

## Draft Outline of GAC's Jan. 2017 Report<sup>1</sup>

### *I. Overview of the Report's Topics and Recommendations for Each Topic*

[Short intro, such as in last report: The Government Accountability Committee (GAC)

focuses on how Vermont State government can be more accountable to Vermonters.

Pursuant to [2 V.S.A. § 970\(g\)](#), this report sets forth GAC's activities and

recommendations to the General Assembly. This report will detail the following issues:]

#### **(1) Current RBA framework set forth in [3 V.S.A. § 2311](#).**

##### Recommendations:

(a) The General Assembly and the Executive Branch should analyze the Chief Performance Officer's (CPO's) September 30th report on outcomes and indicators and compare it to the CPO's 2014 and 2015 reports.

(b) These two branches should use the information in the CPO report to help them craft the State budget.

(c) Legislative policy committees should use this information to help them determine whether legislation is necessary to improve areas within their jurisdiction.

#### **(2) Indicator review; data development.**

Recommendation: Legislative policy committees of jurisdiction should review the current indicators for each outcome set forth in [3 V.S.A. § 2311](#) and — in consultation with the Executive Branch's performance accountability liaisons (PALs) — recommend

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<sup>1</sup> [2 V.S.A. § 970\(g\)](#) provides: "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."

to the GAC revisions to the indicators in any instances in which there is better data available to help measure the State's progress in reaching those outcomes.

**(3) Review of the Governor's Programmatic Performance Measure Budget.**

Recommendation: The Committees on Appropriations should continue to require agencies to present performance measure data for their programs as part of the agencies' budget presentations, and legislative policy committees should also familiarize themselves with that data applicable to their jurisdiction, in order for all legislative committees to understand the effect of the laws they enact.

**(4) Other tools for performance accountability in State government.**

Recommendation: Other tools for performance accountability — such as the LEAN process and the Genuine Progress Indicator — should be used in State government to help make it more accountable to Vermonters.

**(5) RBA training.**

Recommendation: Legislators, especially those who are newly-elected, should receive RBA training to help them understand how to be accountable to Vermonters by measuring the State's results. New legislators should receive this training during new member orientation, and additional RBA training should be provided in committees by legislators trained in RBA and by PALs.

***II. Summary of GAC's Purpose and Charge***

- GAC was created in 2008 to focus specifically on establishing a system of greater accountability and effectiveness in State government.

- GAC’s charge is set forth in [2 V.S.A. § 970](#). This statute requires the GAC to “recommend mechanisms for State government to be more forward-thinking, strategic, and responsive to the long-term needs of Vermonters” and provides ten specific tasks in pursuit of this goal. These tasks include determining that data-based program-level performance measures have been adopted for programs, assessing the effectiveness of population-level indicators in measuring progress in achieving population-level outcomes, and revising those indicators as necessary.
- GAC has been focusing on results-based accountability (RBA). To summarize, RBA involves setting goals; using data to measure progress in reaching these goals; analyzing how that data changes over time; and determining what changes need to be made in order to improve that data and to therefore make progress in reaching the goals.
  - In 2014, the General Assembly enacted [Act No. 186](#), which codified an RBA process in [3 V.S.A. § 2311](#). In that statute, the General Assembly has established nine population-level outcomes (goals). Act No. 186 also established initial population-level indicators (data) that help measure the State’s progress in reaching those outcomes. The Chief Performance Officer (CPO) annually reports on these indicators, and 3 V.S.A. § 2311 contains an informal process to revise those indicators through GAC approval.
  - Moreover, [32 V.S.A. § 307\(c\)](#) — a statute regarding the form of the Governor’s proposed State budget — requires the Governor to describe in that budget a description of program performance measures that demonstrate the results of programs. The Governor has been fulfilling this requirement with a

Programmatic Performance Measure Budget Report; for example, see the 2017 Budget Report [here](#).

***III. Detail of Report's Topics and Recommendations***

*[Provide the details for each of the report's topics and recommendations summarized in Section I.]*

**ATTACHMENT A:**

*Current Outcomes and Indicators as of August 25, 2016*

**(1) Vermont has a prosperous economy.**

- (A) percent or rate per 1,000 jobs of nonpublic sector employment;
- (B) median household income;
- (C) median house price;
- (D) rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents;
- (E) annualized unemployment rate;
- (F) percent of total farm sales;
- (G) percent of fruit and vegetable farms by sales outlet;
- (H) increase in gross working lands income over previous year, for grantees of Working Lands Program;
- (I) number of farmers' markets;
- (J) gross domestic product;
- (K) gross domestic product per capita; and
- (L) average wage.

**(2) Vermonters are healthy.**

- (A) percent of adults 20 years of age or older who are obese;
- (B) percent of adults smoking cigarettes;
- (C) number of adults who are homeless;
- (D) percent of population living below the federal poverty level;
- (E) percent of adults 18–64 years of age with health insurance;
- (F) rate of suicide per 100,000 Vermonters;
- (G) fall-related death per 100,000 adults 65 years of age or older;
- (H) rate of Vermonters with mental health conditions getting help for those conditions; and
- (I) number of Vermont food recall incidents.

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

- (A) percent of public drinking water supplies in compliance with health-based standards;
- (B) total greenhouse gas emissions per capita, in units of annual metric tons of equivalent carbon dioxide per capita;
- (C) percent of Vermont retail electric sales from renewable energy;
- (D) percent of Vermont's inland waters that meet State water quality standards;
- (E) percent of Lake Champlain that meets State water quality standards;
- (F) changes in total phosphorus loading to the segments of Lake Champlain from Vermont source;
- (G) total number of days with air quality alerts;
- (H) disposal rate of municipal solid waste in pounds per person per day; and
- (I) 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) percent of residents living in affordable housing;
- (E) percent or rate per 1,000 people convicted of crimes of recidivism;
- (F) incarceration rate per 100,000 residents;
- (G) percent or rate per 1,000 residents of residents entering the corrections system for the first time; and
- (H) 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;
- (B) number of children who are homeless;
- (C) number of persons who are homeless (adults and children) in families with at least one child; and
- (D) number and rate per 1,000 children and youth of children and youth in out-of-home care.

**(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 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.**

- (i) percent of children 19–35 months of age receiving recommended vaccines;
- (ii) percent of children ready for school in all four domains of healthy development; and
- (iii) percent 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 15–17 years of age;

- (ii) rate of pregnancy per 1,000 females 18–19 years of age;
- (iii) percent of adolescents in grades 9–12 smoking 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 in grades 9–12 who drank alcohol in the past 30 days; and
- (vii) number and rate per 1,000 minors of minors who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections.

**(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 adolescents with a suicide attempt that requires medical attention;
- (iv) percent of students who graduated with a regular high school diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation;
- (v) percent of 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
- (vi) 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 elders and people with disabilities and people with mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.**

- (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;
- (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;
- (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;
- (F) employment rate of people with disabilities who are of working age; and
- (G) employment rate of people 65 years of age or older.

**(8) Vermont has open, effective, and inclusive government with a supported, motivated, and accountable State workforce.**

(A) percent of 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 State employees who voluntarily leave State service;
- (C) percent of registered voters voting in the general election;
- (D) percent of State contracts that include performance measures;
- (E) percent of grants awarded that include performance measures; and
- (F) 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.