

1           \* \* \* Public Advocacy; Attorney General; Study; Pilot Project \* \* \*

2           Sec. 5f. PUBLIC ADVOCACY; ATTORNEY GENERAL; STUDY; PILOT  
3                           PROJECT

4           (a) On or before December 15, 2016, the Attorney General, in consultation  
5           with the Public Service Board and the Commissioner of Public Service, shall  
6           develop a pilot project pursuant to which the Attorney General will represent  
7           the public in proceedings before the Public Service Board, where the public  
8           would otherwise be represented by the Department of Public Service.

9           (b) The purpose of the pilot project is to implement a new public advocacy  
10           strategy with respect to matters under the jurisdiction of the Public Service  
11           Board so that this new strategy can be compared and contrasted with the public  
12           advocacy approach authorized under existing law. With information acquired  
13           and reported under subsection (f) of this section, the General Assembly will be  
14           better positioned to determine the best means of allocating public resources  
15           and personnel to promote the interests of the public.

16           (c) In designing the pilot project authorized by this section, the Attorney  
17           General shall:

18                   (1) develop criteria for selecting not more than four proceedings in  
19           which the Attorney General will participate, consistent with subsection (d) of  
20           this section;

1           (2) develop procedures that will allow the Attorney General to have  
2           access to and use of the resources of the Department of Public Service for  
3           purposes of representing the public;

4           (3) establish a mechanism for reimbursing the Office of the Attorney  
5           General for expenses reasonably incurred under the pilot project;

6           (4) establish performance measures and review criteria for assessing the  
7           efficacy of the Attorney General’s representation of the public; and

8           (5) any other matter deemed relevant by the Attorney General.

9           (d) The pilot project shall apply only to proceedings to change the rate  
10          schedule of a public service company, including any base rate filing under an  
11          alternative regulation plan, commenced on or after March 1, 2017 and on or  
12          before March 1, 2019.

13          (e) Implementation of the pilot project authorized by this section shall  
14          begin on March 1, 2017.

15          (f) On or before January 15 in the years 2018, 2019, and 2020, the Attorney  
16          General shall submit a report to the General Assembly, which includes his or  
17          her findings and recommendations regarding the status of public advocacy in  
18          Vermont as well as any specific recommendations he or she deems appropriate  
19          for legislation relative to Board or Department procedures, rules, jurisdiction,  
20          personnel, and functions or to the Attorney General’s ongoing representation  
21          of the public in matters before the Board.