

1 H.530

2 Senator Pollina moves that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be
3 amended as follows:

4 First: After Sec. 4, 3 V.S.A. § 344, by inserting Secs. 4a and 4b to read as
5 follows:

6 Sec. 4a. WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION AND
7 OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE;
8 REPORT

9 (a) Creation. There is created the Workers' Compensation Administration
10 and Office of Risk Management Study Committee to study whether the
11 workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office of
12 Risk Management in the Agency of Administration should be contracted out to
13 a private entity and whether the Office of Risk Management should be given
14 authority to implement safety measures necessary to reduce the cost of
15 providing workers' compensation coverage to the State.

16 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following five
17 members:

18 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives who shall be
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 (2) one current member of the Senate who shall be appointed by the
21 Committee on Committees;

- 1 (3) the Secretary of Administration or designee
2 (4) the Commissioner of Labor or designee; and
3 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont State Employees' Association
4 or designee.

5 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study whether the workers'
6 compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office of Risk
7 Management should be contracted out to a private entity and whether the
8 Office of Risk Management should be given authority to institute safety
9 measures necessary to reduce the cost of providing workers' compensation
10 coverage to the State, including the following questions:

11 (1) what are the actions, if any, that the Agency of Administration, the
12 Office of State Employee Workers' Compensation and Injury Prevention, and
13 the Office of Risk Management have taken in response to the findings and
14 recommendations of the Vermont State Auditor's 2013 Report on the State's
15 Workers' Compensation Program, and have those actions resulted in any
16 improvements in the performance of the Office of Risk Management or
17 reductions in the annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers'
18 compensation claims;

19 (2) whether providing the Office of Risk Management with the authority
20 to require State agencies and departments to implement safety measures would

1 reduce the annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers' compensation
2 claims;

3 (3) whether providing the Office of Risk Management with the authority
4 to require State agencies and departments to implement safety measures would
5 reduce the frequency of work-related injuries among State employees;

6 (4) what are the likely costs and benefits to the State of contracting out
7 the workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office
8 of Risk Management to a private entity, including any projected changes in the
9 annual cost of satisfying State employees' workers' compensation claims, any
10 projected changes in the amount of work-related injuries among State
11 employees, and the projected annual cost of a private entity carrying out the
12 workers' compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office of
13 Risk Management; and

14 (5) how would the quality of the service provided to the State by a
15 private entity carrying out the workers' compensation adjustment and loss
16 control functions of the Office of Risk Management compare to the current
17 level of service provided by the Office of Risk Management.

18 (d) Report. On or before December 31, 2016, the Committee shall submit a
19 written report to the House Committees on Commerce and on Government
20 Operations and the Senate Committees on Finance and on Government
21 Operations with its findings, a recommendation as to whether the workers'

1 compensation adjustment and loss control functions of the Office of Risk
2 Management should be contracted out to a private entity, and any
3 recommendations for legislative, regulatory, or administrative action.

4 (e) Meetings.

5 (1) The Secretary of Administration shall call the first meeting of the
6 Committee to occur on or before July 15, 2016.

7 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
8 first meeting.

9 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 1, 2017.

10 (f) Reimbursement.

11 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
12 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
13 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
14 no more than six meetings.

15 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
16 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
17 attendance shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses pursuant to
18 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than six meetings.

