.
- (4) Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.
- (5) Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential,

including:

**Comment [RD1]:** AHS would like to participate in a process or conversation to enhance the way that we quantify this outcome beyond indicators of criminal activity.

(A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.

(B) Children are ready for school.

(C) Children succeed in school.

(D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

(E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

(7) Vermont's seniors live with dignity and independence.

(8) Vermonters with disabilities live with dignity and independence.

~~Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.~~

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

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

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

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

(2) If that request is approved by the Government Accountability Committee, ~~the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the~~

**Comment [RD2]:** Representative Pugh recommends removing the sub-outcomes and retaining (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential. All indicators related to sub-outcomes would be intended to roll-up to outcome (6)

AHS recommends revisiting this as part of strategic Act 186 sessions with GAC this summer.

**Comment [RD3]:** Representative Pugh and AHS recommend that Outcome (7) be split into two outcomes – (7) seniors, (8) people with disabilities

**Comment [RD4]:** See above comment. AHS further recommends that indicators of the well-being of Vermonters with mental health conditions be integrated into the other outcomes, rather than under a separate outcome.

~~House~~, the Chief Performance Officer shall revise and report on the population-level indicator in accordance with ~~the request~~ that approval and this section.

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

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

Sec. 3. INITIAL POPULATION-LEVEL INDICATORS

Until any population-level indicators are ~~requested~~ approved pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(c) (~~requesting~~ approving population-level indicators), each population-level quality of life outcome set forth in Sec. 2 of this act, 3 V.S.A. § 2311(b) (Vermont population-level quality of life outcomes), and listed in this section shall have the following population-level indicators:

(1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.

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

(B) median household income;

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

~~(D) median house price;~~

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

(E) annualized unemployment rate;

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

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

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

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

(J) number of farmers' markets.

(K) percent of individuals and families population living at different  
below the federal poverty levels level, below 200% of the federal poverty  
level, and below 400% of the federal poverty level (children, adults, people  
with disabilities of working age, adults over age 65);

**Comment [RD5]:** Recommend keeping poverty indicators in one Outcome. Either (2) or (4) or (6)

(2) Vermonters are healthy.

(A) percent of adults 20 years of age ~~and~~ older who are obese;

(B) percent of adults ~~smoking who smoke~~ cigarettes;

(C) Percentage of Vermonters age 65+ who drink alcohol at  
a level of risk;

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(D) percent of persons age 12 and older who need and do not receive  
alcohol treatment

**Comment [DR6]:** Added – dAIL recommendation



(E) percent of persons age 12 and older who need and do not receive treatment for illicit drug use

**Comment [RD7]:** Added following HHS recommendation

(F) percent of persons age 12 and older who misused a prescription pain reliever in the past year;

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(F~~E~~) number of ~~adults~~ persons who are homeless (~~adults and children~~);

**Comment [RD8]:** Reduce housing indicator redundancy by using this indicator (can be reported with two trend lines – adults and children)

(G) (~~GD~~) percent of individuals and families population living at different below the federal poverty levels level;

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**Comment [RD9]:** Moved to Outcome 1

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

(H) percent of children age 17 and younger with health insurance.

**Comment [RD10]:** Moved from outcome (6) (A)

(I) percent of adults with health insurance rate of suicide per 100,000

Vermonters;

(J) fall-related death per 100,000 adults age 65 years of age or and older;

(K) rate of Vermonters % of adults with any mental illness receiving treatment with mental health conditions getting help for those conditions; and

**Comment [RD11]:** New 4/5/2016

(L) number of Vermont food recall incidents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(D) rate of reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of vulnerable adults recommended for substantiation per 1,000 vulnerable adults;

(E) percent of residents living in affordable housing;

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

(G) incarceration rate per 100,000 residents; and

(H) number of first time entrants into the corrections system percent or rate per 1,000 residents of residents entering the corrections system for the first time; and

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

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

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

**Comment [RD12]:** DAIL recommendation

**Comment [RD13]:** AHS would recommend that this indicator be under Outcome 1 (AHS does not report this indicator)

**Comment [RD14]:** AHS believes this is a performance measure.

~~(B) number of children who are homeless;~~

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

~~(B) number and rate of children and youth in out-of-home care per 1,000 children and youth.~~

~~(C) percent of caregivers who report that they do not have unmet needs~~

**Comment [RD15]:** Include actual numbers in Scorecard or Story Behind the Curve.

**Comment [DR16]:** Added – DAIL recommendation. Requires that BRFSS accept the proposed additional question. DdA until accepted.

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

(A) Pregnant women and young people thrive.

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

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

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

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

~~(v) percent of children 17 years of age or younger with health insurance.~~ (B) Children are ready for school.

**Comment [RD17]:** HHS Requested this be moved to outcome (2) Vermonters are healthy

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

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

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

~~(iv)(iii) -percent of children receiving child care subsidy attending high quality early childhood programspercent of children receiving State subsidy enrolled in high quality early childhood programs that receive at least four out of five stars under State standards.~~

(C) Children succeed in school.

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

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

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

(D) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

(i) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females age 15–17 ~~years of age~~;

(ii) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females age 18–19 ~~years of age~~;

(iii) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who smoke ~~ing~~ cigarettes;

(iv) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 who used marijuana in the past 30 days;

~~(v) percent of adolescents who reported ever using a prescription drug without a prescription;~~

~~(vi) percent of adolescents age 12-17 binge in grades 9-12 who drank alcohol in drinking in the past 30 days; and~~

~~(vi) number of youth age 17 and under found delinquent by Family Court~~

**Comment [DR18]:** Added – recommendation by DCF

~~(vii) number of youth (under 18) age 17 and younger under the supervision of the Department of Corrections number and rate per 1,000 minors of minors who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.~~

~~(viii) percentage of adolescents 12-21 years of age who had one or more well-care visits with a primary care provider or OB/GYN during the measurement year~~

**Comment [RD19]:** New 8/15/2016

~~(ixviii) percent of adolescents in grades 9-12 with a suicide attempt that required medical attention~~

**Comment [RD20]:** Moved from Outcome 6E

(E) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

(i) percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment;

(ii) percent of graduating high school seniors who continue their education within six months of graduation;

(iii) percent of all deaths for youths 10-19 years of age;

~~(iv) rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;~~

~~(v) percent of adolescents of adolescents in grades 9-12 with a suicide attempt that required medical attention with a suicide attempt that requires medical attention;~~

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

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

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

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

~~(A) employment rate of people age 65 years and older.~~

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

**Comment [RD21]:** AHS believes that this is a performance measure.

~~rate of reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of~~

~~vulnerable adults recommended for substantiation per 1,000~~

~~vulnerable adults;~~

~~(8) Vermonters with disabilities live with dignity and independence.~~

~~(A) employment rate of people with disabilities who are of working age; and~~

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

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

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

**Comment [RD22]:** AHS believes that this is a performance measure.

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



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

**Comment [RD23]:** AHS believes that this is a performance measure (client population is CRT-eligible Vermonters)

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

~~(G) employment rate of people 65 years of age or older;~~

**Comment [RD24]:** Moved to "Vermont has a prosperous economy" outcome.

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

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

(i) they are satisfied overall with their job;

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

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

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

(v) their performance evaluations are completed annually;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.