1	* * * Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone * * *
2	Sec. F.2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE
3	(a) The General Assembly finds:
4	(1) the Agency of Commerce and Community Development projects
5	that the forty-four Vermont towns served by the two most Southern regional
6	development corporations and regional planning commission in Vermont will
7	lose 3.5 percent of their population by 2030 and that the total population of
8	individuals over the age of 65 in this combined region will increase from 17
9	percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2030;
10	(2) the number of visitors to the Southern Vermont visitor center have
11	decreased 25% since 2006;
12	(3) since 2006, growth in the regions' rooms and meals tax since 2006 is
13	10 percent, as compared to 25 percent in the Chittenden County region;
14	(4) the rate of residential construction in the regions is currently half of
15	the pre-recession level;
16	(5) the two Southern Vermont regions have collaborated on business
17	recovery programming after Tropical Storm Irene including development of
18	individualized downtown and village revitalization plans and development of
19	the Southern Vermont Sustainable Marketing program;
20	(6) the two regions having also worked together on some workforce
21	development and internship initiatives, are seeking to establish a more formal
22	structure for their workforce and recruitment efforts; and
23	(b) The purposes of Secs. F.3 and F.4 of this act are:

1	(1) to officially establish a Southern Vermont Economic Development
2	Zone comprised of the geographic areas served by the Brattleboro
3	Development Credit Corporation and the Bennington County Industrial
4	Corporation; and
5	(2) to establish a study committee that will assist the General Assembly,
6	the Governor, and partners within the Zone in establishing a replicable
7	framework for regional cooperation by and between public sector and private
8	sector partners concerning economic development initiatives, workforce
9	training, retention, and recruitment, and sustainable business investment.
10	(c) The General Assembly acknowledges the challenges in Southern
11	Vermont and intends for this formal designation to accelerate economic
12	development initiatives that are underway or are needed in the future.
13	Sec. F.3. 10 V.S.A. chapter 1 is amended to read:
14	CHAPTER 1: THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
15	* * *
16	SUBCHAPTER 1: THE VERMONT BUSINESS RECRUITMENT
17	PARTNERSHIP
18	<u>§ 8. SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE</u>
19	There is created the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone,
20	comprised of the geographic areas served by the Brattleboro Development
21	Credit Corporation and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation.
22	* * *
23	Sec. F.4. SOUTHERN VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1	ZONE; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT
2	(a) There is created the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone
3	Study Committee the purpose of which shall be to address the combined
4	decline in the workforce from 2000-2014 within the Southern Vermont
5	Economic Development Zone created in 10 V.S.A. § 8.
6	(b) The Study Committee shall consist of the following members:
7	(A) five members who represent the interests of private investors:
8	(i) one member appointed by the Governor;
9	(ii) two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
10	Representatives; and
11	(iii) two members appointed by the Senate Committee on
12	Committees;
13	(B) one member each from the Brattleboro Development Credit
14	Corporation and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation; and
15	(C) one member each from the Windham Regional Commission and
16	the Bennington County Regional Commission.
17	(c) On or before November 1, 2015, the Committee shall submit a report to
18	the Secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the
19	House Committee on Commerce and Community Development, and the
20	Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs
21	that includes proposals:
22	(1) to establish an integrated investment strategy for retaining businesses
23	within and recruiting business to the Zone;

1	(2) to establish an implementation plan for the Southern Vermont
2	Sustainable Recruitment and Marketing Project created in 2014 and contained
3	in the Windham Region's federally recognized Comprehensive Economic
4	Development Strategy;
5	(3) to outline the benefits and obstacles within the Zone involved in
6	integrating internship and career exposure programs, workforce development
7	programs, and young professional activities; and
8	(4) to propose an organizational and operational structure of a public-
9	private partnership with the mission of aggregating capital and coordinating
10	investment in small and medium size businesses located within the Zone.
11	(d) Meetings.
12	(1) The first person appointed to the Study Committee shall call the first
13	meeting, to occur on or before August 1, 2015.
14	(2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
15	first meeting.
16	(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
17	(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2015.