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(a) On or before July 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources shall establish a Working Group of interested parties to develop recommendations for how to improve the ability of the state to prevent, identify, inform Vermont communities and citizens, and respond to potential risks of exposure to toxic chemicals, including contamination of public and private drinking water supplies and groundwater from hazardous materials, hazardous wastes or toxic substances.

(b) The Working Group shall examine the following issues and issue a report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources, and House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on or before January 15, 2017:

- 1) Make recommendations on actions the state of Vermont could take to improve how data is collected and what data is collected regarding the location of sites where toxic substances, hazardous materials, and/or hazardous waste is used, stored, and/or managed; and the proximity of these sites to both public and private water supplies; and
- 2) Make recommendations on actions the state of Vermont could take to improve what information is made available to the public, and how it is made publically available, regarding the risks to private and public drinking water supplies and groundwater from toxic substances, hazardous materials, and/or hazardous waste; and
- 3) Make recommendations on actions the state of Vermont could take to improve the identification process and consistency of listing and regulating hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and toxic substances regulated within DEC and the Department of Health, to ensure the state is adequately identifying chemicals that pose a threat to human health, and has the necessary tools to prevent and respond to chemical threats to human health; and
- 4) Make recommendations on actions the state of Vermont could take to improve the prevention, detection and response to the contamination of public drinking water supplies and groundwater from toxic substances, hazardous materials, and/or hazardous waste; and
- 5) Identify potential fiscal issues related to its recommendations, and make recommendations on actions the state of Vermont could take to better fund existing programs and any recommended improvements; and
- 6) Develop recommended legislative changes that may be needed to implement recommendations and strategies.