

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred Senate Bill No. 52
3 entitled “An act relating to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. SPOUSAL SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE TASK FORCE

8 (a) Creation. There is created a Spousal Support and Maintenance Task
9 Force for the purpose of reviewing and modernizing Vermont’s law concerning
10 spousal support and maintenance.

11 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following seven
12 members:

13 (1) a current member of the House of Representatives who shall be
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15 (2) a current member of the Senate who shall be appointed by the
16 Committee on Committees;

17 (3) a Superior Court judge who has significant experience in the Family
18 Division of Superior Court appointed by the Chief Justice;

19 (4) the Chief Superior Court Judge;

20 (5) two experienced family law attorneys appointed by the Family Law
21 Section of the Vermont Bar Association; and

1 (6) a representative of Vermont Alimony Reform who is a resident of
2 Vermont.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall consider amendments to
4 Vermont’s spousal support and maintenance laws aimed to improve clarity,
5 fairness, and predictability in recognition of changes to the family structure in
6 recent decades. The Task Force may hold public hearings and shall endeavor
7 to hear a wide variety of perspectives from stakeholders and interested parties.

8 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,
9 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative Council.

10 (e) Recommendation. On or before January 15, 2017, the Task Force shall
11 submit its recommendations for any legislative action to the Senate and House
12 Committees on Judiciary.

13 (f) Meetings.

14 (1) The Superior Court judge appointed in accordance with subdivision
15 (b)(3) of this section shall serve as chair.

16 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

17 (3) The Task Force shall cease to exist on March 1, 2017.

18 (g) Reimbursement.

19 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
20 Assembly, legislative members of the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem

1 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
2 no more than four regular meetings and two public hearings.

3 (2) Other members of the Task Force who are not employees of the State
4 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
5 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
6 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than four regular meetings
7 and two public hearings.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.

10 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
11 to creating a Spousal Support and Maintenance Task Force”

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14 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE