1	* * * Public Advocacy; Department of Public Service; Attorney General;
2	Annual Report * * *
3	Sec. 5f. PUBLIC ADVOCACY; DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE;
4	ATTORNEY GENERAL; ANNUAL REPORT
5	(a) The Commissioner of Public Service shall submit to the General
6	Assembly a report summarizing significant cases taking place within the past
7	year and describing the positions taken by the Department of Public Service in
8	those cases. The report also shall summarize the Department's role and
9	positions with respect to other significant topics addressed by the Department's
10	Public Advocacy Division pursuant to alternative regulation or to litigation
11	before the Public Service Board or other tribunal. The report specifically shall
12	refer to the Department's duties and responsibilities under Title 30 and explain
13	how the Department's positions and activities align with those statutory
14	provisions. In addition, the report shall include the terms of any settlement or
15	memorandum of understanding (MOU) negotiated by the Department, the
16	parties that participated in any settlement or MOU negotiations, and
17	documentation of what the Department was able to negotiate on behalf of
18	residential ratepayers and what the Department conceded that was beneficial to
19	the applicable public service company.
20	(b) The primary purpose of the reporting requirement of this section is to
21	help address concerns regarding any potential compromise of the effectiveness

1	or independence of the Department's representation of ratepayers in rate
2	proceedings, including base rate filings under an alternative regulation plan.
3	(c) To assist with meeting the purpose stated in subsection (b) of this
4	section, the Attorney General shall monitor and detail at least one rate
5	proceeding annually and make findings and recommendations related to the
6	effectiveness and independence of the Department's ratepayer advocacy. In
7	performing his or her duties under this section, the Attorney General shall have
8	full access to the work and work product of the Department as it relates to each
9	proceeding he or she monitors. The Attorney General's findings and
10	recommendations shall be included in the Department's annual report.
11	(d) The report required by this section shall be submitted annually on or
12	before November 1, except that the first report shall be submitted on or before
13	<u>December 1, 2016.</u>
14	(e) The Department shall not be required to disclose privileged information
15	in connection with a report submitted under this section, nor shall it be
16	required to disclose information relating to litigation strategy in any matters
17	then pending before the Public Service Board or other tribunal.
18	(f) Prior to submitting a report under this section, the Department shall
19	solicit public comments and shall summarize and respond to such comments
20	by topic in the report. Comments shall be solicited by announcement on the

- Department's website and by such other means as the Commissioner deems
 appropriate.
- 3 (g) The Public Service Board shall allocate the reasonable expenses
- 4 <u>incurred by the Attorney General under this section to the public service</u>
- 5 company involved in a proceeding he or she monitors, as provided in 30
- 6 V.S.A. §§ 20 and 21.